

A NOT-SO-ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY PRODUCTION

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Directed by Nandini Sadagopan & Assistant Directed by Mack Pittman

Gather heart



WASHINGTON HALL
LAB THEATRE

April 19-22

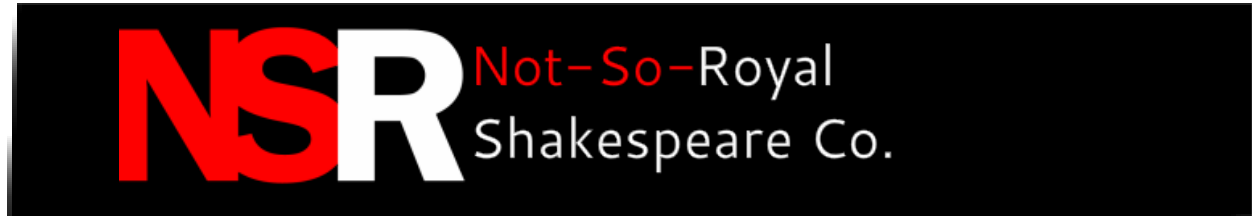
Wednesday-Friday 7:30pm

Saturday 3:30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE LAFORTUNE BOX OFFICE

About the Club

Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company: Notre Dame's only student-run Shakespeare club has been putting the B.A. back in the Bard since 1997!



Spring 2023 Officers:

Emily Hannon, Executive Producer
Dominic Keene and Grace Gasper, Producers
Christina Randazzo and Isabel Olesinski, Marketing Team
Natalie Allton, Assistant Producer
Ballard Powell, Technical Director
Corinne Niezgodzki, Treasurer Supreme
John Donaruma, Treasurer Apprentice

Special Thanks:

Shakespeare at ND
Scott Jackson
Peter Holland
The Robinson Community Learning Center
Notre Dame Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
Kat Van Vleet, Paige Dooley, and the Washington Hall Staff

Synopsis

After Prince Don Pedro thoroughly whumps his sister Don John (the bastard) in battle, his army comes home to Messina to celebrate the victory and reconcile the prince with his sister. While in Messina, Don Pedro and several of his soldiers— including Benedick and the new battle hero Claudio— stay with Leonata, an old friend of the prince's. The extended stay prompts an old flame to be rekindled between Claudio and Leonata's daughter, Hero, and reestablishes an excruciatingly flirtatious rivalry between Benedick and Hero's cousin Beatrice, who have both sworn never to marry. Hijinks ensue when the prince takes it upon himself to solve both 'problems'. At a party thrown in his honor, the prince woos Hero on Claudio's behalf and hatches a plan designed to make Beatrice and Benedick fall in love with each other. Meanwhile, the prince's sister, who is still seething over her failed rebellion, concocts a scheme to humiliate Claudio by casting doubt on the fidelity of her new fiancée, Hero.



Director's Note

“Oh God defend me! How am I beset! What catechizing call you this?” Act IV, Scene I

This play had my heart from the moment I first read it in the summer after my freshman year. At the time, my only experience with the women of Shakespeare were either plot devices or young girls in the thick of teenagerdom, always navigating firsts (first love, first betrayal, first heartbreak) with all the flair for dramatics that only a teenager has the energy for. Of course, I loved those young ladies. They felt like pieces of past and current versions of myself that I wanted to nurture and guard against the outside world. I expected to meet Beatrice and Hero and feel the same way as I felt about Juliet and Helena. Boy, was I wrong.

Beatrice leapt up from the page like a bullfighter, with all the surety of a soldier who had been fighting dragons for much longer than you'd been alive. Addicted to mirth and fiercely protective, she was a woman I could learn to become – a woman who had her heart broken but continued to love, who sparred with men above her status without fear, and who refused to let the world determine her place in it. But really, it was Hero who I fell in love with. This woman of laugh-out-loud wit and extraordinary kindness, not a show off but no less capable of commanding a room than those who might speak louder for longer. Hero is a woman who learns to love, to fight, and to forgive all in a few short days, and does it with a grace that, frankly, passes understanding. If Beatrice is the woman that my 19 year old self wanted to become, then Hero is who my 22 year old self hopes to grow into. These women are signposts to me, teaching me courage, and love, and wisdom.

But it is not enough that this play is damn funny, with characters that grab your heart from the first page and don't let go. It's not even enough that this is a Shakespearean comedy with characters that you can actually root for (cough Taming of the Shrew cough). Much Ado about Nothing is a soaring tribute to the entirety of love, the easy and hard moments, asking: How do we come back to a place of trust with the people we love? As you watch, I invite you to consider these questions: Who is culpable in this play? For what? Can the people in a loving relationship repair a breach of trust? How? And, most importantly, who exactly gave Dogberry a Thesaurus for Christmas?

When I think about all of the people who gave their gifts and time to this show, I am filled with a gratitude I can't truly express. I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to Paige Dooley, Kat Van Vleet, and the Washington Hall staff for being the reason we can do what we do. To Scott Jackson, our club advisor, thank you for your enthusiasm for and continuous support of this work. To my actors, thank you for the love that you have poured into these characters, the hours that you have spent in and out of rehearsals trying to puzzle them out. Thanks for putting up with my silly little emotion games and ridiculous blocking suggestions, it was very entertaining for me, personally. To my designers and tech team, I cannot express how grateful I am to you. This show literally wouldn't be possible without your diligence, creativity, and expertise in things I couldn't even dream of being good at. And finally, to my directorial other half, Mack Pittman. This show wouldn't be half as good or half as fun without you. Thank you for blocking approximately every funny moment in this show, and for all the giggles in the rehearsal room. I am, always, your biggest fan.

Alright! I pray you, watch about Signiora Leonata's door, for there is a great coil tonight—

Adieu! Be vigilant, I beseech you!

- Nandini Sadagopan



Cast

Benedick.....	Dominic Keene
Beatrice.....	Natalie Allton
Hero.....	Grace Gasper
Claudio.....	Christina Randazzo
Leonata.....	Isabel Olesinski
Don Pedro.....	Josh Lehman
Don John.....	Mariko Jurcsak
Borachio.....	Marven Corrielus
Conrade.....	Sammy Kacius
Dogberry.....	Andrew Arcidiacono
Verges / Messenger.....	Noah Sim
Seacoal.....	Alyssa Miulli
Margaret.....	Corinne Niezgodski
Ursula.....	Meghan Belden
Friar / Balthazar.....	Gabe McKenna

Crew

Director.....	Nandini Sadagopan
Assistant Director.....	Mack Pittman
Stage Manager.....	Kay Wani
Assistant Stage Manager / Props Master.....	Sydney Hank
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Miley Kim
Backstage Crew / Set Design.....	Clare Barloon
Set Design.....	Thomas Le
Costume Design.....	Gabe McKenna
Lighting Design.....	Christine Hilario
Sound Design.....	Emma Stadelmann
Choreography.....	Megan Sherry
Choreography.....	Cecelia Swartz
Music Composition.....	Laurynas Zavistanavicius

About the Cast and Crew

Natalie Allton (Beatrice) is a junior from Columbus, Ohio studying Neuroscience and English. With NSR, Natalie has previously acted in Taming of the Shrew, M^{*}cbeth, and the staged reading of A Little Princess; improvised the hell out of Comedy of Errors in Shakespeare: Unrehearsed!; and assistant directed Measure for Measure. Last semester, she studied abroad in London and was lucky enough to perform onstage at Shakespeare's Globe - which, frankly, didn't hold a candle to the Wash Hall Lab Theater. She feels so blessed for the opportunity to scream, laugh, cry, and make out with her best friends on stage for you. Also, she made this program, so if you see her you should give her money and/or treats.

Andrew Arcidiacono (Dogberry) is a sophomore from Durham, North Carolina studying mechanical engineering. Last semester, he played the role of Clown in NSR's production of "The Winter's Tale". Similar to Dogberry, Clown is regarded as the stupidest character in his respective show. Being cast as an idiot for two consecutive shows has left Andrew questioning whether he is being type cast. Or perhaps playing an idiot for so long has made him into one. Who knows? Maybe the real idiots were the friends he made along the way. Outside of NSR and engineering, Andrew participates in Board Game Club and Swing Club.

Clare Barloon (Backstage Crew / Set Design) is a junior in Howard Hall majoring in Art History and Global Affairs and minoring in French. This is her 5th show with NSR and first working on set! Very exciting! She does not have very much else to say but hopes you enjoy the show and asks you all to promise not to notice her moving stuff around during the blackouts. If you do happen to notice her (which you shouldn't), just suspend your disbelief and enjoy the magic of theater, baby!

Meghan Belden (Ursula) is a first-year double-majoring in Business Analytics and Film, Television, and Theatre. She (proudly!) hails from Milan, OH, and currently resides in Welsh Family Hall. MAAD is the first (and best!) Shakespearean play she has ever read, and is largely responsible for getting her into reading classical literature. She has watched the Kenneth Branagh version of Act 4 Scene 1 every Valentine's Day for the last five years and is absolutely obsessed with Beatrice. Meghan is beyond thrilled for the opportunity to work with these amazing people and hopes you enjoy the show!

Marven Corrielus (Borachio) is a third year Ph.D Student at Notre Dame studying Medieval Mediterranean History. He has been acting and doing shows since he was in high school. His favorite color is purple, and his hobbies are villainy and mischief. He loves swords and allowing his imagination to run wild.

Grace Gasper (Hero) is an American Girl Doll aficionado, Teen Beach Movie stan, Green Thursday inventor, Curious George enthusiast, Maker of quiche, fan of St. Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle, lover of that one vine about the Epcot ball, and Christmas in Evergreen connoisseur. But more than anything, Grace is thankful. NSR has been a home for the last 4 years in more ways than she can name. She never thought Shakespeare would take up so much of her college years, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

Sydney Hank (Assistant Stage Manager / Props Master) is a sophomore studying Industrial Design and Theatre, with a minor in Chinese. She has previously been the props master in "Macbeth" and is happy to be back doing another NSR show! She is happy to be taping up the props table again and taking on the role of resident line reader in rehearsal. You may also find her around campus running haunted houses and escape rooms via the Themed Entertainment Association on campus, whom she is currently an officer for. Enjoy the show! Adieu: be vigilant, I beesech you!

Christine Hilario (Lighting Design) is a junior from Cedar Rapids, Iowa double majoring in English and FTT with a Film concentration and double minoring in Data Science and Japanese. Her hobbies include lights. She makes sure to stare directly into the sun on a daily basis because she likes lights so very much.

Mariko Jurcsak (Don John) (AKA John the Bastard) (AKA piece of shit little sister) (AKA Donna Jonna) is a plain dealing villain. For more information, email donjohn@urmomshouse.com

Sammy Kacius (Conrade) is a senior Mechanical Engineering major and an RA in Keenan. This is his second show with NSR, which is kinda neat. As a passive aggressive wine guy himself, Sammy couldn't be more prepared for this role. But seriously, why didn't we get actual wine for this show? That's maybe \$10 at Meijer - that had to be within the budget.

Dominic Keene (Benedick) is a junior from Walla Walla, Washington double majoring in Electrical Engineering (Semiconductors and Nanotechnology Concentration) and FTT (Theatre Concentration). This is his 7th show with NSR after playing Octavius in "Julius Caesar," Petruchio in "Taming of the Shrew," Murderer in "Macbeth," Duke Vincentio in "Measure For Measure," Leontes in "The Winter's Tale," and a range of characters including Polonius and Guildenstern in "Hamlet/5." When he's not acting or studying, Dominic loves to read, rock climb, golf, and perform close-up card magic. He hopes that you laugh raucously and thoroughly enjoy the show.

Miley Kim (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior studying Sociology and Pre-Health. This was her first time reading Much Ado About Nothing, but this play is now one of her favorites. Miley has been stage managing since high school, and she was part of NSR since last year. She was the stage manager for two previous shows by NSR: Hamlet and A Winter's Tale.

Thomas Le (Set Design)

♪ Bacon pancakes

Making Bacon Pancakes

Take some bacon and I put it in a pancake

Bacon Pancakes

That's what it's gonna make

Bacon Pancaaaake! ♪

Josh Lehman (Don Pedro) is making his debut in NSR as Don Pedro, the Prince of Aragon. His bio is short, because his acting speaks for itself.

Megan Sherry (Choreography) is a junior studying Psychology and Classics. This is the first NSR show she has been involved in, and she is thrilled to be able to work with such a talented, welcoming, and fun group of students. As President of the ND/SMC Ballroom Dance Club and a former Vice President of Swing Club on campus, Megan spends a lot of time dancing, and she is excited to be able to share it with everyone here. Remember: when in doubt, dance first, ask questions later.

Gabe McKenna (Friar / Balthazar / Costume Design) is excited to be making their NSR debut in the last semester of their senior year. They have performed with the Marching Band, Notre Dame's Chorale, and Show Some Skin. When not performing, they can be found running organic chemistry experiments or binging the Vampire Diaries while hunched over a sewing machine. Oh, and they're graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry with a minor in German, and will be pursuing a PhD in Molecular and Cellular biology at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Not that it's relevant.

Alyssa Miulli (Seacoal) is a sophomore from West Chicago, Illinois majoring in Anthropology and History. She is absolutely stoked to be part of another NSR production! After her breakout role as Mamillius in "A Winter's Tale", she has been working extra hard to bring Seacoal to life in "Much Ado About Nothing". Alyssa would like to thank the prince's watch for being the best ragtag group of idiots that she's ever had the pleasure of being with. She hopes that enjoy the NSR interpretation of Shakespeare's best romcom!

Cori Niezgodski (Margaret) has reached the end of her heroic college theater journey and longs to become immortal so that she may cling to NSR forever. Or haunt Washington Hall as a ghost in 100 years. Either works. She would like to thank the members of NSR, old and new, for welcoming her into the club in 2020 and making her feel welcome on campus. Cori is so appreciative of all of the opportunities to be involved in the past 6 shows and can't wait to see how the club grows in future years. Given that she is only moving 3.5 hours south of campus, she will be the one alumni who never leaves and likes to think they are still part of the club. Another round of thanks to her family, friends, peers, and professors who have supported her throughout her time at ND. Huzzah!

Isabel Olesinski (Leonata) is so excited to be in her 6th NSR production as Leonata in "Much Ado About Nothing." She's from Chicago and is a junior at Notre Dame, double majoring in Political Science and English with a minor in Constitutional Studies and a Creative Writing concentration. Isabel's main theatre credits include Miss Minchin ("A Little Princess"), Eddie (USTA's "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"), Mistress Overdone ("Measure for Measure"), Fleance/Macduff's Son ("Macbeth"), Grumio ("Taming of the Shrew"), Lucius/Cinna the Poet ("Julius Caesar"), Penelope Pennywise ("Urinetown: The Musical"), and Katalin Hunyak ("Chicago"). Fun fact, she's performed at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater! Isabel has been doing theatre since 5th-grade improv class (she then vowed never to do improv again) and is very proud to be a part of NSR for her third year. Isabel would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support and keeping up with her crazy passions (she loves you all very much). Enjoy the show!

Mack Pittman (Assistant Director) is 100% qualified for the position of AD, having directed many award winning home-videos as a child. She loves Shakespeare, everyone involved in the production of the show, and gluten free cookies. If you see her, chances are she will be wearing a bike helmet and aggressively laughing. Sit back, enjoy the show, and be wary if you are wearing socks, 'cause they are about to be knocked off!

Christina Randazzo (Claudio) feels incredibly grateful to be able to share this beautiful show with you! She is a senior Psychology and Film, Television & Theatre Major who is minoring in Sustainability. She lives in Welsh Family Hall and is originally from Bay Village Ohio. You may recognize her from her previous performances as Hamlet in Hamlet/5, Perdita in The Winter's Tale, Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Caius Cassius in Julius Caesar and several others! When Christina's not busy ruining weddings in Messina with her NSR friends, you can probably find her geeking out about psychological processes in Corbett, talking to strangers in the dining halls, or vibing with her wonderful Net buddies in LaFun! She would like to thank her wonderful friends and family for all of their love and support, especially her mom, Jana, for all of her help and encouragement and for being the absolute best!

Nandini Sadagopan (Director) is tired. She hopes you enjoy the show

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