

PALY BILL

2021
PALY THEATRE PRESENTS



BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ONLINE STREAMING

Friday, March 12th at 7:30pm

Saturday, March 13th at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 14th at 2pm

Saturday, March 20th at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 21st at 2pm

Ticket information is available at: www.palytheatre.com

PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Much Ado About Nothing By William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY SARAH THERMOND

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

This play begins when Don Pedro, a prince and military commander, brings his victorious army to the house of Leonato, a wealthy lord. To commemorate their victory (and have an excuse to throw some big parties), Leonato invites the army to stay at his estate for the next month. The celebration continues when Claudio, an impressive young soldier, falls in love with Leonato's daughter, Hero. Don Pedro offers to speak to Hero on Claudio's behalf, and – after a brief mix-up where everyone thinks Don Pedro is the one proposing to Hero – Claudio and Hero clear it up and become engaged.

Meanwhile, another soldier, Benedick, and Leonato's niece, Beatrice, have a famous “battle of wits” with each other, arguing and taunting each other every time they meet. Don Pedro decides that it would be hilarious to try and set this couple up, so he recruits Leonato, Claudio, Hero, and Hero's ladies in waiting to spread rumors that Benedick and Beatrice love each other, and see if that drives them together.

Everything would be fun and games, except that Don John – Don Pedro's illegitimate half-brother, resents his brother's power and success, and also how much attention and power Claudio stands to gain by marrying Hero. Don John's followers, Borachio and Conrade, help him hatch a plot to convince Claudio that Hero is cheating on him, leading to an explosive confrontation at their wedding. Luckily, a private security team led by Dogberry is here to crack the case – if they can just get anyone to understand what they are saying!

No Unauthorized Recordings Allowed

CAST

Leonato's Household

LEONATO, a wealthy lord.....Kyle Heller*
 ANTONIA, Leonato's sister.....Phoebe Berghout*
 HERO, Leonato's daughter.....Anneke Salvadori*
 BEATRICE, Leonato's niece.....Charlotte Kim*
 URSULA, lady-in-waiting to Hero.....Olivia Wolfe*
 MARGARET, lady-in-waiting to Hero.....Jordan O'Reilly*
 ATTENDANT, a servant and advisor of Leonato.....Eliana Friedman
 MUSICIAN, Antonia's daughter.....Sophia Vostrejs

Don Pedro's Army

DON PEDRO, Prince of Bel Air, army commander.....Miles Gardner
 DON JOHN, his half-brother.....Ed Jurney*
 CLAUDIO, a count in Don Pedro's army.....Ethan Gadekar
 BENEDICK, a lord in Don Pedro's army.....Eve DeMarzo**
 BORACHIO, a soldier and follower of Don John.....Jack Champlin
 CONRADE, a soldier and follower of Don John.....Lucia Chen*
 MESSENGER, a member of Don Pedro's army.....Sara Tomas
 BALTHASAR, a member of Don Pedro's army.....Matthew Arradaza

Citizens of Beverly Hills

DOGBERRY, the head of security.....Claire Lai
 VERGES, his assistant.....Kyle Vetter
 SLENDER, a member of the watch.....Athy Paramesh
 SEACOLE, a member of the watch.....Erin Brady*
 OTECAKE, a member of the watch.....Eloise Dumas
 THUMP, a member of the watch.....Abi Friedland
 SEXTON, a record-keeper and official of the court.....Aanika Doshi
 FRIAR FRANCIS, a local reverend of the church.....Mina Fry*

*Indicates members of International Thespian Society Troupe 909
 **Honor Thespian members of International Thespian Society Troupe 909

CREW

Rehearsal Stage Managers.....Elise Adamson**, Niles Farag
 Production Stage Managers.....Cody Hmelar**, Sonja Meyers

Background & Props Designer.....Nora Bajor**
 Assistant Background & Props Designer.....Sonja Meyers

Costume Designer.....Amanda McVey**
 Assistant Costume Designer.....Keith Augustine

Hair & Make-up Designer.....Ilene Trach*
 Assistant Hair & Make-up Designer.....Perla Barron Montes

Sound Designer.....Ryan Hwangbo*
 Assistant Sound Designer/Operator.....Mireia Sainz Blasi

Lighting Designer.....Maile Lynn
 Assistant Lighting Designer.....Mireia Sainz Blasi

Video Designer.....Cody Hmelar**
 Assistant Video Design/Operator.....Niles Farag

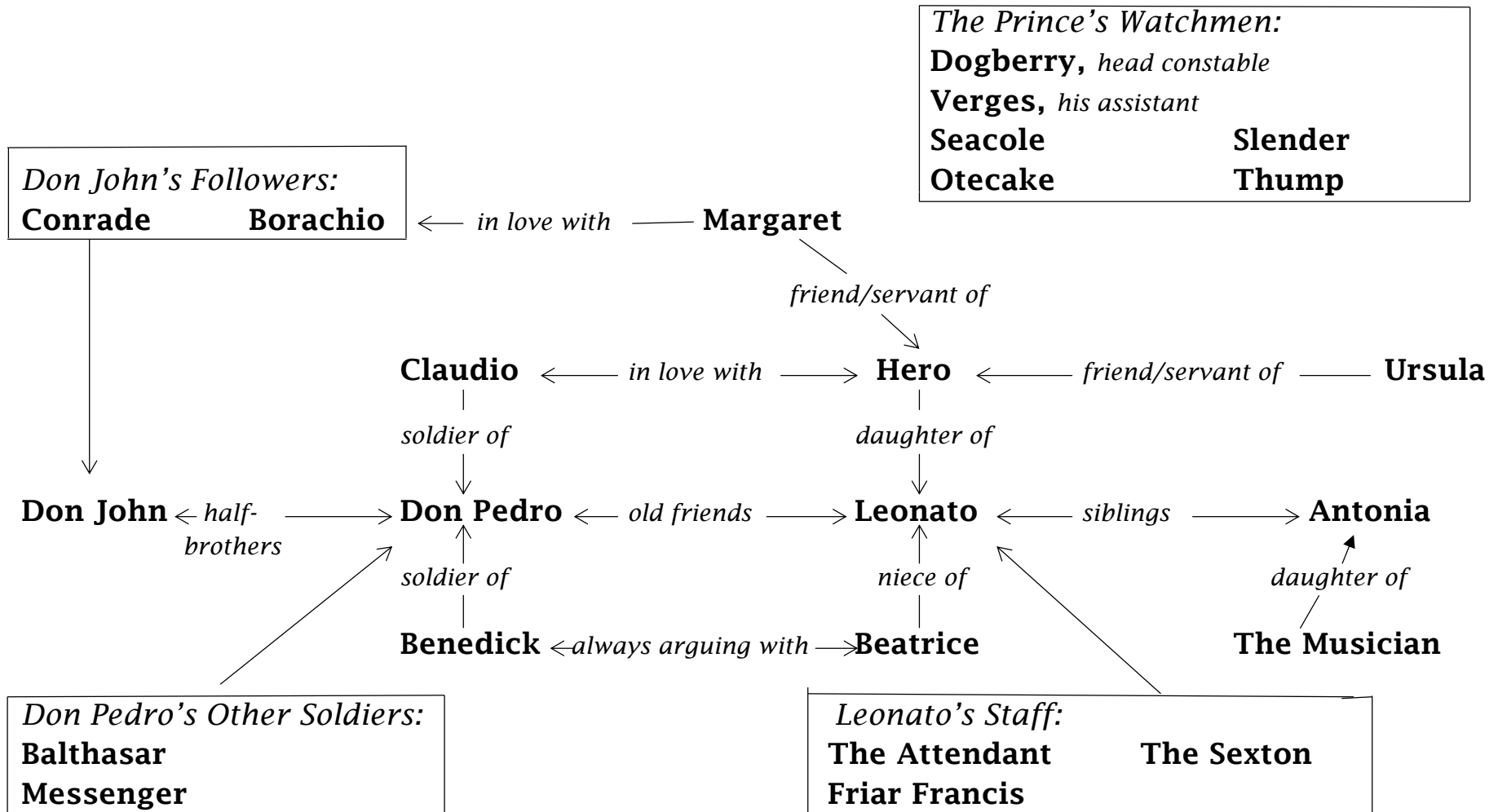
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 **Honor Thespian members of International Thespian Society Troupe 909

Who's Who in *Much Ado*?

THE ARMY OF PRINCE DON PEDRO

LEONATO'S HOUSEHOLD



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As we approached our second semester of virtual productions, we wanted to push what was possible in this new form of live theatre, and experiment with the combination of live and pre-recorded performances even more. In choosing a play script with which to do this, we followed the proud tradition of theatre companies worldwide by using a beloved classic to attempt something new.

Much Ado About Nothing is one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies for a few reasons: its mix of hysterical comedy and high drama, its use of both wordplay and highly physicalized comedy, and the famous love-hate relationship at its core, which has been inspiring rom-coms for centuries. But it also has themes and messages that adapt well to any time period and context, including what happens when an obsession with reputation and rumor becomes more important than the truth. This play is often adapted into a modern context because – in the age of social media – we have all experienced the contrast between how someone appears and how they truly are. In this play, you will see this contrast played for laughs, but also have potentially tragic consequences. (But don't worry: it's a comedy, so those consequences won't last long.)

Our student designers pitched setting our production in Beverly Hills in the mid-2000's, a time when social media and reality TV were surging in popularity, and the lives of the wealthy and famous were becoming products for everyone else to consume. We've had a lot of fun with the styles and changing the names of the locations referenced in the script, but we have also discovered the stark contrast between the rich and powerful characters in this play, and the ones who resent their lack of power and take drastic action to even the score.

If this is your first time watching *Much Ado*, we hope you'll enjoy the humor and heart of this ridiculous romance! If you're familiar with the story, we hope you'll enjoy some of the new twists and tricks we've included! Either way, thank you for supporting our production, and enjoy the show!

-Sarah Thermond, Director

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks: Brent Kline, Brittney Kerby and Jerry Berkson

Adult Production Staff

Alyssa Bond
Kyle Langdon

Drew Carpenter
Travis Fenech

Parent Volunteers

Parent Volunteer Coordinator: Deri McCrea
Photography & Publicity Lead: Juliana Sonneveld
Program, Poster & T-Shirt Design: Nadir Ali
Ticketing: Dror Sneh & Laura Jacobsen

Donors

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to us this year! Special thanks also to the following families for their generosity:

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Nadir Ali
Christine Klenow
Elise DeMarzo
Sally Ann Rudd
Kannen Parmesh
Mariana Tessel
Anonymous (2)

Production Donors (\$250+)

Maya Blumenfeld
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Paly Theatre Boosters is a group of parents whose work is essential to the success of the theatre program. You can help by volunteering and donating. To join, please visit www.palytheatre.com or send a check made out to Paly Theatre Boosters to: Sarah Thermond, Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301.