

Out of Tune

A play for Senior Secondary Drama Classes

Romeo and Juliet ... there can hardly be anyone unaffected by the compelling tale of the lovers and their eternally feuding families who ultimately destroy them.

Ali Mahmoud is Romeo, Kirsty Sanderson is Juliet.

Their schooldays are nearly at an end. They are young musicians, good enough to have been accepted into the Conservatorium. They play in the Senior School Band, and their last concert is just a few days away.

Several of the band members are of Middle Eastern descent. At the second-last rehearsal, a bitter row breaks out when one of the Anglos is unforgivably rude about Islam.

The row somehow crystallises a latent attraction between Kirsty and Ali, but storms are ahead, because both her appalling father and his rigid mother are mindless bigots, and they and their weak, complacent spouses make life hell for the young couple.

But the overwhelming strength of their love leads them into a course of action which might, or which might not bring them the full, rich happiness that has eluded them for much of their lives.

© Ralph Middenway 2003