

The following scenes were rewritten from Shakespeare's original early modern English to reflect the language and culture of Southern California today. Incorporating English, Spanish, and slang, these scenes present innovative and inspiring re-envisionings of scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* that were always intended to utilize local, contemporary language patterns.

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Act 1
Scene 1

SAMPSON Gregorio té Juro we can't let them humillarnos. No somos su garbage.

GREGORY (teasing SAMPSON) No, porque entonces seríamos garbage men.

SAMPSON What I mean is, que sí nos hacen enojar, well pull our espadas.

GREGORY Maybe lo que debes enfocarte is on pulling yourself out of trouble, Sampson.

SAMPSON Pego duro when I'm angry.

GREGORY But it's hard hacerte enojar.

SAMPSON One of those perros de la casa Montague can make me angry.

GREGORY Lo suficientemente enojado to run away. No te pararas ni pelearas.

SAMPSON Un perro from that house, me hará enojar to stand. Si me cruzo con uno de ellos on the street, I'll take el lado más cercano to the pared and let him walk en el canal.

GREGORY That means qué eres cobarde, because los debiluchos son empujados against the wall.

SAMPSON You're right- Por eso las mujeres get pushed contra la pared, son débiles. So then lo que haré es push the Montague man hacía la calle y a las mujeres Montesco against the wall.

GREGORY La pelea es entre nuestros masters and us quienes trabajamos for them.

SAMPSON It's all the same. Yo seré un master duro con ellos. After I fight the men , sere bueno con las women, I'll cut of their cabezas.

GREGORY Cut off their cabezas? You mean sus doncellas.

SAMPSON Cut off sus cabezas take their doncellas-whatever. Take my comentario in whichever sense tú quieras.

GREGORY Las mujeres you rape, are the ones que lo "sentirán".

SAMPSON Me sentirán as long as I keep una erección. Todo el mundo knows I'm un buen pedazo de carne.

GREGORY It's a good thing que no eres un pez. You are dried y arrugado like un pescado salado.

ABRAM and another servant of the Montagues enter.

SAMPSON Tengo my naked espada afuera. Fight. Yo te respaldaré.

GREGORY How will tú me respaldaras-dándome your back y huyendo?

SAMPSON No te preocupes about me.

GREGORY No realmente. Estoy worried por ti!

SAMPSON No quebrantemos the law by starting una pelea. Let them empezar algo.

GREGORY I'll frown at them cuando pasen, and they can react como quieran.

SAMPSON You mean a como se atrevan. Yo me morderé my thumb at them. Eso es un insult, and if ellos me dejan get away with it, serán dishonored. (SAMPSON bites his thumb)

ABRAM Hey, te estas biting tú thumb at us?

SAMPSON Me estoy biting my thumb.

ABRAM Te estás mordiendo tú pulgar at us?

SAMPSON (aside to GREGORY) La ley is on our side si digo yes?

GREGORY (aside to SAMPSON) No

SAMPSON (to ABRAM) No, sir, no me estoy biting my pulgar at you, pero I am biting my pulgar.

GREGORY ¿Estás tratando to start a fight?

ABRAM Empezar una fight? No señor.

SAMPSON Si lo que quieres is to fight. Yo soy tu man. Mi empleador is as good que el tuyo.

ABRAM But no is better que el mio.

SAMPSON Well, entonces

(BENVOLIO enters)

GREGORY (speaking so that only Sampson can hear) Say "mejor." Aquí viene one of employer's relatives.

SAMPSON (to ABRAM) Yes, "mejor," sir.

ABRAM Mientes.

SAMPSON Pull out your espadas, si eres hombre. Gregory, recuerda how to slash.

They fight

BENVOLIO (pulling out his sword) Break it up, tontos. Put your espadas away. You don't know lo que están haciendo.

Tybalt enters.

TYBALT ¿Qué? ¿Has sacado tú sword to fight con estos worthless sirvientes? Turn around, Benvolio, y mira at the men quien te va matar.

BENVOLIO I'm only trying to mantener la paz. Either put away tu espada o la usas to help me para parar esta fight.

TYBALT ¿Qué? You take out your espada y luego hablas sobre paz? I hate la palabra peace tal como odio hell, all a todos los Montagues, y a ti. Let's go at it, cobarde!

BENVOLIO and TYBALT fight. Three or four citizens of the watch enter with clubs and spears

CITIZENS Usen sus clubs y lanzas! Hit them! Golpéalos! Down with los Montascos! Down with los Capuletos!

Act 2
Scene 1

ROMEO Me podré go away mientras my heart se quedé here?

ROMEO moves away. BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO enter.

BENVOLIO (calling) Romeo, my primo, Romeo, Romeo!

MERCUTIO El es un smart boy. I bet he slipped away and went one to his cama.

BENVOLIO Corrió hacia acá, y brinco over this orchard wall. Llámame, Mercutio.

MERCUTIO Lo llamare cómo si i were summoning a spirit. Romeo! Loco! Passion! Enseñate en forma de un sigh. Speak one rhyme and ill be satisfecho. Nomas lora, “!Ah yo!”, Nomas say “amor” and “paloma”. Nomas di una lovely word to my buen amigo Venus. Di el nickname of her blind hijo Cupido, the one who got shot arrows so well in that vieja historia. Romeo no me escucha. He doesn’t stir. No se mueve. The silly mono is dead, pero i must make him appear. I summon you por Rosalines bright ojos, by her high cabeza and her trebling labios rojos, by her fine pies, by her piernas rectas, y por su trembling thighs, y por región right next to her thighs. En el nombre de all of these things, i command you que te aparezcas before nosotros en tu true form.

BENVOLIO Si te oye, you’ll make him angry

MERCUTIO Lo que le digo can’t anger him. Se enojaría si i summoned a strange espíritu for her to have sex with- eso would anger him. Las cosas que le digo are fair and honestas. All I’m doing us saying el nombre of the mujer he loves to lure him out of the oscuridad.

BENVOLIO Come on. Esta hidden behind these arboles to keep la noche compañía. His amor es blind, so it belongs in the oscuridad.

MERCUTIO Si el love es blind, no podrá hit the target. Ahora se sentara under a tree and wish his mistress fuera una de esas frutas que parecen como female genitalia. O Romeo, quisiera she were an open- arse y tu a Popperin pear to “pop her in”. Buenas noches, Romeo. Me iré a mi little trundle bed. This open field es muy frío de lugar for me to sleep (a Benvolio) Come on, nos vamos?

BENVOLIO Vámonos. There’s no point in buscarlo si no quiere ser found.

Act 2
Scene 4

- MERCUTIO ¿What a hell is happening con Romeo? ¿No vino a dormir anoche a la casa, andaba hanging around somewhere?
- BENVOLIO No, he was sleeping en la casa de su dad. I asked a su ‘ baby-sitter’ about it.
- MERCUTIO ¡Oh, no that bitch again! ¡That mother f**ker, puta ! La Rosalina ‘ is messing around’ man, she is playing man, you know, ¡Quiere volverlo ‘crazy’.
- BENVOLIO You know what man ? Tybalt, el nephew del uncles Capuleto, ya le mandó una carta a la house del papá de Romeo.
- MERCUTIO You know what? I bet que él quiere pelea man.
- BENVOLIO You know what? I think Romeo les va a partir la madre.
- MERCUTIO I don’t think so, el que sabe escribir cartas, también las puede contestar, ése.
- BENVOLIO No man, Romeo is gonn’a fu*k that mother fuc**r face , ya se le echaron encima muchas veces y Romeo is ‘pissed off now, man’. I tell you.
- MERCUTIO I don’t think so, man! Oh, poor Romeo! He is dead, man. La güerita esa, she got him already,. Le ha endulzado las orejas con canciones de amor. El corazón de Romeo se lo han Partido en ‘half and half’, ‘ too much honey’ for him, man. Now, the question is, is Romeo ready for the fight with Tybalt?
- BENVOLIO Why? ¿Cuál es la historia que se cuenta de Tybalt?
- MERCUTIO Dicen que, he is the best, he is not a joke. Él hace todo como está escrito en los libros. Él pelea como tú, man, like when te pones a cantar with the family, he pay attention to everything, los tiempos, la distancias and the corners. Él sabe hacer las marcas, the one, two, three straight to the heart, man. He is a butcher, él que puede ensartar anybody en el botón de la camisa. They call him ‘master of duels’. He is a dude very tricky con cuchillos y espadas, con una very Good defense. He likes to provoke to everybody just to fight por gusto con las espadas. Él sabe cómo atravesar el cuerpo con un golpe de frente, o con la mano hacia atrás, y grita ¡Jái! cuando los atraviesa de lado a lado with the sword.
- BENVOLIO Really, do you know all of that?
- MERCUTIO I hate that guy. He likes to show off a lot, he is weird. He annoys me con sus manners y su strange words. I hate it when he talks and says, ‘Oh my God, esto parece un buen cuchillo, that’s a macho man, this bitch is hot’. Come on, that these make sense to you? Tell me, do we suppose to deal with these suckers all day long? These guys se la pasan diciendo a cada rato, ‘excuse me please’ even when they are walking on the streets, when seat down on the benches they complain a lot like this, “¡Ay me duele la espalda, my back hurts, OMG!

ROMEO *enters*

- BENVOLIO ¡Hey, Aquí viene Romeo, look at him!
- MERCUTIO He looks messy! He looks like a homeless boy!, y todavía ni siquiera ha laid down su girlfriend. Hey, humie, humie, you looks amarillo y seco like a fish, man. Ahora estás listo para que el dude Petrarca te componga una song. Compared a la novia de Romeo, Laura looks getto. For sure, a ella le tiene mejor amor para poderle hacer sus songs. Dido estaba vestido poor like a rat. Cleopatra was a gipsy en la calle. Helen y Hero look like pu*as and bitches. Thisbe may have un ojo azul o los dos, pero, Who cares?. Helló,Mr. Romeo. There is a french Word for you that goes easy with your sagging pants, ¡Ha!. You fooled us around last night humie, that was awesome, man.
- ROMEO Good morning a los dos. ¿Qué me quieren decir with, you fooled us around last night, humies?
- MERCUTIO You cheated us man, te nos escapaste. Do you know what I am saying?
- ROMEO No, I am not, I am sorry humie Mercutio. I have something to do right now, it is very important. That's so important, que ya se me habían olvidado las buenas costumbres and my good education.
- MERCUTIO Oh, you mean, ¿"algo importante" hizo que movieras las nalgas up and down?
- ROMEO Oh, ¿You mean que ella me hizo "a quicky"?
- MERCUTIO ¡Now we are talking, humie!
- ROMEO Well, that's very close explicación.
- MERCUTIO Yes, same thing, I like "pinky roses" You know what I am saying? I consider myself a master one, especially si tienen los "pinky petals" soft and tender, las toco softly a ellas.
- ROMEO Ah, "the pinky flowers" I love it.
- MERCUTIO Yes, that's right Romeo.
- ROMEO Well, well, let me tell you, my pump está lista y decorada with "pinky flowers", man.
- MERCUTIO Oh, you, Smart pants, I think this joke has worn out your pee. It looks so skinny, man, As a consolation, te queda la broma hecha.
- ROMEO Oh, this is not funny, man. Not at all. Es una tontería.
- MERCUTIO Come on Benvolio, ven ayúdame, help me out. Romeo is beating me, estoy perdiendo este juego de palabras, he is good!.
- ROMEO Come on, come on, keep talking, o ¿Quieres que me declare vencedor?

MERCUTIO Ahora pues, if we are chasing geese, I am done with these jokes. Tú tienes más gansos en one of your jokes, than five of mine. ¿Estuve cerca de ti en la carrera when you were chasing them?

ROMEO You are funny, man. You were not even that close to a racing. Tú nunca estuviste cerca de mí en ninguna carrera, sino fuera por los gansos.

MERCUTIO Ah, that hurt, I am gonna bite you ear for that joke, hummie.

ROMEO No, gansito, Please Little one, no me muerdas, don't bite me, please!

MERCUTIO Oh, that's a heavy joke, very. Your sense of humor is very spicy, like habanero salsa. I got that, man, I got that.

ROMEO Aww, then ¿No le gusta este platillo a un gansito lindo?

MERCUTIO Oh, that's not funny, I am telling you, this is not funny. Te la jalaste demasiado, like an inch of thin skin up to one meter long. Hey, Romeo, stop, that's enough!

ROMEO Yo stretch my joke usando la palabra "grosso". Then, if you put it on a la palabra "ganso" entonces , you are a "ganso grosso".

MERCUTIO Now, ¿No son mejores all the jokes que estamos contando ahora, instead of crying about love's stories? Now you looks different, you looks more social. Now you looks like the real Romeo. Ahora estás como siempre has aprendido a ser, y cómo eres naturalmente. Este amor made you look like an idiot corriendo up and down, looking for the little hole, to stick it in, his little toy.

BENVOLIO Stop there, stop there, Alto ahí, alto ahí.

MERCUTIO ¿Quieres que me detenga antes de terminar? Do you want me to stop before I finish?

BENVOLIO Come on, you wish! Por favor, hubieras tardado mucho para terminar.

MERCUTIO Oh, te equivocas, I tell you, you are wrong! Yo lo habría hecho más corto. Ya me he venido hasta lo más profundo de mi cuento, so deep, y he planeado no hablar más sobre el tema. I don't want to talk about it no more, that's it.

The NURSE enters, with her servant PEDRO

ROMEO Aquí está algo muy bueno. Oh, this looks so good!

BENVOLIO ¡Hey, la vela del barco, la vela del barco!. Something big is coming, something big is coming!

MERCUTIO Son dos__ Un hombre y una mujer. There two of them.

NURSE ¡Pedro! Pedro, come on!

PEDRO ¿Me llamó, señorita? Did you call me?

NURSE Pedro, tráeme el abanico. Bring my fan, Peter.

MERCUTIO Pedro, please, dale el abanico para que esconda la cara, her fase. El abanico está más bonito que su cara. I like the fan better.

NURSE Buenos días, caballeros. Good morning.

MERCUTIO Buenas tardes, buena dama. Good afternoon ma'm.

NURSE ¿Está seguro que ya es tarde? Is that late, are you sure?

MERCUTIO It doesn't look early to me. La mano cachonda del reloj está picándole a la mitad. It looks to me that are in bed.

NURSE ¡Get away from me! ¿Qué clase de hombre eres?

MERCUTIO Well, I am a simple man made by God, para arruinarse él mismo, ma'm.

NURSE I swear by God que hablas con la verdad. "Para arruinarte a ti mismo". Gentlemen, ¿alguno de ustedes me podría decir where can I find a guy named Romeo, by the chance, do you know him?

ROMEO I can tell you right on the spot, but, el joven Romeo estará más viejo when you find him, compared con el momento que tú comenzaste a buscarlo. I am the youngest man around here con ese nombre, because no hay otro más joven, or worse than me.

NURSE Oh, tú hablas muy bien, I like it.

MERCUTIO ¿Lo peor está bien? Muy bien tomado, eso creo, muy sabio. Whatever.

NURSE (Dirigiéndose a ROMEO) If you are el tal Romeo que ando buscando, muchacho, I would like to have una confidencia with you (Se ha sustituido "conferencia" por alguna razón).

BENVOLIO Oh, ella 'inditará' a Romeo a una cena.

MERCUTIO ¡ A pimp! ¡A pimp! ¡Un padrote! Ya me di cuenta de ello. I knew it!

ROMEO ¿De qué te has dado cuenta? What are you talking about, hummie?

MERCUTIO Ella no sería a prostitute, unless que ella esté usando su fealdad to cover up su promiscuidad.

(Él camino al lado de ellos y canta)
The meat of coneja vieja is good para comer,
If you cann't find a better thing, instead.
But, if she is so old,
So old, as old that se hecha a perder before you eat it,
Then my friend, I am sorry for you, tiraste tu dinero a la basura.
(hablando)

Romeo, ¿Are you going to la casa de tu padre para almorzar? Come on, let's go there.

ROMEO Yo te seguiré después. I will follow you after, give me a second.

MERCUTIO Adiós, dama vieja. Adiós, dama, dama, dama. Good by, old lady. Good by, lady,lady,lady.

Exit BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO

Act 3
Scene 1

BENVOLIO I'm begging you, buen Mercutio, let's call it a day. It's hot afuera, y los Capuletos are wandering around si nos topamos con ellos, seguramente we'll get into a fight. Cuando hace calor afuera, people become angry and hot-blooded.

MERCUTIO Eres como esos chicos who walks into a bar, slams his sword en la mesa, and then dice, "Rezo I never have to use you." By the time he orders su segundo trago , he pulls with his espada on the bartender sin ninguna razón.

BENVOLIO ¿Soy realmente like one of those guys?

MERCUTIO Vamos, you can be as angry as any chico en Italia when you're in the mood. When someone hace la cosa mas pequena para hacerte enojar, you get angry. Y cuando you're in the mood to get angry, tu encuentras algo to get angry about.

BENVOLIO ¿Y qué hay de eso?

MERCUTIO If there were dos hombres like you, muy pronto there'd be none because the two of you se matarían. You would fight con un hombre if he had one more whisker or one less whisker en su barba que tú. have in your beard. Pelearás with a man que está cracking nuts solo porque you have hazelnut-colored eyes.

Solo tú buscarías for a fight like that. Tu cabeza is as full of fights como un huevo is full of yolk, pero tu cabeza has been beaten como un huevo revuelto from so much fighting. Comenzaste una pelea with a man who coughed in the: street porque despertó a un perro that was sleeping en el sol. Didn't you argue it out with your tailor por usar one of his new trajes antes the right season? And with another, por amarrar the new shoes he made con cordones viejos? And yet, tú eres uno who wants to teach me sobre restricción!

BENVOLIO If I were en la costumbre de pelear como tú my life insurance rates would be por los cielos.

MERCUTIO _Tu aseguranza de vida? That's foolish.

TYBALT, PETRUCHIO, *and* CAPULETS *enter*.

BENVOLIO Oh genial, here come los Capuletos.

MERCUTIO Well, well, no me importa.

TYBALT (to PETRUCHIO and others) Síganme de cerca I'll talk to them. (to the MONTAGUES) Buenas tardes, gentlemen. I'd like to have a word con uno de ustedes.

MERCUTIO Solo quieres hablar with one of us? Put it together con algo más. Make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT Me encontrarás ready enough to do that, señor, if you give me una razón.

MERCUTIO No puedo encontrar a reason without my giving you one?

TYBALT Mercutio, you hang out con Romeo.

MERCUTIO "Hang out?" ¿Quiénes crees que somos, musicians in a band? If we look like músicos to you, puede esperar escuchar nothing but noise. (touching the blade de su espada) Esta es mi fiddlestick. Lo usaré to make you dance. Maldita sea-"Hang out"

BENVOLIO Estamos hablando here in a public place. Either go someplace private, or talk it over racionalmente, or else just go away. Aquí afuera everybody can see us.

MERCUTIO Los ojos de los hombres were made to see things, so let them watch. No me moveré to please anybody.

ROMEO *enters.*

TYBALT Bueno, que la paz be with you. Aquí viene my man, the man que estoy buscando.

MERCUTIO Él no es your man. Esta bien, walk out into a field, and el te perseguirá. In that sense puedes llamarlo tú "man".

TYBALT Romeo, there's only one thing I can call you. You're a villano.

ROMEO Tybalt, tengo una razón to love you that lets me dejar de lado la rabia I should feel and excuse ese insulto. No soy un villano. So, adios. I can tell that you don't know quién soy.

TYBALT Chico, tus palabras can't excuse the harm you've done to me. Así que ahora vuélvete and draw your sword.

ROMEO No estoy de acuerdo. I've never done you harm. Te amo más than you can understand until you know la razón why I love you. And so, buen Capuleto which is a name I love como mi propio nombre, -you should be satisfied con lo que dije.

MERCUTIO Esta tranquila sumisión is dishonorable and vile. The thrust of a sword terminará con esta rendición. (draws his sword)Tybalt, you rat-catcher, , ¿irás a pelear conmigo?

TYBALT Que quieres from me?

MERCUTIO Good king de los gatos, I want to take one of your nueve vidas. I'll take one, y, dependiendo on how you treat me después de eso, I might beat the other eight out of you too. Will you pull tu espada out of its sheath? Apurate, or I'll smack you en las orejas with my espada antes you have yours drawn.

TYBALT Pelearé contigo. (he draws his sword)

ROMEO Noble Mercutio, put your espada away.

MERCUTIO (to TYBALT) Come on, señor; perform your forward thrust, su pasado.

MERCUTIO *and* TYBALT *fight.*

ROMEO (drawing his sword) Draw your sword, Benvolio. Let's beat down sus armas.
Caballeros, stop this vergonzosa pelea. Tybalt, Mercutio, el principe has banned
fighting en las calles de Verona. Stop, Tybalt. Alto, buen Mercutio.