



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Auditions

Written by: William Shakespeare

Directed by: Sara J. Griffin

Adapted by: Sara J. Griffin

Rehearsal Dates: October 9th- November 9th

Rehearsal Times:	Mondays- Fridays	6:00- 9:00
	Saturdays	11:00- 4:00

**participation in WRECKAGE will not prohibit casting*

Performance Dates:	Friday, November 10 th	7:30 pm
	Saturday, November 11 th	2:00 pm
	Sunday, November 12 th	2:00 pm
	Wednesday, November 15 th	10:00am (student matinee)
	Thursday, November 16 th	7:30 pm
	Friday, November 17 th	7:30pm
	Saturday, November 18 th	2:00pm

Production Information:

The show will be set in 1935, New Orleans, Garden District/French Quarter. I want to lean into the exotic, beachy, destination vacation vibe of the city. I want this show to feel bright, vibrant, fun, playful, musical, and light (where appropriate).

Music plays a significant role in this show, and performers with musical capability are highly encouraged to audition, especially those with jazz experience. Please list musical background information on the Audition Form.

There will be sexually charged physicality required of the actors playing the roles of Margaret and Borachio. Physicality will be created by the actors involved and director after discussion of actor boundaries, and under supervision of the stage manager and intimacy captain. The physicality created should suggest the characters are about to engage in consensual sex. This encounter is referenced in the script, but the physicality is being added for audience clarity. If you are unwilling to be considered for these roles, please indicate so on the Audition Form.

Audition Information:
READ THE PLAY!

Auditions will take place via video submission. Videos should be emailed to the director at griffins@uww.edu. The submission deadline is Wednesday, May 31st at 12:00 pm (noon). Please include a recent headshot, acting resume, and completed Audition Form with your video submission.

Please prepare 1-2 selections from the options below, or a Shakespeare monologue of your choosing. Monologues should be in verse and 12- 20 verse lines long. When choosing which text to prepare, think not only about characters that you wish to play but what colors and character traits each excerpt allows you to play. What do you want to show me? Choose selections that let you do that. You can indicate which characters you are interested in playing on the Audition Form.

DON JOHN

I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all than to fashion a carriage to rob love from any. In this, though I cannot be said to be a flattering honest man, it must not be denied but I am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with a muzzle and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I have decreed not to sing in my cage. If I had my mouth, I would bite; if I had my liberty, I would do my liking. In the meantime, let me be that I am, and seek not to alter me.

BENEDICK

O, she misused me past the endurance of a block! An oak but with one green leaf on it would have answered her. My very visor began to assume life and scold with her. She told me, not thinking I had been myself, that I was the Prince's jester, that I was duller than a great thaw, huddling jest upon jest with such impossible conveyance upon me that I stood like a man at a mark with a whole army shooting at me. She speaks poniards, and every word stabs. If her breath were as terrible as her terminations, there were no living near her; she would infect to the North Star. I would not marry her though she were endowed with all that Adam had left him before he transgressed. She would have made Hercules have turned spit, yea, and have cleft his club to make the fire, too. Come, talk not of her. I would to God some scholar would conjure her, for certainly, while she is here, a man may live as quiet in hell as in a sanctuary, and people sin upon purpose because they would go thither. So indeed all disquiet, horror, and perturbation follows her.

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.

BENEDICK

You are a villain. I jest not. I will make it good how you dare, with what you dare, and when you dare. Do me right, or I will protest your cowardice. You have killed a sweet lady, and her death shall fall heavy on you. Let me hear from you. Fare you well, boy. You know my mind. I will leave you now to your gossip-like humor. You break jests as braggarts do their blades, which, God be thanked, hurt not.— My lord, for your many courtesies I thank you. I must discontinue your company. Your brother the Bastard is fled from Messina. You have among you killed a sweet and innocent lady. For my Lord Lackbeard there, he and I shall meet, and till then peace be with him.

HERO

Good Margaret, run thee to the parlor.
There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice
Proposing with the Prince and Claudio.
Whisper her ear and tell her I and Ursula
Walk in the orchard, and our whole discourse
Is all of her. Say that thou overheardst us,
And bid her steal into the pleachèd bower
Where honeysuckles ripened by the sun
Forbid the sun to enter, like favorites,
Made proud by princes, that advance their pride
Against that power that bred it. There will she hide her
To listen our propose. This is thy office.
Bear thee well in it, and leave us alone.

HERO

They know that do accuse me. I know none.
If I know more of any man alive
Than that which maiden modesty doth warrant,
Let all my sins lack mercy!— O my father,
Prove you that any man with me conversed

At hours unmeet, or that I yesternight
Maintained the change of words with any creature,
Refuse me, hate me, torture me to death!

BEATRICE

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.

BEATRICE

Is he not approved in the height a villain that hath slandered, scorned, dishonored my kinswoman? O, that I were a man! What, bear her in hand until they come to take hands, and then, with public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated rancor— O God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the marketplace. Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying. Sweet Hero, she is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone. Princes and counties! Surely a princely testimony, a goodly count, Count Comfekt, a sweet gallant, surely! O, that I were a man for his sake! Or that I had any friend would be a man for my sake! But manhood is melted into curtsies, valor into compliment, and men are only turned into tongue, and trim ones, too. He is now as valiant as Hercules that only tells a lie and swears it. I cannot be a man with wishing; therefore I will die a woman with grieving.

BORACHIO

Not so, neither. But know that I have tonight wooed Margaret, the Lady Hero's gentlewoman, by the name of Hero. She leans me out at her mistress' chamber window, bids me a thousand times goodnight. I tell this tale vilely. I should first tell thee how the Prince, Claudio, and my master, planted and placed and possessed by my master Don John, saw afar off in the orchard this amiable amiable encounter. The devil my master knew she was Margaret; and partly by his oaths, which first possessed them, partly by the dark night, which did deceive them, but chiefly by my villainy, which did confirm any slander that Don John had made, away went Claudio enraged, swore he would meet her as he was appointed next morning at the temple, and there, before the whole congregation, shame her with what he saw o'ernight and send her home again without a husband.

PRINCE

Why, then, are you no maiden.— Leonato,

I am sorry you must hear. Upon mine honor,
Myself, my brother, and this grievèd count
Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night
Talk with a ruffian at her chamber window,
Who hath indeed, most like a liberal villain,
Confessed the vile encounters they have had
A thousand times in secret.

PRINCE

Come, you shake the head at so long a breathing, but I warrant thee, Claudio, the time shall not go dully by us. I will in the interim undertake one of Hercules' labors, which is to bring Signior Benedick and the Lady Beatrice into a mountain of affection, th' one with th' other. I would fain have it a match, and I doubt not but to fashion it, if you three will but minister such assistance as I shall give you direction. And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband that I know. Thus far can I praise him: he is of a noble strain, of approved valor, and confirmed honesty. I will teach you how to humor your cousin that she shall fall in love with Benedick.— And I, with your two helps, will so practice on Benedick that, in despite of his quick wit and his queasy stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice. If we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer; his glory shall be ours, for we are the only love gods. Go in with me, and I will tell you my drift.

LEONATO

Wherefore? Why, doth not every earthly thing
Cry shame upon her? Could she here deny
The story that is printed in her blood?—
Do not live, Hero, do not ope thine eyes,
For, did I think thou wouldst not quickly die,
Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy shames,
Myself would, on the rearward of reproaches,
Strike at thy life. Grieved I I had but one?
Chid I for that at frugal Nature's frame?
O, one too much by thee! Why had I one?
Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes?
But mine, and mine I loved, and mine I praised,
And mine that I was proud on, mine so much
That I myself was to myself not mine,
Valuing of her— why she, O she, is fall'n
Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea
Hath drops too few to wash her clean again,
And salt too little which may season give
To her foul tainted flesh!

DOGBERRY

Dost thou not suspect my place? Dost thou not suspect my years? O, that he were here to

write me down an ass! But masters, remember that I am an ass, though it be not written down, yet forget not that I am an ass.— No, thou villain, thou art full of piety, as shall be proved upon thee by good witness. I am a wise fellow and, which is more, an officer and, which is more, a householder and, which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any is in Messina, and one that knows the law, go to, and a rich fellow enough, go to, and a fellow that hath had losses, and one that hath two gowns and everything handsome about him. Bring him away.— O, that I had been writ down an ass!

Available Roles:

Some roles will be combined or folded into another. Ideal cast size is 10, but flexible.

LEONATO- M, 40's, Governor of Messina, father to Hero

HERO- F, late teens, daughter to Leonato

BEATRICE- F, mid 20's, cousin to Hero, self-professed bachelorette

LEONATO'S BROTHER/SIGNIOR ANTONIO- M, mid 40's, brother to Leonato

MARGARET- F, early 20's, waiting gentlewoman to Hero

URSULA- M/F/NB, early 20's, waiting gentleperson to Hero

DON PEDRO- M, late 30's, Prince of Aragon, leader of Benedick and Claudio's regiment

COUNT CLAUDIO- M, early 20's, a young lord from Florence

SIGNIOR BENEDICK- M, early 30's, a gentleman from Padua, self-professed bachelor

BALTHASAR- M/F, late 20's, musician, follower of Don Pedro

DON JOHN- M/F/NB, mid 30's, Don Pedro's sibling, self-professed villain

BORACHIO- M, early 30's, Don John's follower

CONRADE- M/F/NB, early 30's, Don John's follower

DOGBERRY- M/F/NB, late teens, Master Constable in Messina

VERGES- M/F/NB, late teens, Dogberry's partner

GEORGE SEACOAL- M/F/NB, early 20's, leader of the Watch, able to intimidate

FIRST WATCHMAN- M/F/NB, early 20's

SECOND WATCHMAN- M/F/NB, late teens

**Note: Dogberry, Verges, and the "Watch" characters are to be teenagers/young adults, as if the babysitters club created their own team of crime stoppers.*

SEXTON- M/F/NB, 40's, formidable

FRIAR FRANCIS- M, flexible age

MESSENGER to Leonato- M/F/NB

MESSENGER to Don Pedro- M/F/NB

BOY- M/F/NB

Musicians, Lords, Attendants- M/F/NB

Email the director at griffins@uww.edu with questions.