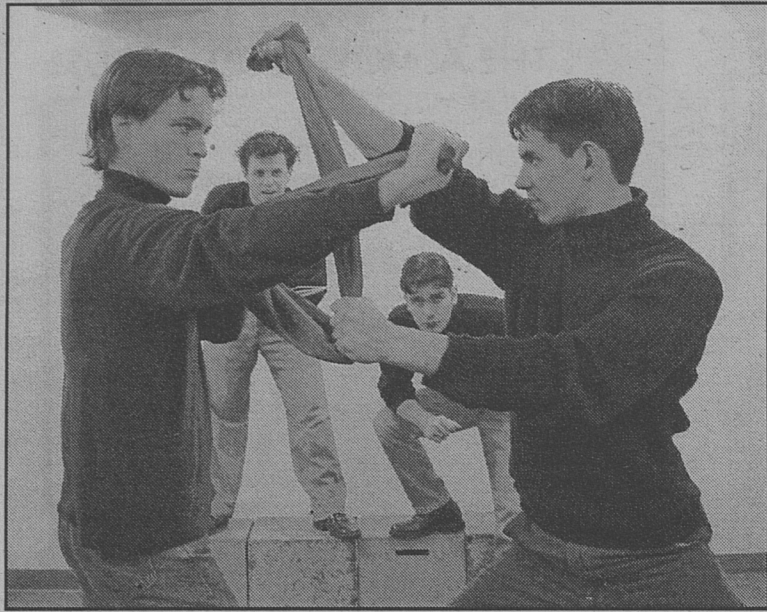


## Vermont Stage Company Presents "New" Shakespeare Play



Performances of *Shakespeare's R & J* run April 25-28 and May 3-5 at 8 pm with 2 pm matinees on April 29 and May 6. Tickets are available through the Flynn Center box office at 802-86-FLYNN.

How fitting that on April 25, when William Shakespeare makes his debut at Burlington's newest performance venue, FlynnSpace, it will be with his newest hit play, *Shakespeare's R & J*.

And how appropriate that Vermont Stage, resident professional company at the Flynn

Center, has hired Angie McIver-Flynn of the National Shakespeare Company to direct this Off-Broadway adaptation of the world's most enduring love story.

"I've directed Romeo and Juliet four times," says Flynn-McIver, a regular part of Vermont Stage Company's

Young Playwrights Festival. "Now I have a chance to put all that experience into this dynamic re-imagining of the play."

Set in a contemporary Catholic boys school, Joe Calarco's *Shakespeare's R & J* introduces us to four young men immersed in catechism and Latin. When one of the boys reveals a forbidden text of Romeo and Juliet, they abandon their studies for a clandestine journey into the world of Shakespeare's ill-fated lovers. Hesitantly at first, then with increased abandon, each boy takes on several roles, acting out the famous story, from its first stolen kiss to its inevitable tragic ending.

"Many people know Romeo and Juliet from the movies," the director points out, "some from high school reading. With *Shakespeare's R & J*, we get the power of the original story and the beauty of its language, mixed with the rumblings and fumbings of contemporary youth. Calarco has found a way to make Shakespeare new, without sacrificing the magic or the majesty."

Burlington has a long love

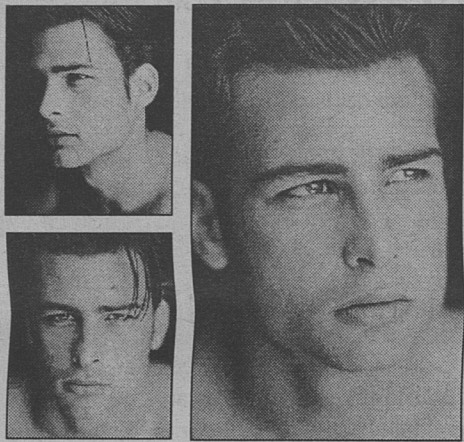
affair with Shakespeare. For twenty years, the nationally known Champlain Shakespeare Festival thrived at the University of Vermont's Royall Tyler Theatre. In 1996, Vermont Stage resurrected professional Shakespeare at Royall Tyler with a Bessie award-winning production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The company followed with *Othello*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the celebrated production of *The Tempest*, featuring Burlington's Taiko Drummers.

"We've always had a commitment to the classics," says VSC Artistic Director, Mark Nash.

"Whether it's Shakespeare, or Tartuffe, or a "contemporary" classic like *Amadeus*,

we've always dedicated a part of each season to period plays with heightened language, plays that celebrate theatre as a spectacle."

No doubt that long-term commitment came in part from VSC Founding Artistic Director, Blake Robison, who left Vermont Stage in 1998 to direct the National Shakespeare Company in New York City. It was there that Robison met director Angie Flynn-McIver, who will be making her Vermont debut with *Shakespeare's R&J*.



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plastic diaphragms and latex condoms  
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 of  
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 i believed them only suited to sex  
 but everyday i see people isolated  
 and insulated from  
 the human condition  
 they hate without remorse  
 hurt with lust  
 kill with satisfaction  
 what polymers are they wrapped in?  
 embalmed in?  
 links of prejudice, ignorance, and apathy  
 polymerize  
 solidify  
 society is shrink-wrapped  
 in anger and hate  
 where is our humanity?  
 in dazed euphoria?  
 or  
 salty and anarchistic  
 in sewers flowing  
 floating inside latex?

Justin Barton-Caplin

## Vermont Gay Men's Chorus "A Vocal Minority"

May concert Dates:

Come and enjoy "A Vocal Minority" on the following dates and places...

When? **Friday, May 4, 2001**

What time? 7:30 PM

Where? Saint Johnsbury Unitarian Universalist Church on  
 Cherry Street

When? **Sunday May 6, 2001**

What time? 4:00 PM

Where? Montpelier Unitarian Universalist Church on  
 Main Street

When? **Sunday May 20, 2001**

What time? 3:00 PM

Where? Hartland Four Corners Universalist Church in  
 Hartland Four Corners VT.

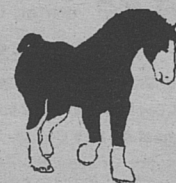
Admission by Donations at the door -

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