



Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare (1554-1616)

Much Ado About Nothing is generally considered one of Shakespeare's best comedies, combining elements of robust hilarity with more serious meditations on honor, shame, and court politics. The play chronicles two pairs of lovers: Benedick and Beatrice (the main couple), and Claudio and Hero (the secondary couple). Benedick and Beatrice are engaged in a "merry war"; they are both very witty and proclaim their disdain of love. In contrast, Claudio and Hero are sweet young people who are rendered practically speechless by their love for one another. Although the young lovers Hero and Claudio provide the main impetus for the plot, the courtship between the wittier and wiser lovers Benedick and Beatrice is what makes *Much Ado About Nothing* so memorable. Benedick and Beatrice argue with delightful wit, and Shakespeare develops their journey from antagonism to sincere love and affection with a rich sense of humor and compassion. (*Wikipedia*)

Cast

Leonato: *Bob Neufeld*
 Messenger: *Ernst Pattynama*
 Beatrice/Boy/Second Watch: *Elizabeth Klett*
 Hero: *Amanda Friday*
 Don Pedro: *Bruce Pirie*
 Benedick: *mb*
 Don John: *Eden Rea-Hedrick*
 Claudio: *Beth Thomas*
 Antonio: *Larry Wilson*
 Conrade: *Brett Downey*

Borachio: *Chris Cartwright*
 Balthazar: *James Silverstein*
 Margaret: *Arielle Lipshaw*
 Ursula: *Sarah Parshall*
 Dogberry: *Alan Mapstone*
 Verges: *Charlotte Duckett*
 First Watchman: *rookieblue*
 Friar Francis: *bala*
 Sexton/Lord: *Todd*
 Narrator: *Libby Gohn*

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Cover design by Kathryn Delaney
 Cover illustration of Benedick and
 Beatrice by John Gilbert, 1856

