



**MUCH
AND** **ABOUT
NOTHING**



by William Shakespeare
Directed by Lee Chemel

Bing Theatre

February 16-25, 2024

USC School of Dramatic Arts 23/24

USC School of Dramatic Arts presents

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

by **William Shakespeare**

With

Matthew Abatti

Diego Casanovas-Torres

Quaz Degraft

Benjamin Feldman

Sonia Goswami

Dana Hakimi

Briana James

Katie Klaskin

Casey Landman

Michelle Jones Lee

Jessie Longest

Rama Orleans-Lindsay

June Rutherford

Evan Skirgaudas

Woohyun Suh

Miles Tardy

Henry Tsai

George Vagujhelyi

Vincent Williams

Grace Wilkerson

Scenic Design

Bailey Youn *She/Her,*
BFA Theatrical Design Junior

Costume Design

Juliette Black *She/Her,*
BFA Theatrical Design Junior

Lighting Design

Oleyar *BFA Theatrical*
Design Sophomore

Sound Design

Ari Hyman *They/Them,*
BFA Sound Design Junior

Stage Manager

Jessica Bryan *She/Her,*
BFA Stage Management Junior

Technical Director

Duncan Mahoney

Directed by **Lee Chemel**

Bing Theatre

February 16-25, 2024

CAST (In alphabetical order)



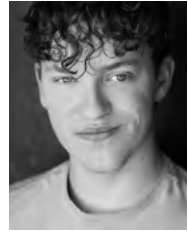
Matthew Abatti *He/Him,*
Don John • MFA Acting Year 2



Diego Casanovas-Torres *He/Him,*
Dogberry • MFA Acting Year 2



Quaz Degraft *He/Him,*
Don Pedro • MFA Acting Year 2



Benjamin Feldman
He/Him, Seacole
• BA Theatre First Year



Sonia Goswami
She/Her, Donna Leonata
• MFA Acting Year 2



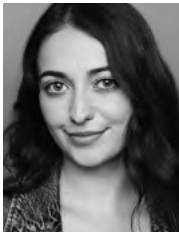
Dana Hakimi
Sexton • BA Theatre,
Emphasis in Acting Junior



Briana James *She/Her,*
Beatrice • MFA Acting Year 2



Katie Klaskin *She/Her,*
Antonia • BA Theatre
Emphasis in Acting Junior



Casey Landman
She/Her, Verges
• MFA Acting Year 2



Michelle Jones Lee
She/Her, Hero
• MFA Acting Year 2



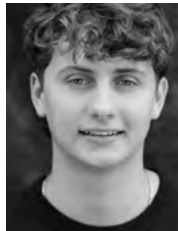
Jessie Longest *She/Her,*
Ursula • BA Theatre Emphasis
in Acting Senior



Rama Orleans-Lindsay
She/They, Margaret
• MFA Acting Year 2



June Rutherford *she/Her,*
Friar • BA Theatre Junior



Evan Skirgaudas
He/Him, Watchman 2
• BA Theatre & Narrative
Studies Junior



Woohyun Suh *He/Him,*
Claudio • BA Theatre
Emphasis in Acting Senior



Miles Tardy *He/Him,*
Watchman 1 • BA Theatre
& Philosophy, Politics and
Law Senior

CAST continued on next page

CAST (continued)



Henry Tsai *He/Him,*
Messenger • BA Theatre Junior



George Vagujhelyi
Borachio • BA Theatre
Emphasis in Acting Senior



Grace Wilkerson
Carmen • BA Theatre Senior



Vincent Williams
He/Him, Benedict
• MFA Acting Year 2

ADDITIONAL MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING PRODUCTION STAFF

Intimacy Director **Jaclyn Chantel** | *Assistant Director* **Alisha Grewal**
Production Deputies **Sonia Goswami, Grace Wilkerson, Alisha Grewal**
Assistant Stage Manager **Meztli Montes** | *Production Manager and Stage Management Mentor* **Leia Crawford** | *Scenic Mentor* **Sibyl Wickersheimer**
Costume Assistant **Madysen Nay** | *Hair & Makeup Consultant* **Juliette Black**
Hair & Makeup Consultant **Gary Domasin** | *Wardrobe Supervisor* **Allie Rones**
Costume Mentor **Ann Cross-Farley** | *Lighting Mentor* **Ebony Madry**
Production Engineer **Hal Sufrin** | *Sound Mentor* **Phil Allen**
Assistant TD **Sophia Pollacchi** | *Technical Crew* **Enrique Aguilar, Mackenzie Currie, Auburn D'Artell, Trinity Ezedi, Madeline Green, Kennedy Holmes, Harmony Ishikawa, Veda Krishna, Angelina Lovato, Araceli Navarro-Barragan, Thompson Phan, Alexxa Riley, Isaac Ward, Donovan Wood**

Special thanks to Lee Chemel for her underwriting of this project, and to Michelle Jones Lee for her contributions to the song “Sigh No More, Ladies.”

CONTENT WARNING

Please be advised this production contains outdated expectations of gender roles and classist statements.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

USC is built on the unceded land of the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people. We at SDA acknowledge and honor the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people/communities and wish to amplify that they are still here. We encourage everyone to find out whose ancestral land you live on and commit to our shared responsibility to be agents of change, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization and allyship.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Of all the comedies Shakespeare wrote, surely *Much Ado About Nothing* sounds and feels the most contemporary. That is partly because most of the text is in prose, with less of the verse common to all of his plays. But more importantly, it is the delicious vivacity of that prose which makes this play feel so modern. This vivacity has its full expression in the “merry war of wits” between Beatrice and Benedick.

Scholars have suggested that there is a pun in the title, because to Elizabethans, the word “nothing” sounded the same as the word “noting”— watching or observing. Indeed, most of the plot-turns involve a character overhearing, observing, and then, misconceiving. The results are both comic and tragicomic.

Enjoy “noting” these noters as we travel to a villa in the Italian countryside where lovers sophisticated and naive, a bona fide villain and a lowly constable with a penchant for malaprops make much ado with riotous consequences.

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The USC School of Dramatic Arts fosters the talents of artist-scholars who are dramatically different — who are willing to imagine the future of the entertainment industry and bring it to life. Through an interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education students develop the skills necessary to discover their unique voice and are exposed to diverse styles and multiple media. Students and recent alumni are supported by the School's unique Professional Development Center which offers career services and professionalization opportunities to help students establish and sustain successful careers as creators, performers and cultural innovators. *For more information, visit dramaticarts.usc.edu.*

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