= Romeo & Juliet : Sealed with a Kiss =

Romeo & Juliet : Sealed with a Kiss is a 2006 American animated romantic fantasy film loosely following the play Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare . The film is about two star @-@ crossed seals , Romeo and Juliet (voiced by Daniel and Patricia Trippet respectively) , who fall in love against the wishes of their warring families . It was released in Europe in mid @-@ 2006 and on October 27 in the United States .

The film was written , animated , and directed entirely by one man , former Disney animator Phil Nibbelink . The film , created on an estimated budget of $ 2 million , took 4 ½ years to complete and required 112 @,@ 000 frames , all drawn by Nibbelink on a Wacom tablet directly into Flash 4 in combination with Moho software . Despite the film 's negative reviews , it won an award in Best in Show at the Southwest Film Festival .

= = Plot = =

Warring Capulets (Michael Toland) and Montagues (Stephen Goldberg) , portrayed as Steller and California sea lions respectively , have their feud watched sadly by Capulet 's only daughter , Juliet (Patricia Trippett) . A fight on the shore is ended when the Prince (Phil Nibbelink) , a large and monstrous elephant seal , appears and warns the two groups that , should there be any more disturbance , the seal who caused it shall be exiled to Shark Island , a fin shaped rock where a shark lives . Romeo (Daniel Tripett) , Montague 's only son , is depressed , wishing to fall in love with someone . His humorous friend , Mercutio (Chip Albers) , urges him and another of his friends , Benvolio (Sam Gold) , to go to a Capulet party later that evening . They attend the party , covered in white sand to look like Capulets , and Romeo falls in love with Juliet at first sight . Juliet , however , was promised by her father to marry the Prince , who attends the party . Romeo and his friends manage to wreak havoc , and are revealed to be Montagues . Later that evening , the play 's balcony scene is recreated on a cliff on the beach where a tree grows . Romeo promises Juliet that they shall marry the next morning , and she will not have to marry the Prince .

Romeo begs Friar Lawrence , a sea otter , to wed them . After some thought , the friar believes their marriage will end the feud between their families , and agrees . Romeo and Juliet are wed that morning and traverse the sea in their happiness . However , even the other sea and land animals strongly oppose their being together . A fish finds them a lovely couple , but warns them that they will be in big trouble if the Prince finds out . Back on the beach , Mercutio is telling many jokes , which leads to him making insulting jokes against the Capulets , and the Prince is headed in that direction . When he arrives , Mercutio mocks him as well . Romeo rushes to aid his friend , but after a struggle Mercutio falls off the cliff where Juliet met Romeo the previous evening , and everyone thinks that he is dead . The Prince , jealous of Juliet 's affection for Romeo , exiles Romeo to Shark Island . In despair , Juliet seeks the Friar 's help , and he gives her a potion to put her in a deathlike state . Mercutio is revealed to be alive and sees the whole thing , remarking , " What a tangled web we weave . "

Lawrence shows the Capulet seals that Juliet is " dead " , right as they were celebrating the marriage . But Benvolio sees her as well , and swims to Shark Island to tell Romeo . The Friar chases him to stop him , but is attacked by a shark . After receiving the terrible news from Benvolio , Romeo heads to the shore to see if Juliet is truly dead . Friar Lawrence arrives too late and tries to follow Romeo , only to have his tail maimed by the shark . After an undersea chase and some help from the fish Romeo and Juliet met earlier , Lawrence escapes and heads to the beach . A heartbroken Romeo walks past the mourning Capulets and tries to kiss Juliet , only to have some of the potion slip into his own mouth , putting him in a deathlike state as well . Both groups of seals begin to weep for their loss , and Lawrence , who has just arrived , teaches them a lesson about where hatred leads them . Suddenly , Romeo and Juliet awaken , and all is well . Mercutio returns , and the Prince finds a new mate , a large elephant seal like himself . The movie ends with the two families at peace , and Romeo and Juliet remaining together .

== = Cast and characters = =

 Daniel Trippett as Romeo , a brave , kind , and handsome Montague and Juliet 's love interest and main protagonist of the movie . He knows he should not go near the Capulets , but he loves Juliet . It is revealed that he would not let anyone kidnap Juliet ; this is first revealed in a shipwreck scene , when an octopus hypnotizes and tangles Juliet and challenges Romeo to a duel . In the English version he is voiced by Alan Ritchson
 Patricia Trippett as Juliet , a sweet , pretty , and Capulet and Romeo 's love interest .
 Chip Albers as Mercutio , Romeo 's trouble @-@ making best friend .
 Michael Toland as Capulet , Juliet 's father . / Friar Lawrence : A sea otter and a good friend of Romeo , he knows that Romeo and Juliet shouldn 't be married , but realizes that the wedding will stop the rivalry of the two families .
 Stephen Goldberg as Montague , Romeo 's father .
 Phil Nibbelink as the Prince , a huge northern elephant seal who has a big nose , rancid breath , and a quick temper and the main antagonist of the movie .
 Chanelle Nibbelink as Kissy the Kissing Fish , a sweet and cute little fish who acts as a comic relief . She does not like the water much , but adores Romeo , and enjoys kissing him .
 Sam Gold as Benvolio , a good friend of Romeo who is not a trouble @-@ maker like Mercutio .

== = Production = =

== = = Background = = =

 Nibbelink , a former Disney animator , founded an independent company with his wife , Margit Friesacher , called Phillip Nibbelink Productions , in 1998 . He stated that he grew tired of the " big industry merry @-@ go @-@ round " and wanted to make films himself . He had independently created two feature @-@ length animated films before Romeo & Juliet : Sealed with a Kiss ? Puss in Boots & Leif Ericson : The Boy Who Discovered America . Nibbelink decided to make Romeo and Juliet in 2000 , when he was finishing Leif Ericson , and began work on it in early 2003 . Nibbelink wanted the film to be a family @-@ friendly version of Shakespeare 's original tale , because of the few appropriate family films available at the time .

== = = Animation = = =

 The film took 4 ½ years of animating and required 112 @,@ 000 frames , each of which were completed in under 2 minutes and drawn on a Wacom tablet directly into Flash 4 , in combination with Moho software . All the frames together were done in a month , by Nibbelink 's estimation . The Moho software was used for the " over @-@ the @-@ shoulder " or the " listening " characters , or crowd scene characters . The film was a half @-@ year in post @-@ production . Nibbelink used Flash 4 because when he tried to migrate to Flash 5 , it created forward @-@ compatibility problems . Even cut @-@ and @-@ paste work using Flash 4 and Flash 5 launched at the same time created RAM issues and crashed .

== = = Audio = = =

 Most actors of the film were Nibbelink 's friends and children , whose voices he recorded in a studio in his basement . The film 's Spanish dub was originally done in Madrid . Nibbelink said his daughter 's voice @-@ over was completely unscripted . " I would take these silly improvs that my little daughter would do . I mean , lines like , she would say , ? Babies ? p @-@ ew ! I hate stinky babies ! ? I said , ? That ? s hilarious ! ? So I would use it . "
 The film had no official composer . Nibbelink bought melodies from royalty @-@ free music compositions , and wrote the lyrics for the music . These royalty free music companies were Intents

Creative Music , British Audio Publishing , Crank City Music , Jack Waldenmaier Music Productions in association with The Music Bakery , River City Sound Productions , Bejoodle Music , Fresh Music , and Music 2 Hues . Three songs are included in the film : a version of " Twinkle Twinkle Little Star " , performed by Chanelle Nibbelink and arranged by Elva Nibbelink , " Bite My Tail " , performed by Michael Toland and arranged by Nibbelink , and " Singing Starfish " , performed by Jennifer , Russell , and Gigi Nibbelink .

= = Release = =

= = = Theatrical release = = =

 Nibbelink sold the film to 800 people , and it was picked up by distributors MarVista Entertainment for release in foreign territories and Indican Pictures for a domestic release . A preview of the film was screened at Sony Pictures Entertainment in Los Angeles , California on November 17 , 2004 , and the movie was later showcased at the 2005 Asia Television Forum in Singapore . It was released as Fofita , una foquita la mar de salada to 32 theaters in Madrid and Seville on June 23 , 2006 .
 Sealed with a Kiss was rated " G " by the Motion Picture Association of America . The film had a domestic total of $ 463 @,@ 002 in its 34 @-@ week (238 @-@ day) box office run . On opening weekend in 2006 , the film , which debuted in Los Angeles , California , grossed $ 80 @,@ 938 , with an average of $ 4 @,@ 220 . That same week , it grossed a total $ 109 @,@ 720 . The film closed its box office run on July 19 , 2007 , having grossed just $ 895 that same week . Despite being a minor box office bomb , as of June 2013 , the film is the third most profitable film released by Indican Pictures .

= = = Home media = = =

 The film was released to DVD on June 12 , 2007 . Animatedviews.com 's Ben Simon , in his review of the DVD , gave it an overall 7 out of 10 , praising the large bonus content for a low @-@ budget film , but criticizing the glitchy sound and audio of the feature . A giveaway was previously held in 2005 by Abbey Home Media and Courier Kids , and the prize was a DVD copy of the film and a toy seal . Ten copies were given .

= = Critical reception = =

 The film was negatively received by critics . Review aggregation website Rotten Tomatoes reports that only 20 % of critics gave the film a positive review , with an average rating of 3 / 10 , based on 5 reviews . Movies.com 's Dave White compared what he considered the film 's poor animation to the animation of The Wild , and criticized some dialogue of the film judged " vaguely Shakespearean " , satirizing the fact that " children like English pronouns 15th century . " Sam Adams of the Los Angeles Times called the film a " genuine tragedy , although not in the Shakespearean sense " and wrote that a " comprehensive list of what 's wrong with Romeo & Juliet : Sealed With a Kiss would stretch farther than the unabridged works of William S. " LA Weekly 's Luke Y. Thompson said that the film " should find its primary audience among college potheads who like to watch ' 70s Hanna @-@ Barbera creations on the Cartoon Network late at night . " Common Sense Media writer Renee Schonfeld said in his 2012 review that it was " an amateurish effort with a grating villain , tired jokes , and sub @-@ par music " . He gave it 2 out of 5 stars .
 In contrast , Reel.com 's Pam Grady gave the film a 2 @.@ 5 out of 4 , saying that , " surprisingly , it 's not terrible " . Animatedviews.com 's Ben Simon defended the film , saying it was " a charming little movie " that " remains faithful to Shakespeare 's text . " The film won two awards at the Southwest Film Festival , in the animation and Best in Show category .