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Act I, Scene I, More Than a Simple Fight

Today marked the beginning of directing the first scene of the first act of the famous *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. More specifically, the first one hundred twenty-eight lines are being directed. The tale of the two lovers begins with the calm before the fight between Sampson and Gregory of the Capulet family and Abram and another servingman of the Montague family. Benvolio of the Montague family attempts to break up the fight, but Tybalt intervenes and duels with Benvolio. Several citizens of Verona attempt to strike down both sides as they are fed up with the quarrels between the two families. Capulet and Montage enter the scene with their respective wives. The prince breaks up the fight and offers the death penalty if another fight took place. Benvolio, Montague, and Lady Montague stay behind and inquire about Romeo's whereabouts. This is only what happens on the surface of the script.  
 However, there is more to this scene than just that. Sampson and Gregory appear to be the ones trying to pick a fight as Sampson bites his thumbs at Abram and the other servingman. Abram only fights in response to the gesture of defiance. Benvolio also enter the fight with intention of breaking it up. Tybalt, on the other hand, attacks Benvolio, despite Benvolio's intent of peace. Tybalt is portrayed as the hyper-aggressive polar opposite of Benvolio. When Capulet and Montague enter the scene, their respective wives attempt to dissuade them from joining in, demonstrating some sort of desire for peace in lines. The prince also seems to take the role of authority in this scene.

In terms of filming this scene, the set should be set to Verona during the late 1500s, meaning the buildings should be made out of wood and brick with many buildings being no higher than three stories. In the distance should be the prince's palace as a symbol that the rivalry between the two families is being watched by the royal family. The fight should take place during the evening because Capulet enters in his gown, suggesting he recently woke up from sleep. The lighting will come from nowhere except the glow of the moon and the oil lamps in the houses to match the lighting technology Europeans had during the late 1500s. Realism will be something this movie will stick to.  
 The scene should start with Sampson and Gregory leaning against the wall as if they were two friends having a casual conversation and grin a little now and then. Once they spot the two Montagues passing by, they will bite their thumbs. The actors should follow the script until they begin fighting, but have serious faces that build up to faces of fury to show the escalating tension. Once their swords make contact, the people of Verona will put out their lamps so the steady glow of the buildings fade away to dramatize the fight. Benvolio will enter in loose clothing that will make him look like an angel without wings. Tybalt will enter wearing blood stained clothing signifying his aggressiveness. The differences between the two will highlight the fact that they are polar opposites. Once these two clash for a little bit, four citizens will leave their house armed with clubs and torches to appeal to the common image of the angry mob. Capulet will enter in his gown with bags under his eyes and his wife will give him his sword hesitantly to show disapproval of their violence. Montague will enter also with bags under his eyes, but his wife will be holding him back. The prince will enter looking furious and speaking with a fed up tone due to the fights between the families happening multiple times. His attendants will be armored to the teeth as an act of intimidation. After the crowd disperses, Montague, Lady Montague, and Benvolio will discuss what happened to Romeo in a hushed manner because they are, after all, gossiping. The next part of the scene will be discussed in a later journal entry. Stay tuned.