Honorable in public, Lustful in private

It is not a revelation that what occurs in the public differs from what occurs in the private. In the tragedy known as *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare demonstrates the public world as a serious and qualified one filled with duty and honor while the private one is lecherous, ludicrous, and filled with romantic behavior all pertaining to sexual desire , this is shown through behavior of his characters behind closed doors and then in public.

At the start of the play we see how sexually motivated and primal people act when in private, in this case, Gregory and Sampson of the house of Capulet. When alone, as they speak about killing members of the house of Montague, they also go far to describe how they would sexually assault their women: “therefore women, being the weaker vessels, are ever thrust to the wall: therefore I will push Montague's men from the wall, and thrust his maids to the wall.”(Shakespeare 9). Afterward in the confrontation Abram and a serving man of the house of Montague, Gregory and Sampson do not act in a savage manner they talked about before, instead acting in a lawful manner “Let us take the law of our sides; let them begin.”(Shakespeare 11). Shakespeare uses this behavior to show how in society people are animalistic and sexually oppressive on the inside yet care about maintaining a good reputation in public.

At scene III of the first act Lady Capulet converses with Juliette about marriage and her virginity with the Nurse present. When starting the conversation Lady Capulet asks the Nurse to “give leave awhile, we [Lady Capulet and Juliette] must talk in secret” (Shakespeare 35). Then subsequently she asks The Nurse to stay: “I have remembered me, thou's hear our counsel.”

(Shakespeare 35). Lady Capulet proceeds to speak about the future of Juliette’s love life while The Nurse contributes with sex filled jokes: “Yea,' quoth my husband,'fall'st upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age; Wilt thou not, Jule?” ( Shakespeare 37). Lady Capulet is concerned about Juliette’s marital future and speaks in an official manner about who Juliette should be wed to in front of The Nurse. The Nurse has known Juliet on a more intimate level since birth and does not hesitate to speak freely and extensively about Juliet having sex. This illustrates the opposition between the public and private views on sex and marital affairs. Ultimately, the private, raunchy, and humorous talk of thrusting and falling on one’s back is favored in the text over the concern of Juliette’s future. Shakespeare’s intention was to demonstrate that love and marriage are ruses used to hide the lust and attentiveness of sex.

It is evident to see that the relationship between public and private affairs used in *Romeo and Juliet* is used to show how the play is really about love contrasted with sexual desire.