



February 3, 2017

For immediate release
Contact: Diane Gendron Producer 604.534.4242

Auditions announced for Bard in the Valley's production of
Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Auditions will be held Sunday, March 12 and Monday, March 13, to cast Bard in the Valley's (BIV's) 2017 production of Shakespeare's ***Much Ado About Nothing*** directed by Dylan Coulter.

The audition does not require an appointment. Actors wishing to audition are asked to arrive at the Douglas Park Recreation Centre – 20550 Douglas Crescent – on Sunday, March 12 at 12:30 p.m. or on Monday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. to hear an outline of the production, performance expectations, rehearsal commitments, and to complete the audition form.

Everyone auditioning will be asked to do a cold read from the script and some will be asked to read for specific roles. DO NOT send digital headshots or resumes. Bring a printed hardcopy headshot and resume to the audition to be turned in with the audition form.

Auditioners with musical talent are encouraged to bring an instrument to play, and to prepare a short song to sing (no longer than one minute). Auditioners may also be asked to follow a few dance steps.

This is a non-equity production. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact producer Diane Gendron at info@bardinthevalley.com.

Rehearsal dates: Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings (rehearsals on holiday Mondays will be in the afternoon) along with one additional weekday rehearsal of smaller groups of actors each week, the timing of which will be mutually agreed upon by the participants.

Performance dates

- Thursday, June 29, Friday, June 30 and Saturday, July 1 (as part of Fort Langley's Canada Day Celebrations). All performances begin at 7 p.m. on the lawn in front of Fort Langley's historic community hall.
- July 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 at the Township 7 Winery in Langley. The Sunday performance is a matinee and begins at 2 p.m. Evening performances begin at 7 p.m.
- July 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 on the outdoor Spirit Square Stage in Douglas Park in Langley City. The Sunday performances are matinees and begin at 2 p.m. Evening performances begin at 7 p.m.

Director

Bard in the Valley is delighted to announce the 2017 production will be directed by Dylan Coulter. Dylan had major roles with BIV's productions of Julius Caesar and The Taming of the Shrew. This is Dylan's first directorial experience with BIV. Dylan graduated from the Langley Fine Arts High School and has an education in film from the Vancouver Film School and a degree in theatre and English from the University of the Fraser Valley. He has a background in stage combat and a passion for Shakespeare.

The play: Much Ado About Nothing

Company: Bard in the Valley www.bardinthevalley.com

Playwright: William Shakespeare

Director: Dylan Coulter

Producer: Diane Gendron

Assistant Producer: Shawn McGrory

Audition Dates: Sunday March 12 from 12:30 – 4 p.m. AND Monday, March 13 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Audition Address: Douglas Park Recreation Centre, 20550 Douglas Crescent, Langley City.

Read-through: Wednesday, March 29 at 7 p.m., location TBA

Rehearsals begin: Sunday, April 2 at 12 p.m. and are every Sunday afternoon from 12 to 4 and Monday evening from 7 to 10. Holiday Monday rehearsals will be in the afternoon.

First performance: Thursday, June 29

Summary

As Don Pedro's band of warriors returns from a successful winter war, they pass through the town of Messina, and visit with old friends. The spirit of love is in the air. Claudio, a celebrated young soldier, falls in love with the Duke's daughter Hero, while two other would-be lovers, Beatrice and Benedick, hide their feelings for each other in wit and banter. The townsfolk, observant of this almost-love story, conspire to bring Beatrice and Benedick together. Meanwhile, Don Pedro's bitter and sullen illegitimate brother Don Jon has hatched a plot to ruin Claudio and Hero's wedding. The day is saved when the bumbling watchmen discover the plot and the foolish constable manages to arrest the conspirators. Happily, in the end, the two young couples are united.

List of principal characters

14 actors – some actors will play multiple roles. Four of the roles will be men; Four of the roles will be women; The other characters can be played by either men or women. We are looking for the best actor to play the role, not necessarily a particular gender. We encourage actors of all backgrounds to audition.

Don Pedro The Prince (or Princess) of Aragon, and leader of the army. Often pulling the strings in the plots of love woven throughout the play, Don Pedro is ultimately deceived by his brother's plot against Hero.

Don Jon Don Pedro's bastard brother (or sister). A professed villain, Don Jon works throughout the play to ruin Claudio, who has recently become favored by Don Pedro.

Claudio A young lord who falls in love with Hero upon arriving in Messina. As Don Jon spins a plot professing Hero's unfaithfulness, Claudio rejects and shames Hero in the church on their wedding day, only to discover later that he has been deceived.

Benedick A witty young lord, determined to never marry but to continue to play at love. He is a friend to both Don Pedro and Claudio, but that friendship is threatened when Claudio rejects Hero. Benedick is tricked into falling in love with Beatrice, only realising later that his love is true.

Leonato The Governor of Messina, the father (or mother) of Hero, and uncle (or aunt) and guardian to Beatrice. Leonato welcomes Don Pedro to Messina, but their friendship is threatened when Don Pedro and Claudio shame Leonato's daughter on her wedding day. Leonato must work to forgive them both and right the wrongs that have been committed.

Hero Daughter to Leonato, in love with Claudio, yet wrongfully accused by him. She must eventually choose whether to forgive Claudio when the plot is discovered.

Beatrice An orphan, residing with her uncle Leonato and cousin to Hero. Beatrice has an incredible wit, and spars verbally with Benedick throughout the play. She rejects any plea that she should marry, until she is tricked into falling in love with Benedick, and realizes that she really loves him.

Borachio A drunken follower of Don Jon's, Borachio manages to deceive Claudio and Don Pedro into believing that he is Hero's lover.

Conrade Another follower of Don Jon, Conrade assists in the mischief and is eventually caught, along with Borachio, and interrogated by the watchmen.

Margaret An attendant to Hero, Margaret has a strong wit of her own and often spars with it against Benedick and Beatrice.

Ursula Another attendant of Hero's, Ursula is more grounded than Margaret and assists with the plot to trick Beatrice into loving Benedick.

Dogberry A foolish constable, with few wits, and a questionable work ethic, Dogberry nonetheless believes himself to be a protector of the innocent. Against all odds, Dogberry and his (or her) watchmen do end up succeeding in unraveling Don Jon's plot and saving the day.

Verges Dogberry's elderly right hand man (or woman). Verges is an honest and valiant assistant to Dogberry, or at least he tries his best to be.

Friar Francis The friar sees through the deception that has led Claudio to reject Hero, and works to rectify the situation. He (or she) is also called upon by Dogberry and Verges to use his skills in writing during the interrogation of Borachio and Conrade.

A Messenger, members of the Watch, and various Soldiers