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Seminar on multimedial adaptations of *Romeo and Juliet*,
part of 'Shakespeare's Legacy' (MA course)

In this final seminar we will think about Shakespeare, film, and popular culture over the last twenty-five years. From the Hollywood films of the 1990s to digital media today, what kinds of artistic, economic, and cultural factors have helped shape popular adaptations, and where do we think things are headed in the future?

Readings and viewing:

- **EITHER** Baz Luhrmann, dir., *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet* (Fox, 1996) **OR** *Jules and Monty* (Tufts University Television, 2014) **OR** *Romeo and Juliet in Harlem* (TAG Films, 2017) **OR** *Romeo and Juliet* (The Show Must Go Online, 2020).
- Douglas Lanier, 'Shakespearean Rhizomatics: Adaptation, Ethics, Value', in *Shakespeare and the Ethics of Appropriation*, ed. Alexa Huang and Elizabeth Rivlin (Palgrave, 2014), pp. 21-40.

Task:

- Please add one link to the class Padlet that relates to any other adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* that interests you, and please also comment on at least one Padlet post from a classmate.

Discussion:

- How and why might these works be considered 'popular'?
- How do they use different media and technologies to tell the story of *Romeo and Juliet*?
- How might you apply Lanier's theory of rhizomatic adaptation to these works?
- Please post your thoughts in the student discussion forum or bring them to the seminar to share in person.