

Stage: Spanish 'Romeo'

Love Story, Latin Style

ROMEO AND JULIET, by Shakespeare; translation (into Spanish) by Pablo Neruda. Directed by René Buch; setting by Robert Weber Federico; fencing by Christopher Martin; costumes by María Ferreira; choreography by Anabella Gonzalez; produced by Gilberto Zaldivar; presented by the Spanish Theater Repertory Company Ltd. At the Gramercy Arts Theater, 138 East 27th Street.

Juliet.....	Elizabeth Peña
Romeo.....	Mateo Gómez
Benvolio.....	Carlos Linares
Escalus.....	Juan Troya
Friar Laurence.....	René Sánchez
Capulet.....	Alfonso Manosalvas
Nurse.....	Ofelia González
Peter.....	Rafael Pagán
Montesco.....	Juan F. Uerue
Abraham.....	Juan Vinarreal
Mercutio.....	Frank Robles
Lady Capulet.....	Zully Montero
Tybalt.....	Nelson Landrieu
Gregory.....	Nelson Tamayo
Lady Montague.....	Yolanda Arenas
Balthasar.....	Juan Carlos Giménez
Paris.....	Omar Torres

By **THOMAS LASK**

THE "Romeo and Juliet" that the Spanish Theater Repertory Company is performing in repertory in Spanish through June 11 in a translation by the late Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda is thoroughly engrossing even to one who knows no Spanish. It is a version that emphasizes the volatile passions of the principals, conscious of nothing but their own feelings and the gulf that separates the two nations — the young people and their elders.

René Buch, who directed, has used the small stage of the Gramercy Theater most resourcefully. He has avoided pageantry and display; the scenes follow one another in quick succession as if the impatience of the lovers was matched by the quickness of the events. And he has given the proceedings a contemporary touch without making it modern.

As the principals, Mateo Gómez and Elizabeth Peña, are full of quick ardor. The passionate flowering of their love and their headlong rush to disaster have a tragic inevitability. Both performers are young and handsome — which obviously helps immeasurably in the realization of their roles.

The supporting cast is not of equal strength throughout. But these lacks were more than made up by the Mercutio of Frank Robles, ebullient, mocking, free-spirited and very dashing, and by the Escalus, Prince of Verona, of Juan Troya.

More than even these was the playing of Ofelia González as the nurse, who made every gesture meaningful and

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Gerry Goodstein

Mateo Gómez as Romeo and Elizabeth Peña as Juliet.

enriched every scene in which she appeared.

Judging by this performance alone, the company, now celebrating its 10th year, is a valuable component of today's New York theater.