

# Prep Theatre Romeo & Juliet

## Audition Scene 2

### Romeo & Mercutio Act II Scene iv

MERCUTIO	Without his roe, like a dried herring: flesh, flesh, how art thou fishified! Now is he for the numbers that Petrarch flowed in: Laura to his lady was but a kitchen-wench; marry, she had a better love to be-rhyme her; Dido a dowdy; Cleopatra a gipsy; Helen and Hero hildings and harlots; Thisbe a grey eye or so, but not to the purpose. Signior Romeo, bon jour! there's a French salutation to your French slop. You gave us the counterfeit fairly last night.	40
ROMEO	Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?	50
MERCUTIO	The ship, sir, the slip; can you not conceive?	
ROMEO	Pardon, good Mercutio, my business was great; and in such a case as mine a man may strain courtesy.	
MERCUTIO	That's as much as to say, such a case as yours constrains a man to bow in the hams.	55
ROMEO	Meaning, to court'sy.	
MERCUTIO	Thou hast most kindly hit it.	
ROMEO	A most courteous exposition.	
MERCUTIO	Nay, I am the very pink of courtesy.	
ROMEO	Pink for flower.	60
MERCUTIO	Right.	
ROMEO	Why, then is my pump well flowered.	
MERCUTIO	Well said: follow me this jest now till thou hast worn out thy pump, that when the single sole of it is worn, the jest may remain after the wearing sole singular.	65
ROMEO	O single-soled jest, solely singular for the singleness.	
MERCUTIO	Come between us, good Benvolio; my wits faint.	
ROMEO	Switch and spurs, switch and spurs; or I'll cry a match.	
MERCUTIO	Nay, if thy wits run the wild-goose chase, I have	70

done, for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of  
thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five:  
was I with you there for the goose?

ROMEO      Thou wast never with me for any thing when thou wast  
not there for the goose. 75

MERCUTIO   I will bite thee by the ear for that jest.

ROMEO      Nay, good goose, bite not.

MERCUTIO   Thy wit is a very bitter sweeting; it is a most  
sharp sauce.

ROMEO      And is it not well served in to a sweet goose? 80

MERCUTIO   O here's a wit of cheveril, that stretches from an  
inch narrow to an ell broad!

ROMEO      I stretch it out for that word 'broad;' which added  
to the goose, proves thee far and wide a broad goose.

MERCUTIO   Why, is not this better now than groaning for love? 85  
now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now art  
thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature:  
for this drivelling love is like a great natural,  
that runs lolling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole.