

Much Ado About Nothing

World War I has ended and the Jazz Age has begun! The party never stops and everyone is looking for love, but will gossip and lies spoil the fun before all the couples can live happily ever after? This spring, join us for a Roaring Twenties version of Shakespeare's sparkling comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Auditions are open to anyone in grades 6-12.

Roles (depending on who auditions, some roles may be doubled and the genders of some characters may be changed)

Beatrice: Hero's cousin, smart, witty, and has vowed never to fall in love, always fighting with Benedick

Benedick: Just returned from the war, smart, witty, and has vowed never to fall in love, always fighting with Beatrice

Hero: Daughter of Leonato, sweet and romantic, in love with Claudio

Claudio: Benedick's best friend and comrade-in-arms, in love with Hero

Leonato: Hero's father and Beatrice's uncle, hosting everyone at his house for a big party now that the war has ended

Antonio: Leonato's brother, flirting with Ursula

Don Pedro: A prince and guest at Leonato's, leader of Claudio & Benedick's regiment

Don John: Don Pedro's illegitimate half-brother who is plotting his downfall

Borachio: One of Don John's minions, having a fling with Margaret

Conrade: Another of Don John's minions

Margaret: Hero's maid, sassy and flirtatious, having a fling with Borachio

Ursula: Hero's nurse, older and more mature, flirting with Antonio

Friar Francis: Presides over Hero and Claudio's wedding

Dogberry: The local constable, has a very high opinion of his crime fighting abilities, not shared by others

Verges: Dogberry's not-so-bright assistant

Members of the Watch: Dogberry's officers

The Sexton: Oversees the local court and tries offenders Dogberry and the Watch bring in

Also Messengers, Party Guests, and Townspeople

Initial auditions will be Tues., Feb. 10 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Capitol. Choose one of the attached audition pieces to read. It does not need to be memorized and we'll have extra copies available at auditions. You may also be asked to do some dance and/or movement work, so wear comfortable clothing and shoes that you can move in. Based on your initial audition, you may be called back to read additional scenes on Thurs., Feb. 12, also from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Capitol. If you would like to audition but will be unable to be there on the 10th, you may also do an initial audition at the start of the callback block on the 12th. If you are unable to be there either day, let us know and we may be able to work out an alternate audition time. If you are interested in working backstage or on design/tech

elements for the show, come to the initial auditions and we'll have you fill out a form indicating your areas of interest. The initial read-through and parent meeting will be Sun., Feb. 22 from 2:00-4:30 PM and rehearsals will generally be Mondays through Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Performances will be Fri., Apr. 24 & Sat., Apr. 25 at 7:00 PM and Sun., Apr. 26 at 3:00 PM.

Audition Piece #1

(in this speech, Benedick describes his perfect life partner)

Benedick: I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will become the argument of his own scorn by falling in love. May I be converted and see with these eyes? I think not. One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well; but till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace. Rich she shall be, that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen her; fair, or I'll never look on her; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall be - of what color it please God.

Audition Piece #2

(In this scene, Margaret notices that Beatrice is acting lovesick over Benedick and teases her about it, saying she should cure it with medicine made from benedictus, a kind of herb.)

Margaret: Get you some of this distilled benedictus and lay it to your heart.

Beatrice: Benedictus! Why benedictus? You have some moral in this benedictus.

Margaret: Moral? No, by my troth, I have no moral meaning, I meant plain holy-thistle. You may think perchance I think you are in love. Nay, by'r lady, I am not such a fool to think that you are in love, or that you will be in love, or that you can be in love. I know not, but methinks you look with your eyes as other women do.