

Kanata Theatre

presents



Much Ado About Nothing

by
William Shakespeare

directed by
Andrew Williams

The action takes place near the town of Messina.

There will be one intermission.

Coffee, soft drinks and desserts will be available in the foyer.

The use of cameras or tape recorders during the performance is not permitted.

Directed by Andrew Williams



CAST

LEONATO
PAGE
HERO
ANTONIO
URSULA
MARGARET
ISABELLA
BEATRICE
MICHAEL
DON PEDRO
CLAUDIO
DON JOHN
BENEDICT
BORACHIO
CONRADE
BALTHASAR
DOGBERRY
VERGES
WATCHMAN
SEACOLE

FRIAR FRANCIS
SEXTON

Dewi Williams
Cameron Lugg
Erin Christy
David Lavoie
Dorothy Gardner
Jen Hethrington
Yvonne Leduc
Amy Adams
Geoff Scovell
Tom Kobolak
Corey Stevenson
Colin Williams
Rob Johnstone
Mark Bazerman
Brett Kelly
Ben Tolley
Bob Lackey
Al Quirt
Quentin Brayley-Berger
Lou Pino
Bob Carey
Jim Holmes
Rick Spencer



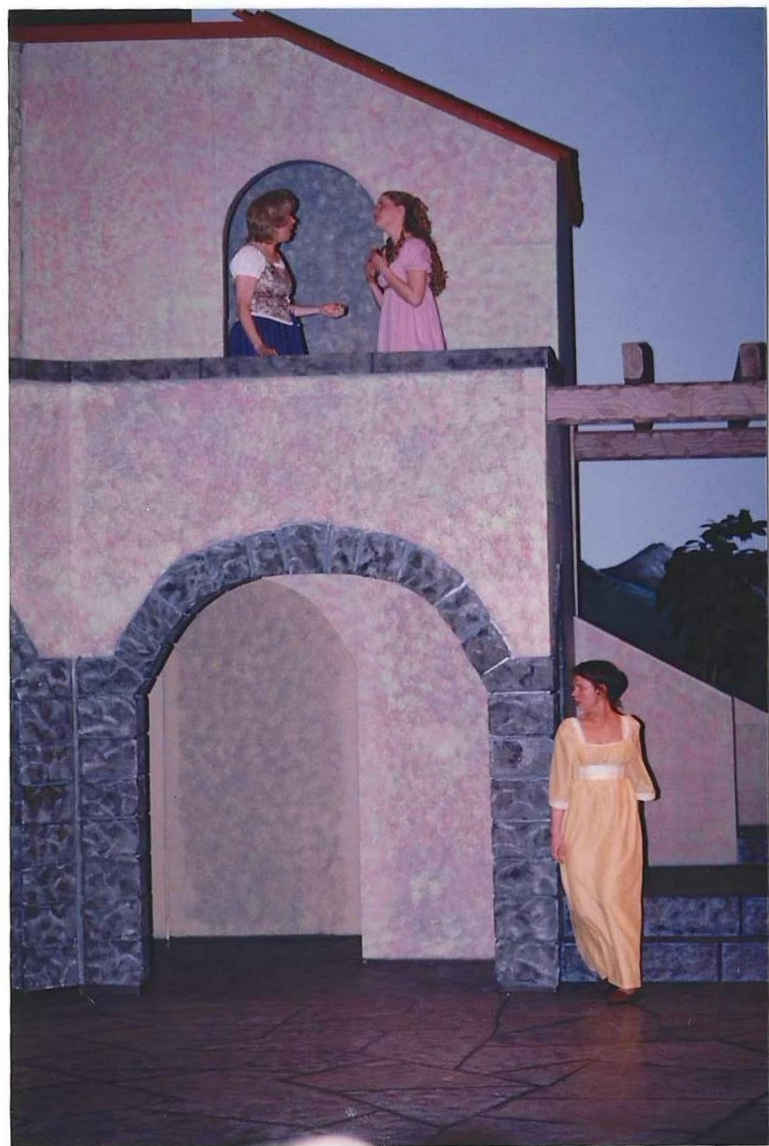








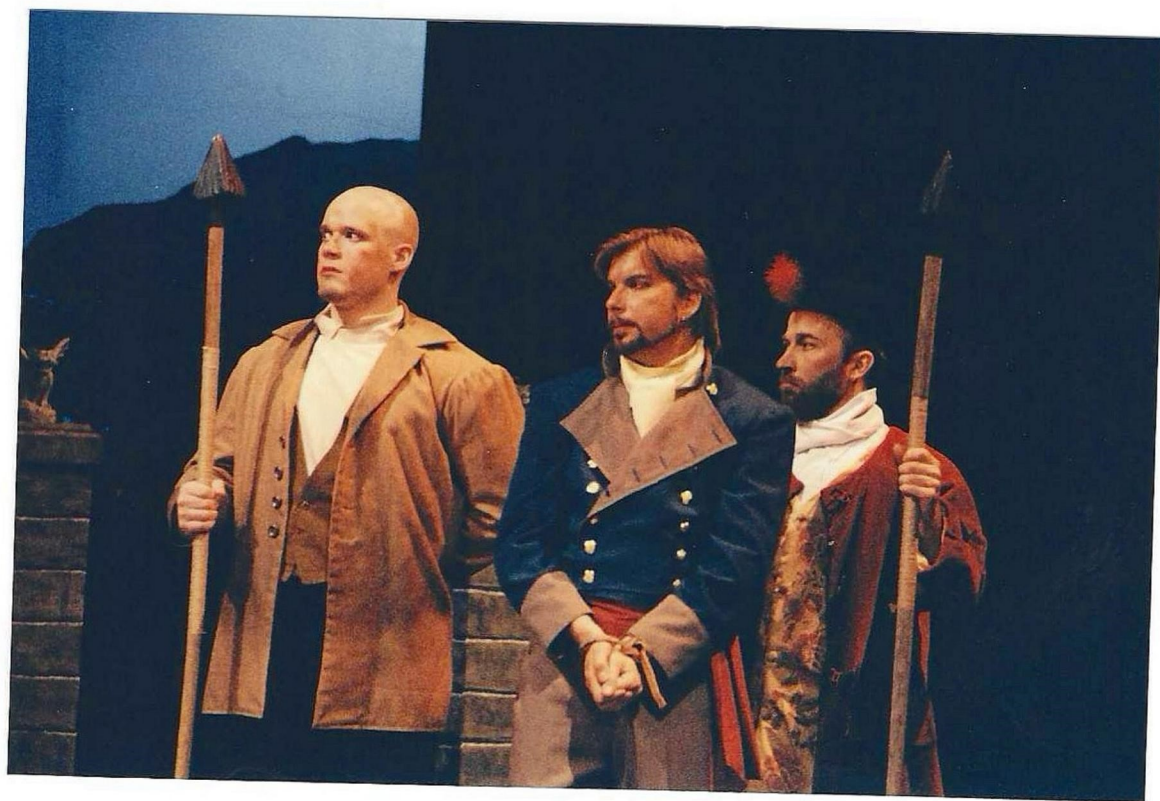




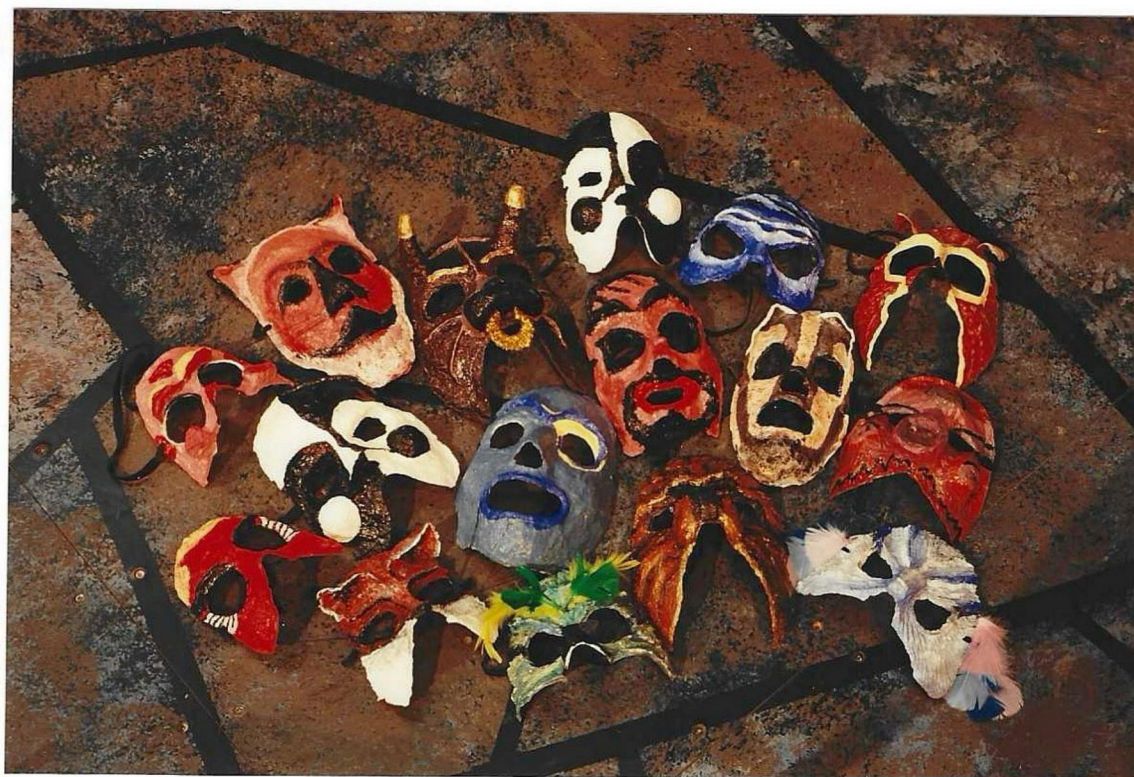














THEATRE REVIEW

Lead roles serve Much Ado well

BY IRIS WINSTON
The Ottawa Citizen

6/21/97
new

The play begins with sunshine, laughter and music and the light-hearted tone of this production of William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* is set.

The merry ambience quickly makes it clear that this tale is destined for a happy-ever-after ending, despite much ado along the way. Employing original music by Margrit Cattell and fine singing from Ben Tolley, director Andrew Williams, aided by Kim Gardner's attractive bi-level set, prepares the audience for a frothy evening's entertainment.

The plot of the Bard's 1595 play centres on two pairs of lovers whose romances almost founder. The older couple, Beatrice and Benedick, live in friendly enmity and are too busy tossing verbal barbs to realize that they love each other. It takes subterfuge among their cohorts to make them abandon their verbal jousting and accept their destiny.

If Beatrice and Benedick are almost kept apart by their own denial, the younger pair, Hero and Claudio, are almost separated permanently by the treachery of others, who falsely accuse the innocent Hero of infidelity.

This is a play that stands or falls on style of presentation and the quality of the performances of Beatrice and Benedick. And this stylish, ensemble production — occasionally marred by such minor irritants as slow set changes and some hairstyles inappropriate to the Regency setting — is well served by Amy Adams and Rob Johnstone in the two central roles.

As Beatrice, Adams gives one of Shakespeare's wittiest heroines enough spunk and charm to demonstrate just why Benedick is so drawn to "Lady Disdain" that he constantly returns for more verbal fencing. Balancing Benedick's comic and heroic aspects most effectively, Johnstone moves smoothly from wondering how his friend Claudio can be felled by love to becoming a most ardent swain himself.

Erin Christy and Corey Stevenson also handle the less meaty (sometimes downright wimpy) roles of the innocent Hero and the easily duped Claudio well.

Roles such as the pompous Dogberry (played with comic felish by Bob Lackey), the broodingly evil Don John (played more in studied sorrow than cold malevolence by Colin Williams) and the noble Don Pedro (played to great effect and with superb control by Tom Kobolak) offer more opportunities for actors to spread their wings.

In general, all the cast deliver intelligent, believable characterizations tinged with humour in a well-paced production that is worth making much ado about.

Kanata Theatre's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* continues at 8 p.m. tomorrow night and Nov. 26-29, Ron Maslin Playhouse, Terry Fox Drive. Tickets \$12. Call 831-4435

Iris Winston is a freelance writer.

MAYFAIR

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