

New Generacion: A Narco Tragedy



Production By: Rebecca and Mia Sanchez



Mia

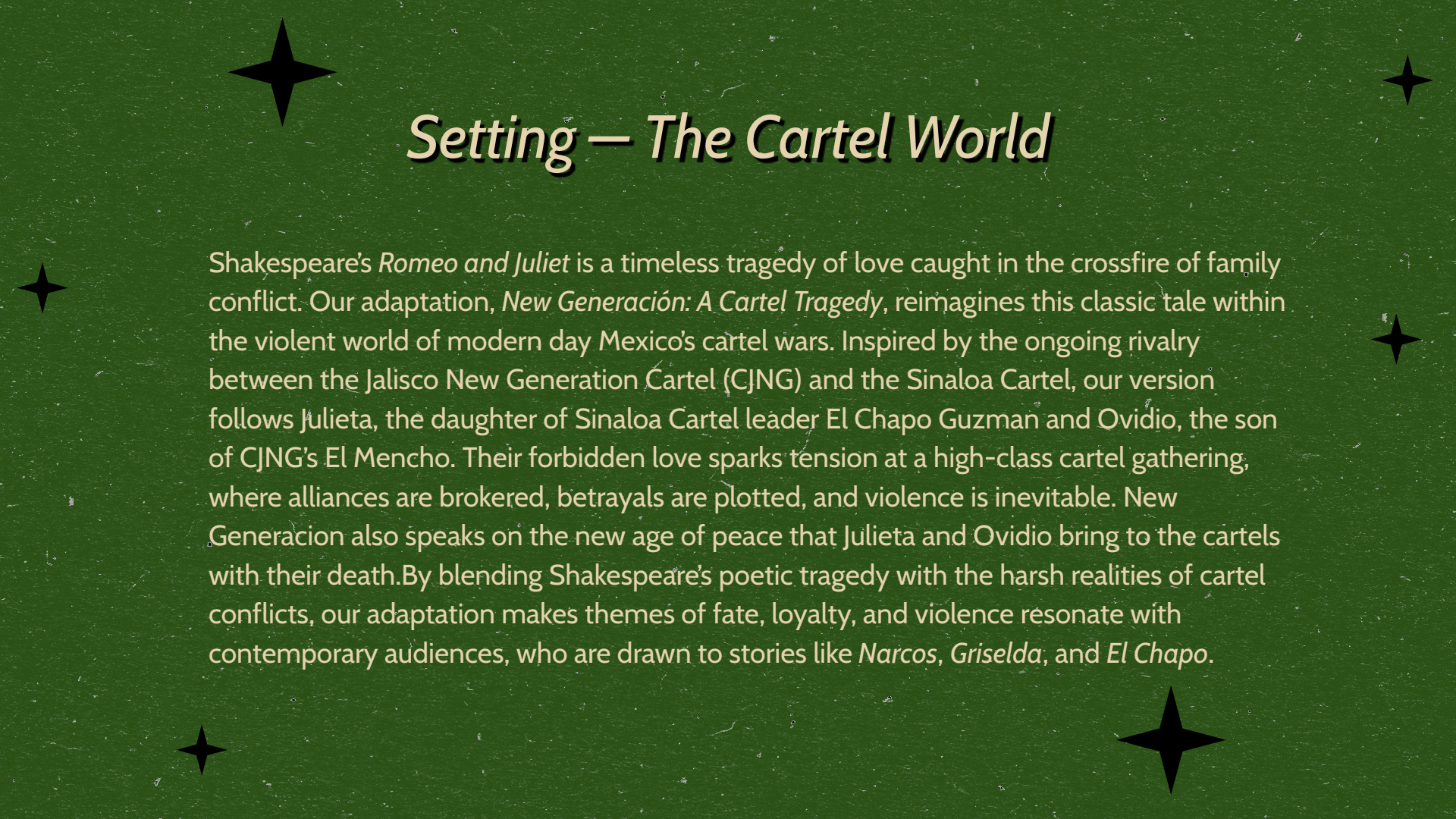
Rebecca





INTRODUCTION

"From ancient grudge break to new mutiny"
(Prologue, Romeo and Juliet)



Setting — The Cartel World

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is a timeless tragedy of love caught in the crossfire of family conflict. Our adaptation, *New Generación: A Cartel Tragedy*, reimagines this classic tale within the violent world of modern day Mexico's cartel wars. Inspired by the ongoing rivalry between the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) and the Sinaloa Cartel, our version follows Julieta, the daughter of Sinaloa Cartel leader El Chapo Guzman and Ovidio, the son of CJNG's El Mencho. Their forbidden love sparks tension at a high-class cartel gathering, where alliances are brokered, betrayals are plotted, and violence is inevitable. *New Generacion* also speaks on the new age of peace that Julieta and Ovidio bring to the cartels with their death. By blending Shakespeare's poetic tragedy with the harsh realities of cartel conflicts, our adaptation makes themes of fate, loyalty, and violence resonate with contemporary audiences, who are drawn to stories like *Narcos*, *Griselda*, and *El Chapo*.

“From ancient grudge break to new mutiny” (Prologue, Romeo and Juliet)

- A quotation from Shakespeare that inspired this production was from the prologue, “From ancient grudge break to new mutiny” (Prologue), Shakespeare understands the pattern following long-standing hatred. This is also reflected in the rivalry between the CJNG and Sinaloa cartel. This rivalry is derived, “such as the discovery of a CJNG-operated narco-tunnel in Tijuana, a zone thought to be controlled by the Sinaloa Cartel, point[ed] to a brewing conflict.” This conflict led to confusion and overall chaos between the cartels. In the original adaptation, the families were not sure where the ancient grudge originally began but carried on the tension anyways. Similar to this, both cartels were unsure of whether the “brewing conflict’ constituted a severe war. According to Caballero’s article , outside sources instigated conflict between the two groups. “El Molca,” the leader of a criminal organization known as La Resistencia, proclaimed in a video that there was a bloody war between Oseguera Cervantes [of the CJNG] and the Sinaloa Cartel. But this simply did not happen. Even CJNG members who were detained at the time suggested that banners announcing a confrontation between them and the Sinaloa Cartel were acts of propaganda carried out by their rivals.”



The Lovers — Julieta and Ovidio

Julieta (Juliet) - The Cartel Princess

Julieta is the daughter of El Mencho, the feared leader of Sinaloa Cartel. Raised in privilege yet trapped by her family's brutal legacy, she longs for a life beyond cartel bloodshed. Her love for Ovidio is both an act of rebellion and a desperate attempt to break free from the violence surrounding her. Like Shakespeare's Juliet, she is torn between duty and love, knowing that her choice could ignite a war. Her inner turmoil is captured in the famous line: *"My only love sprung from my only hate!"* (Act 1, Scene 5). Julieta's story highlights the struggle of those born into crime, questioning whether love can ever overcome violence.



Ovidio (Romeo) - The Reluctant Heir

Ovidio Guzmán, son of El Chapo, is next in line to inherit the CJNG's empire, but his heart longs for a different fate. Unlike his brothers, he is reluctant to embrace the family business, hoping to escape the endless cycle of revenge. When he meets Julieta, she represents everything he dreams of—love, freedom, and an escape from violence. However, his fate is sealed the moment he chooses love over loyalty. His tragic arc is reflected in the line: *"Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set on the fair daughter of rich Capulet."* (Act 2, Scene 2). Ovidio's story mirrors that of many young men caught between family expectations and their personal desires, ultimately showing that in the cartel world, love is the most dangerous risk of all.



El Chapo (Father Capulet) — Julieta's Father & Protector

Father Capulet is reimagined as El Chapo Guzman, a fierce leader of the Sinaloa cartel and Julieta's overprotective father.. He understands the danger of the cartel business and enforces strict rules for his daughter's safety. His persona is filled with passion and intrusiveness. He plays the role of a cartel leader to heart. His overprotectiveness often leads to controlling Julieta with harsh demands. "I'll tell you what to do: you will go to the Church on Thursday, or I will never look at you again": (Act 3, Scene 5) He is extremely traditional and conservative in his beliefs, wanting a matrimony between a business mogul and his daughter to both protect his daughter and elevate his own influence. His pressure for marriage showcases how his role in the cartel businesses is diminishing and his hunger for power and increased aggressiveness for it.



Porfirio (Paris)- "The Opportunist"

Paris is reimagined as the heir of a rich business mogul. He is shown as an opportunist, taking advantage of any chance to increase his family's power. His ego and manipulative charisma drive his life. He sees marriage with Julieta as a simple business transaction- an opportunity to expand his business in the black market. He attempts to seduce her, but she sees right through his facade. He ignores her rejective remarks and goes straight to her father for marriage, explaining his proposal as a benefit to both parties. "Younger than she are happy mothers made" (Act 1, Scene 2)

He is tired of several restrictive governmental laws and heavy taxes. He believes having el Chapo and the Sinaloa Cartel on his side will allow him to jump loopholes and gain influence and a potential market within the cartel business. The only way he can do this is through a binding union with Julieta.



Mercutio — El Risas (“The Laughter”)

In *New Generación*, Mercutio is reimagined as **El Risas** (“The Laughter”), an unpredictable yet charismatic cartel member who thrives on humor and chaos. He is Ovidio’s closest confidant and personal bodyguard. Just like Shakespeare’s Mercutio, El Risas brings comic relief, mocking the seriousness of cartel rivalries and Julieta and Ovidio’s forbidden love. His humor often disguises a deeper cynicism, showing that while he laughs at fate, he ultimately cannot escape it. His tragic demise mirrors the original play, with his final words reflecting the brutal world they inhabit.



Quote for El Risas is:

“You are a lover; borrow Cupid’s wings, and soar with them above a common bound.” (*Romeo and Juliet*, Act 1, Scene 4)

This captures his playful encouragement for Ovidio to embrace love while also foreshadowing how fate will bring them all down.



Conclusion —Why This Story Matters



Our adaptation, *New Generacion: A Cartel Tragedy*, brings Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* into the modern world of Mexico's cartel wars, a setting that amplifies the play's core themes of **fate, loyalty, and violence**. By placing Julieta and Ovidio in a world where love is dangerous and betrayal is deadly, we highlight the relentless cycle of bloodshed that plagues real-world conflicts. Just as Shakespeare's tragedy warned of the destructive power of hate, our adaptation serves as a commentary on the devastating impact of cartel violence on young lives. Through this lens, we invite audiences to reflect on the real cost of feuds that seem never-ending, and whether love, even in death, can be the force that disrupts power and reshapes destiny.





Works Cited/Image Sources

<https://insightcrime.org/news/no-more-masks-jalisco-cartel-members-reveal-their-faces/>

<https://restofworld.org/2021/the-influencer-politicians-are-coming/>

