

Visualizing Romeo and Juliet

Movies give life to their director's interpretation of a written work. Shakespearean plays have been adapted for movies over many, many years, yet each production of the work has differences based on the director's vision of how to interpret and present Shakespeare's original work. Recognizing and understanding the effects of the director's choices can enhance the enjoyment of the work but also affect how the viewer responds to and understands the ideas that the play conveys; thus, the artistic license used by the director ultimately colors our understanding of what Shakespeare intended us to understand.

The balcony scene of Act 2 from *Romeo and Juliet* is one of the most memorable scenes in all of Shakespearean works. Watch the clip that presents five adaptations of that one scene and note the differences and similarities on the chart below. Be prepared to discuss how the differences affect our viewing, understanding, and enjoyment of the scene. Think about the following question as you view the scenes and complete the chart: In your opinion, is one version more appealing, believable, true to Shakespeare's intent, or relevant to modern life? Why or why not? Support your opinion by noting the specific details from each version by completing the chart below.

Directorial Techniques	1936 – Cukor	1968–Zeffirelli	1976 – Rakoff	1996-Luhrman	2010 Royal Shakespeare Co.
Actors: age, physical appearance, movements and gestures, actions					
Details of setting, props, and costumes					

Camera shots: wide or close? Focused on character or other detail? Camera movement from side to side or up and down?					
Lighting and sound					
Color					
Mood					