

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
*MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING*

Welcome to the auditions for *Much Ado About Nothing*. We are excited that you are here and hope that you will be able to enjoy your experience. Auditions are typically the least favorite activity in any actor's list of theatrical things to do and we understand and agree with that – we feel that way



ourselves. So just relax, we're here to learn about each other and to have fun.

Please complete as much of the audition form as possible. This helps us understand more about you.

Even if you have been with Players for a while, it helps us as we review each performance from the audition.

Some folks think that performing Shakespeare is a bit different from typical stage acting. Some folks think they need to be somewhat “pompous” or “something,” I mean this must be dramatic or intellectual or something, isn't it? Not at all. A lot of Shakespeare's plays are funny and sometimes downright raunchy. The words are just a bit different.

There is the crowd who hyper-analyze each scene and character's motivations, but we don't fall into that crowd. We do Shakespeare as it was meant to be done – as a form of entertainment for the crowd in the pit, the masses, the ones who paid much of the bills. We don't view Shakespeare as writing his deepest innermost motivations, but as a playwright trying to create a play that would be successful.

Thanks for coming. We hope you get a part. We're sure you will – there's lots of roles that people don't even think about. We hope you have a good time.

Gary Brumagin, Director

Nyssa Brumagin, Assistant Director

William Shakespeare's
Much Ado About Nothing

Auditions will be held:

9:30 AM. Saturday, September 17

6:00 PM. Sunday, September 18

at First Lutheran Church

Roles announced September 23

Read Through October 1, 9:15 AM at First Lutheran Church

For auditions, you will be asked to:

- Read from the attached scenes
 - You will read a monologue.
 - You will read at least one of the dialogues with someone else.
 - You may request which part to read, but you may also be asked to read additional parts as well.
- Sing “Greensleeves”
 - You just need to sing the first verse and the chorus. See words in the packet.
 - If you don’t know the tune, check out [Greensleeves on YouTube](#).
 - You may already know it as the Christmas song “What Child is This?”

Audition forms can be filled before or at the beginning of auditions. Do it before and save us all a lot of time.

The cast announcement will be made on Friday, September 23. The cast list will be posted on our website, www.warrenplayers.com. If you leave an email, you’ll know that way also.

Read through will be Saturday, October 1 at 9:15am at First Lutheran Church.

Show Dates

May 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

May 20, 2023, 7:00 PM

May 21, 2023, 2:00 PM

Although auditions and roles are cast in September of 2021, the performances are not until next spring. This gives you the entire winter to learn your lines, and you are expected to know them once full rehearsals begin next April.

Synopsis:

Count Claudio falls in love with Hero, the daughter of a wealthy gentleman of the idyllic Italian city of Messina. Hero's cousin Beatrice (a determined spinster) and Benedick (an eternal bachelor) are each duped into believing the other is in love with them. Claudio is deceived by a malicious plot and denounces Hero as unchaste before they marry. She faints and is believed dead but recovers to be proved innocent by a chance discovery. Benedick wins Beatrice's love, promising to defend her cousin's honor. Claudio is reunited with Hero; Benedick is reconciled with Claudio and a merry dance is held before the double wedding ceremony.

Cast List

LEONATO	Governor of Messina	Male, older
HERO	his daughter	Female, young adult, opposite Claudio
BEATRICE	his niece	Female, adult, opposite Benedick
LEONATO'S BROTHER		Male, older
Waiting gentlewomen to Hero:		
MARGARET		Female, young adult
URSULA		Female
DON PEDRO	Prince of Aragon	Male, adult
COUNT CLAUDIO	a young lord from Florence	Male, young adult, opposite Hero
SIGNIOR BENEDICK	a gentleman from Padua	Male, adult, opposite Beatrice
BALTHASAR		Male
SIGNIOR ANTONIO		Male
DON JOHN	Don Pedro's brother	Male
Don John's followers:		
BORACHIO		Male
CONRADE		Male
DOGBERRY	Master Constable in Messina	Male
VERGES	Dogberry's partner	Male
GEORGE SEACOAL	leader of the Watch	Male
FIRST WATCHMAN		Male
SECOND WATCHMAN		Male
SEXTON		Male
FRIAR FRANCIS		Male
MESSENGER to Leonato		Male
MESSENGER to Don Pedro		Male
BOY		Male, Young
Numerous others		

Comments about your conflicts from previous page:

Limited to the space below, please list significant roles that you have played in the past.

Show	Role	Date	Organization

If you do, or have, taken **voice** or **dance** lessons, please list from whom and for how long.

Some roles involve a stage kiss. Are you able to do that?

Yes • No •

Warren Players

Audition Sheet

There's a lot more to a show than the people on-stage. Many times, there are more people behind the scenes than you see on stage.

Whether cast or not, are you willing to work on a crew? Yes • No •

If yes, please check next to the crews in which you are interested.

- Box Office • Concessions • Stage Crew •
- Orchestra • Props • Lighting •
- Sound • Makeup • Set Building •
- Scenic Painting • Costumes •

Do you know your clothing sizes? If not, just leave blank.

Shirt	S <input type="checkbox"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/>	L <input type="checkbox"/>	XL <input type="checkbox"/>	XXL <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____
Pants	Waist _____	Length _____	Ladies _____			

Scene 3

Enter Sir John the Bastard, and Conrade, his companion.

CONRADE What the goodyear, my lord, why are you thus out of measure sad?

DON JOHN There is no measure in the occasion that breeds. Therefore the sadness is without limit.

CONRADE You should hear reason.

DON JOHN And when I have heard it, what blessing brings it?

CONRADE If not a present remedy, at least a patient sufferance.

DON JOHN I wonder that thou, being, as thou sayst thou art, born under Saturn, goest about to apply a moral medicine to a mortifying mischief. I cannot hide what I am. I must be sad when I have cause, and smile at no man's jests; eat when I have stomach, and wait for no man's leisure; sleep when I am drowsy, and tend on no man's business; laugh when I am merry, and claw no man in his humor.

CONRADE Yea, but you must not make the full show of this till you may do it without controlment. You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace, where it is impossible you should take true root but by the fair weather that you make yourself. It is needful that you frame the season for your own harvest.

Scene 1

Enter Leonato, his brother, Hero his daughter, and Beatrice his niece, with Ursula and Margaret.

LEONATO Was not Count John here at supper?

LEONATO'S BROTHER I saw him not.

BEATRICE How tartly that gentleman looks! I never can see him but I am heartburned an hour after.

HERO He is of a very melancholy disposition.

BEATRICE He were an excellent man that were made just in the midway between him and Benedick. The one is too like an image and says nothing, and the other too like my lady's eldest son, evermore tattling.

LEONATO Then half Signior Benedick's tongue in Count John's mouth, and half Count John's melancholy in Signior Benedick's face—

BEATRICE With a good leg and a good foot, uncle, and money enough in his purse, such a man would win any woman in the world if he could get her goodwill.

LEONATO By my troth, niece, thou wilt never get thee a husband if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.

LEONATO'S BROTHER In faith, she's too curst.

BENEDICK I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn by falling in love—and such a man is Claudio. I have known when there was no music with him but the drum and the fife, and now had he rather hear the tabor and the pipe; I have known when he would have walked ten mile afoot to see a good armor, and now will he lie ten nights awake carving the fashion of a new doublet. He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest man and a soldier, and now is he turned orthography; his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so many strange dishes. May I be so converted and see with these eyes? I cannot tell; I think not. I will not be sworn but love may transform me to an oyster, but I'll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of me, he shall never make me such a fool. One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well; another virtuous, 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; mild, or come not near me; noble, or not I for an angel; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall be of what color it please God. Ha! The Prince and Monsieur Love! I will hide me in the arbor.

URSULA

Yet tell her of it. Hear what she will say.

HERO

No, rather I will go to Benedick
And counsel him to fight against his passion;
And truly I'll devise some honest slanders
To stain my cousin with. One doth not know
How much an ill word may empoison liking.

URSULA

O, do not do your cousin such a wrong!
She cannot be so much without true judgment,
Having so swift and excellent a wit
As she is prized to have, as to refuse
So rare a gentleman as Signior Benedick.

HERO

He is the only man of Italy,
Always excepted my dear Claudio.

URSULA

I pray you be not angry with me, madam,
Speaking my fancy: Signior Benedick,
For shape, for bearing, argument, and valor,
Goes foremost in report through Italy.

HERO

Indeed, he hath an excellent good name.

URSULA

His excellence did earn it ere he had it.
When are you married, madam?

HERO

Why, every day, tomorrow. Come, go in.
I'll show thee some attires and have thy counsel
Which is the best to furnish me tomorrow.
They move away from the bower.

URSULA, *aside to Hero*

She's limed, I warrant you. We have caught her,
madam.

HERO, *aside to Ursula*

If it prove so, then loving goes by haps;
Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.
Hero and Ursula exit.

BEATRICE, *coming forward*

What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?

Stand I condemned for pride and scorn so much?

Contempt, farewell, and maiden pride, adieu!

No glory lives behind the back of such.

And Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,

Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand.

If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee

To bind our loves up in a holy band.

For others say thou dost deserve, and I

Believe it better than reportingly.

She exits.

BENEDICK Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?

BEATRICE Yea, and I will weep a while longer.

BENEDICK I will not desire that.

BEATRICE You have no reason. I do it freely.

BENEDICK Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged.

BEATRICE Ah, how much might the man deserve of me that would right her!

BENEDICK Is there any way to show such friendship?

BEATRICE A very even way, but no such friend.

BENEDICK May a man do it?

BEATRICE It is a man's office, but not yours.

BENEDICK I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?

BEATRICE As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you, but believe me not, and yet I lie not; I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my cousin.

BENEDICK By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me!

BEATRICE Do not swear and eat it.

BENEDICK I will swear by it that you love me, and I will make him eat it that says I love not you.

BEATRICE Will you not eat your word?

BENEDICK With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.

BEATRICE Why then, God forgive me.

BENEDICK What offense, sweet Beatrice?

BEATRICE You have stayed me in a happy hour. I was about to protest I loved you.

BENEDICK And do it with all thy heart.

BEATRICE I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.

BENEDICK Come, bid me do anything for thee.

BEATRICE Kill Claudio.

BENEDICK Ha! Not for the wide world.

BEATRICE You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

DOGBERRY Come you, sir. If justice cannot tame you, she shall ne'er weigh more reasons in her balance. Nay, an you be a cursing hypocrite once, you must be looked to.

PRINCE How now, two of my brother's men bound? Borachio one!

CLAUDIO Hearken after their offense, my lord.

PRINCE Officers, what offense have these men done?

DOGBERRY Marry, sir, they have committed false report; moreover, they have spoken untruths; secondarily, they are slanders; sixth and lastly, they have belied a lady; thirdly, they have verified unjust things; and, to conclude, they are lying knaves.

PRINCE First, I ask thee what they have done; thirdly, I ask thee what's their offense; sixth and lastly, why they are committed; and, to conclude, what you lay to their charge.

CLAUDIO Rightly reasoned, and in his own division; and, by my troth, there's one meaning well suited.

PRINCE *to Borachio and Conrade* Who have you offended, masters, that you are thus bound to your answer? This learned constable is too cunning to be understood. What's your offense?

BORACHIO Sweet prince, let me go no farther to mine answer. Do you hear me, and let this count kill me. I have deceived even your very eyes. What your wisdoms could not discover, these shallow fools have brought to light, who in the night overheard me confessing to this man how Don John your brother incensed me to slander the Lady Hero, how you were brought into the orchard and saw me court Margaret in Hero's garments, how you disgraced her when you should marry her. My villainy they have upon record, which I had rather seal with my death than repeat over to my shame. The lady is dead upon mine and my master's false accusation. And, briefly, I desire nothing but the reward of a villain.

PRINCE, *to Claudio* Runs not this speech like iron through your blood?

CLAUDIO I have drunk poison whiles he uttered it.

PRINCE, *to Borachio* But did my brother set thee on to this?

BORACHIO Yea, and paid me richly for the practice of it.

PRINCE He is composed and framed of treachery,
And fled he is upon this villainy.

CLAUDIO

Sweet Hero, now thy image doth appear
In the rare semblance that I loved it first.

Greensleeves (Traditional)

Alas, my love, you do me wrong,
To cast me off discourteously.
For I have loved you well and long,
Delighting in your company.

Chorus:

Greensleeves was all my joy
Greensleeves was my delight,
Greensleeves was my heart of gold,
And who but my lady greensleeves.