

## QUESTIONING THE HETERONORMATIVE VOICE: THE POLITICS OF CONTEXT IN ALAN BROWN'S *PRIVATE ROMEO*

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is a play replete with violence and desire present in the adolescent experience of love. It captures the ethos of mania that surround love in an age where the young minds begin to form a schema of the world around them and love becomes the focal point for this often rebellious interaction with familial structures, society, culture and sexual conventions. For this reason the play has been widely adapted into films and plays, which find new ways of engagement with the Shakespeare's canonical text. A wide range of film adaptations have engaged in intertextual exchange with the text. One such adaptation is Alan Brown's Private Romeo, highlighting a gay relationship at the center of the play, displacing a heteronormative paradigm. The film portrays a version of the play that embraces gender and sexual diversity as a norm.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Film Adaptation, Queer, Heteronormativity, Shakespeare*