

Scenes from “Romeo and Juliet”, August 23, 2010



Salamander Theatre’s performance of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” was absolutely stunning. As promised, it included ‘all the love story...all the sword fights...all the comedy’!

The audience was seated in a semi-circular arrangement around the actors and soon



became part of the Elizabethan community – purchasing oranges and apples from the travelling vendors, or purchasing ‘the rendition of a love song’ from roving minstrels. The story

started with a bang as a sword fight erupted in the community square between the Capulets and Montagues - the two feuding families and the audience was part of the action, sitting within inches of the fighting.



The six actors did a fabulous job changing roles within seconds, using quick costume changes behind the audience to create the mix of characters. Mood and set changes were introduced by instrumental and vocal



music which included intricate harmonies. The humour was infectious as some of the more colourful characters interacted with the audience – shaking hands, kissing cheeks and acting outrageously. The actors also made good use of the layout of the barn – the balcony scene had Juliet on top of the Grainery and Romeo on top of the Hay Chute.



It was a full house at Cornell Farms with all seats filled with audience members of all ages – including most of the young people who participated in the afternoon workshop and their families. There were even visitors from England and Germany. Many in the audience stayed afterwards to visit with the performers who are

students from various colleges and universities across the country. All the actors and director were billeted with local families who have an interest in the performing arts.



Local actor and director, Cathy Richards, summed it up – “Romeo and Juliet in the barn is a perfect combination”.