Parting Company
presents
Shakespeare's
MUCH ADO ABOUT

Little Theatre Adelaide Uni
May 13 - 16, 20 - 23  7:30 pm

Bookings: 43 5659
or the S.A.U.A. Office

Tickets $8 / $6 s.p.u.
# THE CAST & CREW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Cast Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>Scott Whitters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balthasar</td>
<td>Anthony Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beatrice</td>
<td>Caroline Mealor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hero</td>
<td>Juliet Nicolle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Pedro</td>
<td>James Mullighan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benedick</td>
<td>Matthew Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don John</td>
<td>Tim Heffernan</td>
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<td>Claudio</td>
<td>Jon Gill</td>
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<td>Antonio</td>
<td>Hugh Boyd</td>
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<td>Conrade</td>
<td>Martin Welsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Borachio</td>
<td>Juan Crosby-Sluiter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Nina Paleologos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ursula</td>
<td>Rebecca Robins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogberry</td>
<td>Roman Turkiewicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verges</td>
<td>Rebecca Robins</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Watch</td>
<td>Anthony Hawkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Watch</td>
<td>Ben Woodroffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friar</td>
<td>Ben Woodroffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexton</td>
<td>Nina Paleologos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Directed by**: Cate Rogers & Gina Tsikouras
- **Stage Manager**: Lia Weston
- **Set**: Leisel Underwood, Martin Welsh, Jennifer Mealor, Liz Rogers
- **Lighting Design**: Martin Welsh, Suzanne Hall
- **Lighting Operator**: Suzanne Hall, Cate Rogers, Gina Tsikouras
- **Sound**: Cate Rogers, Gina Tsikouras
- **Publicity**: James Roberts
- **Front of House**: Suzanne Hall, James Roberts
THE PLOT

The noble Don Pedro arrives at the estate of his friend Leonato. With him are his villainous brother Don John, his young associates Bendick and Claudio and the Attendants Borachio, Conrade and Balthasar. Leonato's household contains his brother Antonio, his daughter Hero and niece Beatrice, servants Ursula and Margaret and retainers Dogberry and Verges. The budding relationship between Claudio and Hero progresses to the verge of marriage, and the friends then plot to reunite Benedick and Beatrice, whose former brief relationship has ended in tears.

Meanwhile Don John and Borachio plot to make it appear that Hero has been unfaithful to Claudio. Dogberry, Verges and the Watch discover the plot but can't convey their findings to Leonato in time to prevent Claudio leaving Hero at the altar. The Friar at the wedding convinces Leonato to put it about that Hero has died of grief in order to make Claudio and Don Pedro ashamed of their accusations.

Beatrice and Benedick admit their love for each other and Benedick agrees to support Beatrice's defence of Hero's fidelity by challenging Claudio.
DIRECTORS' NOTES

Shakespeare is dear to us both as a conveyer of passion, pain, life and wit. In communicating to actors and audience the great and moving Shakespearian vitality we work in a contemporary context, broadening possibilities for identification, relevance and humour whilst maintaining the timelessness of characters' emotions. We feel the aristocratic class of the Renaissance translates into the modern day monied business stratum. Thus we depict corporate wheelers and dealers of both sexes rather than women at home and warriors at large. Given this, some of the social conventions of Shakespeare's time, such as the focus on masculine honour and feminine pre-nuptual chastity, have been given less weight in favour of the personal anguish of the characters consequent on hasty judgement. Liberties with the text have been taken either with consideration for the above or for sheer humour's sake. We contend that the exuberance of the play is ill served by rigidity and seek rather to connect past and present with freshness and freedom.

Cate Rogers & Gina Tsikouras
Dogberry and Verges are eventually able to prove Hero's innocence. In grief and guilt at being apparently responsible for Hero's death, Claudio agrees to make amends by marrying Antonio's daughter instead. When this second bride unveils at their wedding she is revealed to be Hero. The mistakes and hasty judgements that have been made are forgiven, Beatrice and Benedick agree to marry and, with Don John fled, all ends well.

THE TITLE

'Much Ado About Nothing' is in keeping with the flippancy of other Shakespearean comedic titles such as 'As You Like It' and 'Twelfth Night' / 'What You Will'. It is important in terms of plot given the similarity in the Elizabethan pronunciation of 'nothing' and 'noting', meaning to watch or observe. Observations in terms of overhearings and eavesdroppings happen throughout the play with conclusions often mistaken, though nevertheless acted upon. 'Much ado' is made of Hero's supposed infidelity which emerges to be 'nothing', whilst much ado is made of Beatrice and Benedick's supposed antipathy where there is nothing such.
Thanks to

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The University Print Room
The Arkaba Hotel and Alex Ward.

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Parting Company

1988 Not Twelfth Night
I Was A Teenage Crouton
1989 Was Ya Ever Bit By a Dead Bee
Waiting For Godot
Be Afraid. Be Very Afraid
1991 Twelfth Night
Secret Schnapper
1992 Much Ado About Nothing