

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S



AUDITION INFORMATION

Audition Dates	Performance Dates
Monday, August 26th from 3:45 - 5:45pm Tuesday, August 27th from 3:45 - 5:45pm (Call Backs) Wednesday, August 28th from 3:45 - 6pm	Thursday, November 7th, 2019 @7pm Friday, November 8th, 2019 @7pm Saturday, November 9th, 2019 @2pm & 7pm Sunday, Nov 10th = STRIKE (Mandatory)

FAQs

WHAT DO I PREPARE?

Please prepare a 1-2 minute classic comedic monologue OR a classic comedic duo scene; however scene partners will NOT be provided. These should be memorized to allow for motivated movement, blocking, and nuanced character choices.

Sign ups are online - <https://tinyurl.com/MuchAdoAuds>

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

This play requires actors to be sharp and quick comedians. We are looking for dynamic use of voice and actors that are confident with uninhibited movement. This is a Shakespearian, witty comedy that calls for truthful but specific and exaggerated choices. The actors should also have knowledge with Elizabethan language and conventions.

SYNOPSIS

Much Ado About Nothing is a romantic comedy with much drama. Essentially Benedick and Beatrice don't love each other but then they do. Claudio and Hero love each other, but then they don't, but then they do again. Don John hates his brother, Don Pedro, and tries to sabotage him. Margaret just wants to be loved. Dogberry insists he is an ass and then saves the day. Everyone gets married. For more specifics, read this!

<https://coffin.files.wordpress.com/2007/11/scene-by-scene1.pdf>

Rehearsals will begin August 29th, 2019 @ 3:30pm in the Drama Room

Rehearsals are **MANDATORY** and will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and some Saturdays. Set builds will be on Sundays and require cast participation.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Don Pedro is the Prince of Aragon. He has just won a war against his illegitimate half-brother Don John. He reconciles himself to his brother, though he doesn't speak to him much and may merely be keeping him close to keep an eye on him.

Don John is a bastard, in both the legal and ethical senses of the term. The essence of his character is that he is evil.

Leonato, the governor of Messina, father of Hero, and is the guardian of an orphaned niece, Beatrice.

Claudio, love interest of Hero, is young, still beardless, and to put it charitably, not very bright, as well as easily deceived, insecure, and quick to jealousy. He is a soldier in Don Pedro's army and good friend of Benedick.

Benedick, adversary and love of Beatrice, Benedick is best known for his apparent distaste for women and his insistence that he will never marry. He is a trusted soldier in Don Pedro's army.

Hero is Leonato's daughter. A sweet and obedient girl overshadowed by her cousin Beatrice. Falls in love with Claudio.

Beatrice is Leonato's orphaned niece. She has a ready wit which she clearly enjoys displaying, and is much given to mockery. Her favorite target is Benedick. She is loyal, prideful, and stubborn.

Antonio is Leonato's brother. An old man who cares for the honor of his family.

Balthasar is an attendant of Don Pedro's and a musician. He also talks too much, and is a bad dancer—his lack of ability in that direction ruins his chances with Margaret.

Conrade is one of Don John's followers. An accused conspirator in Don John's nefarious plot to ruin Hero and Claudio's marriage.

Borachio is one of Don John's faithful followers; a drunkard with a crafty mind. He knows to bring any news that might serve as the basis for mischief to Don John. Uses Margaret as a pawn in his plans.

Margaret is Hero's waiting-gentlewoman. A witty, fashion-obsessed flirt. Her appearance is mistaken for Hero's and leads to her lady's downfall.

Ursula is one of Hero's waiting-gentlewomen. Loyal.

Friar Francis is in the tradition of Romeo and Juliet's Friar Laurence; both are long-winded, well-meaning, somewhat interfering gentlemen who think it is a fine idea to make people believe a young girl is dead.

Dogberry is the constable of the Watch, whose job is to patrol the streets of Messina at night and keep order. Dogberry has very few doubts about himself, ignorant and arrogant.

Verges is Dogberry's partner as commander of the Watch. He seems to be completely under Dogberry's thumb but does his best to actually accomplish the duties of the Watch, which he appears to understand much better than does his superior.

The **Sexton** is in charge of examining the men detained by the Watch, and it is his misfortune that the Watch should be commanded by Dogberry.

The **Messenger** is sent by Don Pedro to announce his coming to Leonato.

The **First Watchman** suggests either Seacoal or Hugh Oatcake as leaders of the patrol, on the basis of their ability to read and write. He joins in the testimony to the Sexton.

The **Second Watchman** (George Seacoal) is a member of the Watch who is able to read and write, and is therefore put in charge of the nightly patrol.

The **Watchmen** (one of whom is Hugh Oatcake) are part of the neighbourhood watch that Dogberry commands, charged with patrolling the streets of Messina at night.

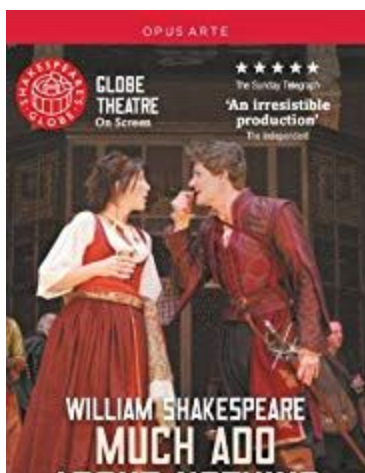
A **Lord** is among Claudio's and Don Pedro's suite when they visit Hero's tomb.

*** Ensemble (non-speaking roles) will potentially be added ***

<https://www.playshakespeare.com/much-ado-about-nothing/characters>

We recommend that you read the whole play AND watch at least one of these versions:

- 1) **The Globe's production (DeLapp will show this the first week of school)**
- 2) **The Joss Whedon contemporary version**
- 3) **The Kenneth Branough version**



ACTOR CONTRACT:

To have a successful production and a meaningful experience there are a few things that you need to know before beginning rehearsals. Please read over this contract and return it to Ms. DeLapp at your audition. You will not be allowed to audition until it is signed and handed in.

By signing this form you are agreeing to the following:

- I agree to be a committed, energetic, and collaborative member of this cast
- I will **adhere to the deadlines** set by my Director(s) on the Rehearsal Calendar
- I will attend ALL of the rehearsals that I am called for – **ON TIME**
Rehearsal Calendar can be found on the dhsdrama.com website home page and classroom call board
*** Recommended to add it to your personal Google calendar*
- I will inform my parents of the rehearsal schedule and time commitments to the show
- I promise to attend Weekend rehearsals ON TIME, or communicate **in advance** with Ms. DeLapp about why I am unable to attend.
- I will be responsible for memorizing my lines/blocking by the specified date.
- I will be responsible to make up all of the blocking/ choreography/ singing that I may miss if I am absent. I will reach out to my dance captains or section leaders for this.
- **I understand that if I miss 3 rehearsals, I forfeit my right to my role** and I may be asked to leave the production.
- Upon agreeing to be a member of this project you will receive a script and rehearsal schedule. Please keep these. **If you loose them, you will pay have to pay \$50 to get a replacement (book); \$5 for printed.** Proceeds go to the Drama Dept.
- I understand that Tech Week Rehearsals (10/28/19 – 11/6/19) are mandatory and will have extended hours.
- I understand that harmful language or behavior (bullying, gossip, slander, etc) online or in person will not be tolerated and distracts from the success of the production.

Please understand that I am fully committed to the success of this performance, but ultimately it is the actor (you) who has the greatest responsibility. You are the one on stage, performing with your peers; you will determine the quality of this production by the dedication and respect you give to the rehearsal process.

I will strive to give you the best experience possible and I expect the same level of commitment in return. If you feel like you are unable to commit to any of the above, please respectfully decline.

If you have any questions please seek out your director, Ms. DeLapp.

Thank you,

Ms. Kat DeLapp

I, _____, understand that by signing this contract I am committing to the above-mentioned responsibilities and commit to making this performance a successful reflection of my hard work and talent.

Actor Signature

Parent Signature

Actor Email

Parent Email

AUDITION FORM

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Preferred Email: _____

Will you take any role offered? YES NO

*Will you take an Ensemble role? YES NO

** If you write maybe, it will be considered a no*

Are you auditioning for/or in rehearsal for another show at this time? YES NO

**If you answered "yes" please make sure to fill out the conflict section, especially indicating tech rehearsals and performance dates if they overlap*

Are you comfortable kissing on stage? YES NO

Do you have other talents (ex. playing an instrument, juggling, sewing, tap dancing, etc)

Previous Theatre Experience (if any)(Leave Blank if attaching a resume):

Conflicts (please specify dates and times. EX: I am not available on Tues or Thurs due to a club):

ADDITIONAL INFO: Is there anything important you would like the audition panel to know? Allergies, concerns, past injuries? While we appreciate your passion and honesty, this is NOT the place to express your desire to be cast. You being here tells us that :)
