

# *Much Ado About Nothing*



by William Shakespeare

## Director's Note

The sailors are home from war and ready for a bit of R&R. The girls are happy to see them. Well, almost all of them. There is still *that* war of wits between Beatrice and Benedick.

From the moment he lays eyes on Hero and her large inheritance, Claudio knows he's going to marry her. His friend Benedick, though, isn't a fan of the whole "marriage" concept; swearing he'll remain a bachelor forever. And as Claudio sizes up Hero, and Benedick and Beatrice lock horns, other characters pair up and the *real* battle begins - that of women having the same rights as men.

A beloved comedy. But it isn't a nice story. It's a world where men are able to defend their honour by fighting in a battle or a duel. But for a woman, there is no way out and no way back. Behind all the wordplay, misconception and pranks, Shakespeare exposes the murky, ugly truth about gender roles and inequality. This has been our discovery.

We like to think we are offering you a taste of the "Globe experience" with this production. So feel free to call out, laugh, boo, and hiss as you see fit!

*Deborah Mulhall*

Director

**DEBORAH MULHALL - Director, Set, and Sound Design** Deborah has studied at NIDA and La MaMa International, has written 10 full length plays and directed over 20. Her play *Cry, Wolf* was runner-up in New York New Works of Merit in 2004 and ran off-Broadway for 8 weeks. It has been optioned for film, as has her comedy *Gentlemen Inc.* A founding member of the Parramatta Theatre Company, once President of the Illawarra Council for the Performing Arts; a life member of Workshop Theatre and Board member of Factory Space Theatre Co. Her most recent work includes *The Matilda Waltz* (wrote and directed April 2015).

**SUSAN CARVETH - Costume Design** Susan, a long term member, is Wardrobe Coordinator for the Genesian Theatre. Her credits are extensive and include *The Three Musketeers*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Appointment with Death*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Dead White Males*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *By Jeeves*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Hay Fever*, *Murder on the Nile*, *Star Child*, *Morning Sacrifice*, *Richard III*, *Frankenstein*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Go Back for Murder*. She has worked for Opera Australia, ABC, and BBC as costume coordinator; and costume maker for Tall Poppeas, Ondine Productions, and Opera Bites.

**TONY GUYOT - Lighting Design** Tony received a Diploma in Theatre from ANU College along with a Cert IV qualification in Performance, Production, Lighting Design, Directing & Arts Administration. His lighting credits include: Assistant Lighting Designer on David Auburn's *Proof*, Alan Ayckbourn's *Comic Potential*, and the AWGIE award winning *Backburning* (Canberra Rep). Among his Lighting Designer achievements is the Canberra Times Best New Lighting Designer Prize for Christopher Durang's *The Actor's Nightmare* (Rep Studio).



**CLAIRE OEHME - Constance** Claire is a 2015 graduate of Actors Centre Australia. Her credits include Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Duchess of York in *Richard III*, Masha in *Three Sisters*, and Becky in *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her TV credits include SBS2's *Starting from... Now. Much Ado About Nothing* marks Claire's first production with Genesian Theatre Company.

**TONY GUYOT - Leonato** Tony's credits include Opera - Peachum: *The Beggar's Opera*, Gaston: *La Traviata*, The Russian: *Chess*, Ko-Ko: *The Mikado*, Theatre - Claudius: *Hamlet*, The Judge: *Sly Fox*, Cromwell: *A Man for All Seasons*, J.W.Wells: *The Sorcerer*, Lear: *King Lear*, Emperor Joseph: *Amadeus*, Stephan & Andrew Undershaft: *Major Barbara*, Hamlet: *R&G Are Dead*.



**FREDERICK HAMA - Messenger / Oatcake** Frederick is a graduate of The New Zealand Drama School. In Sydney he studied at Acting World, NIDA, Screenwise, and The Actor's Pulse. Credits: *Eugenia*, *Learning Towards Infinity*, *Macbeth*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Shortland St*, *Miles & Barlower*, *Answered By Fire*, *The Navigator*, *Thaddaeus*, *In Other News*, and *The Mexican Brief*.

**EMMA WRIGHT - Beatrice** Emma, a Bond Uni graduate, is represented by Natalie Hall Management - Sydney, and Industry Entertainment - Los Angeles. Her TV credits include Hannah in *Mako Mermaids*, along with various shorts and music videos. In 2016, Emma played Tegwyn in New Theatre's *That Eye, The Sky*. Training: ACA, The Hub, ATYP, and 16th Street.



**SALLY LEWIS - Antonia** Sally performed in plays and musicals at the Australian National University (Bachelor of Arts) and had various roles in *The After Dinner Joke* for NIDA Actor's Studio (2015). In 2016 she trained in "Practical Aesthetics" at The Atlantic Acting School - New York, so is eager to test her training with this being her first appearance in a Shakespeare play.

**CATHERINE LEWIS - Hero** Catherine is a Griffith University Theatre Degree graduate with a 6-month international transfer at Guelph University in Canada. She also holds a full time graduation from 16th Street Actors Studio, postgraduate studies with Kerry Armstrong for 3 years, and work with American Acting coaches Larry Moss and Elizabeth Kemp three years in a row.



**JOHANN SILVA - Don Pedro** Johann graduated from QUT's Fine Arts Acting course in 2012 and showcased at Belvoir St. Johann has played various classical roles such as Charles, Corin, Hymen - *As You Like It* (QUT 2011); Warwick, Matrevis - *Edward II* (QUT 2012); Mercutio, Capulet, Friar Laurence - *Romeo and Juliet*. This will be Johann's debut with the Genesians.

**TED CROSBY - Benedick** Ted is an actor and filmmaker and is passionate about theatre. He's been inspired by some great teachers including Serhat Caradee, Kevin Jackson, and especially acting coach Lynette Sheldon. Ted has previously appeared on the Genesian stage in David Williamson's *Nothing Personal* and Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.





**DAVID WIERNIK - Don John** *Much Ado About Nothing* is David's first production with the Genesian Theatre. He has also been in *The Diary of Anne Frank* with New Theatre, *The History Boys* (Chester Street Theatre), and *Dwarf Revue: Solid Gold* (ATYP). David has also performed in musicals such as *Legally Blonde* (Willoughby Theatre Company).

**MATTHEW RAVEN - Claudio** Matthew has trained at the Australian Film and Television Academy, NIDA, and AIM. He is an actor, singer/songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Matthew's theatre credits include *Angels in America*, *Henry V*, and *Estranged*. He is a regular performer on Sydney's music scene and is proud to be part of this production.



**MATTHEW GRASSO - Borachio** Matthew grew up in Townsville and graduated from James Cook Uni (Bachelor of Engineering, 2010). Throughout school and university years he practiced contemporary Kung Fu and played club soccer. In Sydney Matthew attended NIDA courses in acting.

He recently played George Wilson in *The Great Gatsby* (Epicentre Theatre).

**SUEV WALLACE - Margaret** Acting has always been a passion for Suev, undertaking drama and theatre studies throughout school and college in the UK. Having recently moved from England, she is pursuing her dream of treading the boards while joining the Genesians as a member. *Much Ado About Nothing* is Suev's Australian stage debut.



**DAVITA VAN DER VELDE - Ursula** Davita started acting in her home country The Netherlands, moved to Sydney in February 2013 to study, and completed her Bachelor of Dramatic Arts in 2015. She passionately pursues an acting career in theatre, film, and television. Performance highlights include *Ghost City* (stage, 2015) and *Counting in Twos* (film, 2015).

**PAUL BARBARY - Dogberry** Paul began his professional life as a teacher of English and Drama in the 70's. He later studied acting at The Drama Studio, London, and now works as an English teacher. He has appeared in several GTC productions since 2009 and practises the monastic craft of beekeeping as an interest.



**TRACEY OKEBY LUCAN - Verges** Tracey first walked on stage at age 14. After 22 musicals (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Follies*) and 17 plays (*King Lear*, *Controlled Crying* amongst them) she is still delighted to be treading the boards! Tracey currently dedicates her free time to Treehouse Theatre,

helping refugee teens tell their stories on stage all over Sydney.

**DAMIEN SILVESTER - Seacol / Friar** Damien is making his theatre debut in this production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Previously he studied at the Actors Centre Australia where he developed a love for the works of Shakespeare. He is proud and excited to be making his debut with this wonderful ensemble.



## **Production**

Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Production Manager

Scenic Artist

Associate Lighting Design

Assistant Lighting Design

Original Music

Fabric Printing

Set Construction

Photography

Graphic Design

Ticketing

**Deborah Mulhall**

**Deborah Mulhall**

**Susan Carveth**

**Tony Guyot**

**Deborah Mulhall**

**Mark Gerard Nagle**

**Meg Mooney**

**Michael Schell**

**Daniel Hitchings, Timothy M. Carter**

**John Gardiner-Garden**

**and the Earthly Delights**

**Kinetic Creations**

**Debbie Smith, Members of the Company**

**Grant Fraser, Eهران Edwards**

**Tom Massey, Patrick Magee**

**Shane Bates**

## **Crew**

Stage Manager

Lighting & Sound Operation

**Arielle Bosshard**

**Carlin Hurdis**

## **Cast**

Constance

Leonato

Messenger / Oatcake

Beatrice

Antonia

Hero

Don Pedro

Benedick

Don John

Claudio

Borachio

Margaret

Ursula

Dogberry

Verges

Seacol / Friar

**Claire Oehme**

**Tony Guyot**

**Frederick Hama**

**Emma Wright**

**Sally Lewis**

**Catherine Lewis**

**Johann Silva**

**Ted Crosby**

**David Wiernik**

**Matthew Raven**

**Matthew Grasso**

**Suev Wallace**

**Davita van der Velde**

**Paul Barbary**

**Tracey Okeby Lucan**

**Damien Silvester**

# About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 70th year as a company in 2014. For over 60 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops, and many other activities.

The building which houses the Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

## Membership

If you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...

# UNDER MILK WOOD

by Dylan Thomas



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