**The Differences Between The Romeo And Juliet Movies (The Zeffirelli Version And The Luhrmann Version)**

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Why is it important to differentiate the old and the new versions of the play, Romeo, and Juliet? In the movie *“Romeo and Juliet”* written by *“William Shakespeare”*, there were many differences in both the Zeffirelli version (1966 Version) and the Luhrmann version (1996 Version). Some of these differences involve the plot events and accuracy as well as the personality traits in the characters.

In the movie, *“Romeo and Juliet”,* the Zeffirelli version (1966 version) shows much different plot events and accuracy compared to the Luhrmann version (1996 version). Firstly, in the Zeffirelli version, Juliet says *“Romeo”* and Romeo does not say anything back and dies before Juliet is awaken from her deep sleep where in the Luhrmann version, Romeo says his last words right after Juliet is awake from her deep sleep when she says *“Romeo”.* *“ Thus, with a kiss, I die”* (Luhrmann Version: 1996: Romeo’s final words after Juliet awakens) as well as *“Romeo lies dead, on the bed without saying a word, eyes closed”* (Zeffirelli Version:1966). This explains that Romeo was already dead and poisoned himself before Juliet woke up from her deep sleep as well as when Juliet responded to Romeo, after a while, Romeo did not say a word. This is clear because since Romeo is already dead and Juliet wakes up and wants to see him, this makes more sense rather than Juliet watching Romeo take the poison as well as responding back to Juliet in the Luhrmann Version. Secondly, in the Zeffirelli version Friar Lawrence walks into the tombstone and picks up Juliet from her bed and asks her to come with him when Juliet awakens from her bed where in the Luhrmann version, Friar Lawrence is not in the scene. *“Oh [Juliet], come from this nest of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966 while picking up Juliet) as well as *“Juliet just sits there and shoots herself in the head without Friar Lawrence realizing this”* (Luhrmann Version: 1996). This states that the father did not want Juliet to stay in this filthy tombstone when he entered and saw Juliet awaken from her sleep as well as he wanted Juliet to come with Friar Lawrence, but Juliet refused to do so where in the Luhrmann Version, Friar Lawrence did not come to the church and watch her just sit and cry right next to Romeo and if he did, things could have turned much different like Friar Lawrence telling Juliet to get out of the church. Overall, the Zeffirelli version (1966 Version) had plot events and accuracy that were not the same compared to the Luhrmann version (1996 Version) of the movie “Romeo and Juliet”.

In the movie, *“Romeo and Juliet”*, the personality traits of the characters are much different in the Zeffirelli Version (1966 Version) compared to the Luhrmann Version (1996 Version). Firstly, in the Zeffirelli version, Mercutio acts like a mocker where in the Luhrmann version, Mercutio is unstable and out of control. *“An old hare hoar, and an old hare hoar, is very good meat in lent”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966) as well as *“Shoots his gun in the air when he calls Romeo’s name”* (Luhrmann Version).This explains that in the Zeffirelli Version, Mercutio was making fun of the nurse while she just wanted to have a word with Romeo as well as in the Luhrmann version, Mercutio was super out of control that normally when anybody calls for another person, they do not fire a gun in the air just like Mercutio did. Secondly, in the Zeffirelli Version, Tybalt acts more of a joker where in the Luhrmann Version, Tybalt is full of anger and aggression. *“The unhappy look on Tybalt’s face when he kills Mercutio”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966) as well as *‘What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds? Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death’* (Luhrmann Version: 1996). This explains that in the Zeffirelli Version, Tybalt did not intend to kill Mercutio. He just wanted to battle Mercutio for fun and not purposely kill him. This also states that in the Luhrmann Version that Tybalt's first reaction to any problem is to just fight like he wants to do with Benvolio. He does not want to talk over it with him. The first thing Tybalt would do is just set issues with violence and aggression. Thirdly, in the Zeffirelli version, Juliet acts more of a young and childish character where in the Luhrmann Version, Juliet acts more of an old and matured character. *“Has long hair runs along the balcony playfully in a childish manner”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966) as well as *“Wears a veil and speaks to the nurse with dignity”* (Luhrmann Version: 1996). This says that in the Zeffirelli Version, Juliet must be very young because since she has long hair and runs along the balcony with joy when she gets called by the nurse, she must be acting childish because if someone were being called, and they were much older, they would not run as playfully as they normally would. This also says that in the Luhrmann version, Juliet is wearing a veil as well as speaks to the nurse with dignity stating that she is much older because typically younger kids would not always wear a veil and she is matured because she is listening to the nurse in a more serious tone. Overall, in the movie, *“Romeo and Juliet”*, the characteristics of the characters are not the same in the Zeffirelli Version (1966 Version) compared to the Luhrmann Version (1996 Version).

The Zeffirelli version gives a more accurate version of the graphic novel, *“Romeo and Juliet”*. Firstly, there were certain parts that were missing in the Luhrmann version that were there in the Zeffirelli version of the book Romeo and Juliet, which are supposed to be in the graphic novel. *“No Friar Lawrence in the church”* (Luhrmann Version: 1996) as well as *‘Friar Lawrence walks into the church lonely and cautiously with the torch sitting in his hand”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966). This explains that without Friar Lawrence in the scene, that movie does not show that Friar Lawrence is trying to secretly take Juliet away without anyone knowing that he is escaping with her as well as it just shows that once Juliet wakes up, she just watches Romeo die and she gets up herself without Friar Lawrence there. It also says that in the Zeffirelli version walks inside the church carefully just to see both the dead bodies as well as it provides description of how he gets inside. Secondly, the Zeffirelli gives a more accurate setting on the graphic novel Romeo and Juliet than the Luhrmann Version. “*Takes place where the boys were fighting in a small village”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966) as well as *‘Boys were fighting at the beach’* (Luhrmann Version: 1996). This explains that in the book, the were fighting near the stairs of a church in the small village near the castle with explains that clearly the Zeffirelli version better represents the graphic novel of Romeo and Juliet in terms of the setting and the set design. If this were at a beach where they were fighting, this would have possibly turned out differently like the items being used and the positioning and layout which likely it would not quite represent the graphic novel of Romeo and Juliet. Thirdly, in the Luhrmann version, there is a lot more violence and chaos than there actually are in the book and the Zeffirelli version combined. *“Blood all over Romeo’s cheeks to waist”*, *“Kills Tybalt using a gun”* (Luhrmann Version: 1996) as well as *“Used swords instead of guns”* (Zeffirelli Version: 1966). This explains that in the Luhrmann version, the battle between Romeo and Tybalt was super bloody and chaotic where in the Zeffirelli version, it was not as bloody and severe where they just used swords which are not as guaranteed to kill you as much as guns. The Zeffirelli version was also less bloody and about just as violent as the graphic novel of Romeo and Juliet. Overall, the Zeffirelli version shows a much more accurate representation of the graphic novel, Romeo, and Juliet.

In the movie, “Romeo and Juliet, written by “William Shakespeare”, the 1966 version shows a much more accurate way of the book Romeo and Juliet where the 1998 version shows a much more entertaining way of the of the book, Romeo and Juliet. Overall, these are the comparisons and the contrasting between the old and new versions of the movie, Romeo, and Juliet.