The J. Arthur Rank Organisation presents
Romeo and Juliet
Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

LAURENCE HARVEY
SUSAN SHENTALL
FLORA ROBSON
NORMAN WOOLAND
MERVYN JOHNS

Colour by TECHNICOLOR

with

Bill Travers
Lydia Sherwood
Sebastian Cabot
Adapted for the Screen
and Directed by

RENATO CASTELLANI
Capturing the glorious colors of its natural settings for the very first time, "Romeo and Juliet" has a richness and wealth of atmosphere that could never have been secured inside studio walls.

All Italy was its studio.

Verona itself, and the majestic countryside beyond. Here is the throbbing beauty inherent in Shakespeare's famous tale, the towering buildings and shadow-cloaked backgrounds against which he set his "star-crossed lovers."

Yet "Romeo and Juliet" is startlingly unorthodox in concept and casting. Juliet herself is unknown to either stage or screen . . .

Romeo rose only recently to stardom . . . an Italian architect plays Mercutio . . .

a Venetian gondolier is Montague . . . a novelist is seen as the Prince of Verona. This is not photographed theatre but a film peopled with real characters.

It is unconventional, daring and fiercely individualistic film-making with an approach fresh and vital enough in itself to make "Romeo and Juliet" a production to remember.

But graced in addition by its fine performances, sweeping photography and timeless story it becomes truly unforgettable.
Susan Shentall

Her aims in life were to combine a successful marriage with a journalistic career. Then one evening a chance encounter in a London restaurant suddenly swept 19-year old Susan Shentall, the girl from Old Brampton, Derbyshire, to stardom.

This young Juliet, who never had acting aspirations, went before the cameras an inexperienced actress.

But she had the natural spark which rose to flame under Castellani's guidance. She had the sensitive feeling for character which enabled the director to fashion from Susan, a true Juliet.

Laurence Harvey

"His looks, his talent and his fire" were the three factors leading director Renato Castellani to cast Laurence Harvey in the prize role of Romeo.

Harvey himself claims "a lot of it is luck, but if you want something badly enough you usually get it. And I wanted to play Romeo."

This 25-year old rising star has a wealth of acting experience behind him and so successful is his screen performance he was asked to re-create this role on stage at Stratford-on-Avon during the 1954 summer season.
Flashing drama and swift action were fused by director Renato Castellani in the actual streets of Verona for his screen version of "Romeo and Juliet."
Three post-war productions brought fame to this brilliant Italian film director—"Under the Sun of Rome," "Spring Time In Italy" and "Two Penny-worth of Hope." Their bold, true-to-life stories reflect this forty-year old director's approach to the screen.

**Renato Castellani**

While making "Romeo and Juliet" he was often asked if he had turned his back on realism for this historic drama.

"Certainly not," was his answer. "The only difference between my last three films and 'Romeo and Juliet' is the title—the theme of conflict is the same."

Unique in his working methods, Renato Castellani possesses the uncanny skill of being able to mould polished portrayals from raw, untrained performers. And yet, at the same time, he has the magic which coaxes greatness from professional stars.

When he tackled "Romeo and Juliet," he decided to simplify the play to meet the dimensions of a modern script. "But I have left nothing out which could be said to be demonstrative of character," he declares firmly. "The characters interest me vitally in that they are the theme."
Flora Robson
distinguished actress in the role of Juliet’s nurse.

Norman Wooland
experienced Shakespearean actor, as Juliet’s suitor Paris.

Mervyn Johns
brings kindly charm to the habit of Friar Laurence.

Bill Travers
—a vigorous Benvolio, Romeo’s friend.

Sebastian Cabot
as the towering elder Capulet, Juliet’s father.

Lydia Sherwood
as Lady Capulet, Juliet’s mother.
The Players

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Produced by SANDRO GHENZI
In Association with JOSEPH JANNI
Director of Photography ROBERT KRASKER
Costumes Designed by LEONOR FINI
Production Managers ARMANDO FRANCI and JACK HANBURY
Editor SYDNEY HAYERS
Production Consultant ANGELO BESOZZI
Sound Recordists JOHN S. DENNIS and GORDON K. MCCALLUM
Music Composed by ROMAN VLAD
Conducted by LAMBERT WILLIAMSON
Adapted for the Screen and Directed by RENATO CASTELLANI

Made in Italy and at Pinewood Studios, London, England
Executive Producer EARL ST. JOHN