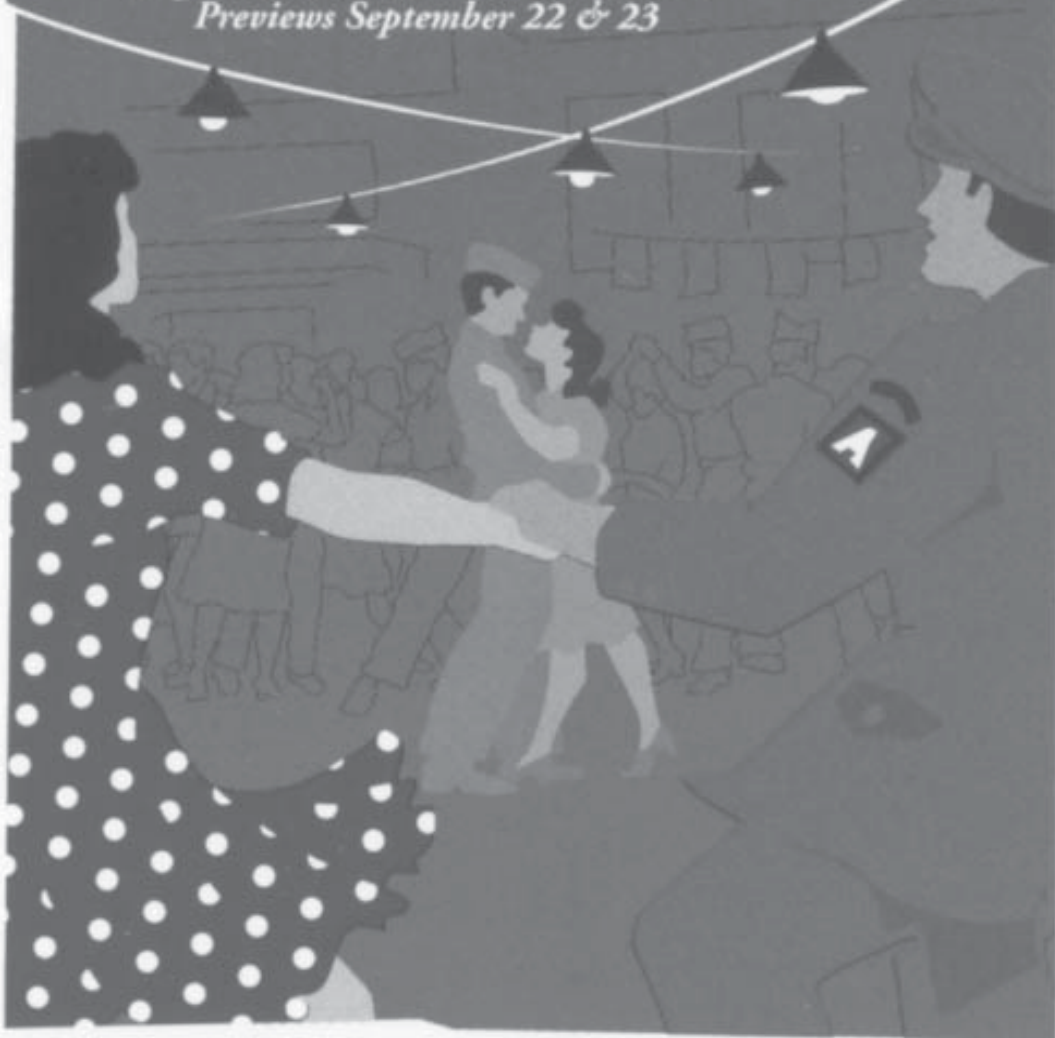


William Shakespeare's

Much ADO ABOUT Nothing

September 24 – October 23
Previews September 22 & 23



TAPROOT THEATRE

C O M P A N Y

204 N. 85th St. ■ Seattle, WA 98103
www.taproottheatre.org

Student Matinee Performances

September 29

October 13

October 20

10:00am

Box Office ■ 206.781.9707
Admin. Office ■ 206.781.9705

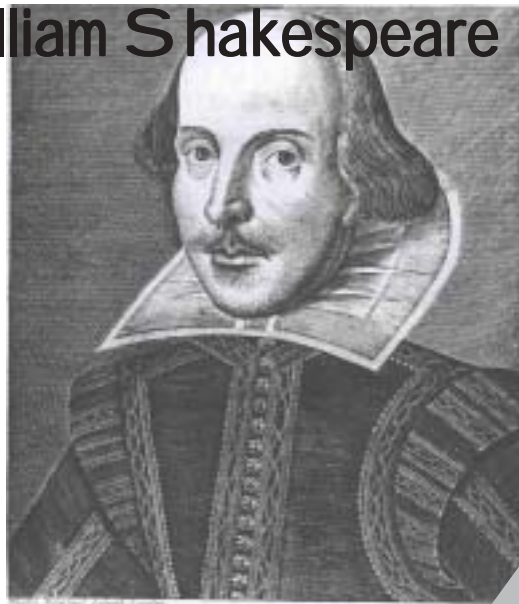
William Shakespeare

Born April 23, 1564
to John & Mary Arden Shakespeare

Shakespeare's home Stratford-upon-Avon



Photo from Shakespeare for Kids



April 1564 - 1577
Shakespeare lives in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England

2 million people visit Stratford-upon-Avon each year.

Shakespeare sees his first play

Elizabethan Entertainment:
Plays, Corpus Christi,
pageants & juggling shows.

1567 James Burbage builds the first outdoor theatre north of London, called 'The Theatre.'

1611
Shakespeare returns to Stratford-upon-Avon to reside with his wife

1597
Due to the success of The Chamberlain's Men Shakespeare purchased New Place, the 2nd largest house in London

December 1598

Construction began of The Globe Theatre. Timbers from The Theatre were transported across the Thames River to the new location. The Globe became the new playhouse for The Chamberlain's Men.

The Globe Theatre

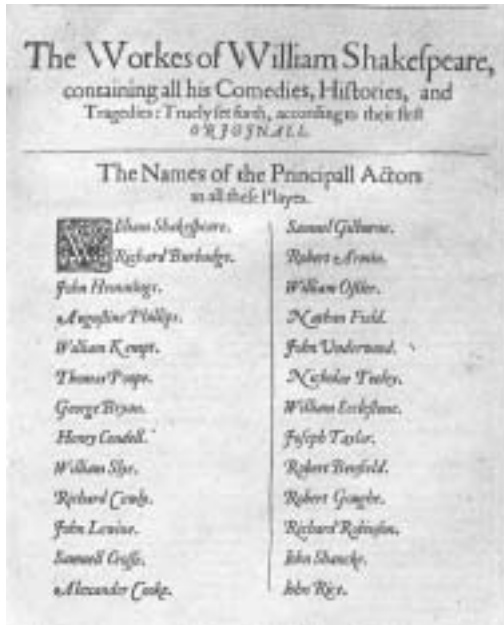


photo by Nik Milner
<http://shakespeares-globe.org/>

April 23, 1616
Shakespeare dies at the age of 52

1622
John Heminge & Henry Condell begin compiling Shakespeare's work into the complete Folio

List of The Lord Chamberlain's Men
as seen in
The First Folio of Shakespeare.



The Lord Chamberlain's Men

- *William Shakespeare
- *Richard Cowley
- *John Heminges
- *Augustine Phillips
- *George Bryan
- *Thomas Pope
- *William Kempe

Folio

November, 1623
Edward Blount &
Isaac Jaggard
publish
The First Folio of Shakespeare

The folio contains 36 of the
37 plays written by Shakespeare.
18 of his plays were first
published in the Folio.

November 1582

William marries Anne Hathaway

1583

Daughter Susanna is born.

Elizabethan
Period =
1558 - 1603

1585 Hamnet & Judith are born.

1586 - 1610 Shakespeare lives in London
where he wrote plays, sonnets & long poems.

inside the Globe Theatre

June 1592

Theatres in London close
due to the plague.



photo by Nik Milner
<http://shakespeares-globe.org/>

1594

Theatres Reopen

The World of the Play



Set Design for Taproot Theatre Company's *Much A do A bout Nothing*
Scenic Designer Rick Lorig

Benedick



Hero



Beatrice



Dogberry



Costume Designs for Taproot Theatre Company's *Much A do A bout Nothing*
Costume Designer Deborah Skorstad

Dancing with Shakespeare's Vocabulary

"Shakespeare's contribution to our language is readily apparent. The King James Bible makes use of nearly 8,000 words. An educated person in our lifetime uses about 17,000 words. Contrast these figures with the number in Shakespeare's vocabulary - some 34,000. He used words in ingenious ways, employing nouns as verbs and inventing new words, not just as a means of being clever, but for precision."

Doug Moston, *The First Folio of Shakespeare*

Elizabethans believed the position of the stars and planets on the date of your birth determined the mixture of your humours.

Adieu

Farewell

Aragon

A former kingdom in the NE of Spain

Ass

As a term of reproach, = stupid fellow, dolt

Contempt

The act of despising, disdain

Contemptible Spirit

Despicable, mean, scornful, disdainful

Coxcomb

Fool, Simpleton

Disdain

To think unworthy, to scorn, to treat with contempt

Dote

To act or speak irrationally

Ducats

Gold coins

In Earnest

As down payment to seal a contract

Spirits

Vital powers which control bodily functions.

Elizabethans thought personality and health were determined by the combination of the four basic fluids (humours) in a person's body: blood, phlegm, choler and blackbile

Five Wits

Mental faculties (not the 5 senses, but memory, imagination, judgment, fantasy and common sense)

Flouting Jack

Know-all, trouble-maker, mocking rascal, satirical fellow

Forsworn

Proved false, proven a perjurer (one who lies under oath)

Honorable Men

Men of rank (i.e., Don Pedro and Claudio)

Jades Trick

A term of contempt or pity for a worthless, or wicked, or maltreated horse

Kill Claudio

Challenge him to a duel

Killed and Eaten

A common send-up of affected ferocity

Messina

Capital of the province of Messina, in Sicily

Mirth

A subject of merriment

Too much blood = exceedingly hopeful & confident

Too much phlegm = apathetic and slow

Too much choler = be mostly irritable and angry

Too much black bile = be predominately sad & depressed

Harmonious mixture of all 4 = even-tempered & healthy

Born under Saturn

Saturnine or melancholy or gloomy because of planetary influence.

The planet was thought to be evil-willed.

Rare parrot-teacher

One who would teach a parrot well, because you say the same things over and over

Orthographer

Correct spelling & speaking

Perturbation

Disturbance, disorder, disquiet

Watch

The watch was a group of citizens chosen for police duty. Their reputation for incompetence was proverbial and made them a reliable butt for comedy. It also reflected the fact that Watch duty was unpaid and avoidable upon payment for a deputy. Dogberry is Head Constable and Verges though his 'partner', is a Headborough, and thus a petty constable of lower rank.

Requite

To repay, in a good or bad sense; to reward, to retaliate

Savage Bull

Wild, untamed

Sort

Rank

Stomach

Appetite

Three Leagues

About 9 miles or 14 1/2 kilometers

Threescore

Sixty



Ferragosto Masks worn in Taproot Theatre Company's *Much A do About Nothing*

Enter the Revels

"The revellers are entering, brother; make good room"
Leonato to Don Pedro, Act 2, Scene 1

In Act 2, Scene 1 a masquerade celebration takes place, complete with masks and music.

Ferragosto

In Taproot's 1944 version of *Much A do About Nothing*, Ferragosto is the holiday celebrated at the masquerade celebration.

August 15

Ferragosto is the Catholic holiday celebrated every year on August 15 as the day the Virgin Mary ascended to Heaven to be with her son, Jesus. The Italian family in Taproot Theatre's *Much A do About Nothing* celebrates this holiday every year. An Italian Catholic celebration includes music, good food and dancing.



Candace Vance as Beatrice and Tim Hornor as Benedick
Photo by: Matthew Lawrence

Revel

Festivity, merry-making
To feast, to make merry

Reveller

One who feasts and makes merry

Revelry

A merry-making

Pagan origins of the Ferragosto holiday:

In 18 BC Roman Emperor Augustus dedicated the month of August to celebration and festivals to the goddess Diana. The holiday, *Feriae Augusti*, began on August 1 the most important day in which the goddess Diana was given reverence.

Also celebrated during *Feriae Augusti* was Vortumnus, God of the seasons, Conso, the God of the Harvest and Opeconsiva, the god who personified the abundant harvest. The *Feriae* celebrated fertility and maternity. In the 500s, as Christianity spread, the Virgin Mary was looked to and the modern celebration took shape.



Costume Designer
Deborah Skorstad

★ Much A do A bout Nothing ★

★The Story

Much A do A bout Nothing is a tale of wit, wisdom and the triumph of love. The play opens with a victorious regiment returning to their sweethearts at the end of a successful military campaign. Celebration turns to chaos when the villainous Don John schemes to deceive the young officer Claudio and disgrace his virtuous fiancé Hero. The fate of the young lovers appears doomed until their best friends, Beatrice and Benedick, refusing to believe the false accusations against their young friends, set out to uncover the villainy at the root of the deception. In the meantime the fun begins as Beatrice and Benedick, who are reluctant to woo, are tricked by their friends into a merry ruse leading each of them to believe that they are the objects of the other's affection. Their "merry war" of sparkling wordplay crackles with wit and humor, ultimately making them two of the Shakespeare's wisest lovers.



Candace Vance as Beatrice and Tim Hornor as Benedick
Photo by: Matthew Lawrence

★The Story's History

In keeping with the custom of the day, Shakespeare borrowed part of the story line for *Much A do A bout Nothing* from another great work of the time. Aristotle's famous tale of *Ariadante and Ginevra* was a chivalrous story with tragic elements, but Shakespeare's re-invention of the story turned the tragedy into a sparkling comedy where love ultimately triumphs over the individuals and circumstances that would defeat and defame it.

★The Story at Taproot Theatre Company ★

"I've chosen to set *Much A do A bout Nothing* in August 1944, at a small upscale hotel on Long Island run by an Italian family. The heroic soldiers are coming from and returning to the war in Europe. The industrious women have run the businesses, built planes, policed the neighborhoods and held the homefront together. A sense of national unity, sacrifice and pride couldn't be stronger."

Scott Nolte, Director *Much A do A bout Nothing*



Candace Vance as Beatrice and
Tim Hornor as Benedick
Photo by: Matthew Lawrence

Much A do A bout Nothing Production Team

Director	Scott Nolte
Scenic Designer	Rick Lorig
Sound Designer/Props Designer	Mark Lund
Costume Designer	Deborah Skorstad
Costume Shop Manager	Heather Cook
Lighting Designer	Jody Briggs
Stage Manager	Jen King
Assistant Stage Manager	Deborah Ferguson
Dramaturg	Sarah Stillion

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★ Much A do during World War II ★

T aproot T heatre Company's production of *Much A do A bout Nothing* takes place in Long Island, NY in 1944, just before the end of World War II.

Men registered for the draft = 34.5 million
Men who applied for conscientious objector status = 72,354
Men who chose to perform an alternate service = 12,000
Men who rejected the draft and went to jail = 6,000



photo:
<http://academic.evergreen.edu/c/clapat20/>

During World War II women took an active role on the homefront, and for the first time were able to serve in the military.

Women's roles during World War II: Factory workers, support services, working in concentration camps, in the military and keeping the home fires burning.



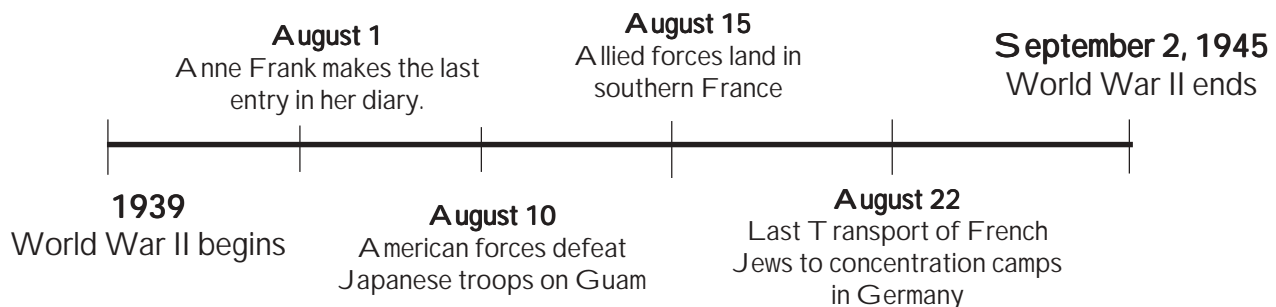
photo:
<http://tinyurl.com/58cjo>

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAAC), later changed to WAC when women became part of the army, not merely an auxiliary (becomes a law May 14, 1942).

WAVES Women accepted for voluntary emergency services

* The war had a great impact on romance. The number of marriage licenses issued in Lancaster county, Nebraska doubled between 1942 and 1943. Unfortunately, many marriages did not last during the war years. Long separations and the threat of death greatly affected people's lives. The divorce rate soared *

August 1944 World War II Timeline



Dramatis Personae



Don Pedro

1944
Army Major

1600
Prince of Aragon



Don John

Don Pedro's Brother

1944
Captain



Leonato

1944
Hotel Owner

1600
Governor of Messina



Antonio

Leonato's Brother



Claudio

1944
Lieutenant

1600
Young lord of Florence



Hero

Daughter to Leonato



Benedick

1944
Lieutenant

1600
A lord of Padua



Beatrice

Niece to Leonato

Balthasar

1944
Concierge

1600
Attendant on Don Pedro



1944
Priest & Mailman

1600
Friar Francis & Messenger



Margaret

1944
Maid

1600
Gentlewoman
attending Hero



Ursula

1944
Maid

1600
Gentlewoman
attending Hero



Borachio

Followers of Don John



Conrad



Dogberry

1944
WAVE / Civil Patrol

1600
Master Constable



Verges

1944
Civil Patrol / Assistant

1600
A Headborough



Sexton

1944
Jr. Priest

1600
A Sexton



Boy

Taproot Theatre Company's 2005 Student Matinee Calendar



An Enemy of the People

adapted by Arthur Miller from the play by Henrik Ibsen

Miller's riveting adaptation of this powerful Ibsen classic brings the play vividly to life. When exposing the truth conflicts with the will of the majority, one man takes a stand that rocks his world and everyone in it.

February 16, 2005

March 1, 2005

10:00 am



Beau Jest

by James Sherman

She loves him and he loves her but there's one problem. Her parents will never approve. Her simple solution turns simply hilarious when her parents fall head over heels for the actor she hires to impersonate her beau!

April 6, 2005

10:00 am



Arthur: The Hunt

by Jeff Berryman

The Arthur saga continues! A bold and beautiful woman mystifies and beguiles the king's soldiers in her quest to find answers. A High King needed in Britain more than ever, but he's nowhere to be found.

May 25, 2005

10:00am



The Matchmaker

by Thornton Wilder

The incomparable Dolly Levi, the irascible half-a-millionaire Horace Vandergelder and a quartet of young lovers come to the TTC stage in Wilder's sparkling comedy of wit and wisdom.

October 5, 2005

10:00 am

Taproot Theatre
Education & Outreach Department



Educational Touring • Arts in Schools • Student Services • Community Outreach

“Encouraging • Educating • Entertaining”

Sarah Gordon • Director of Outreach
Marie Fredericksen • Education & Outreach Association
Karen Lind • Director of Educational Programs
Sara Wiley • Associate Director of Educational Programs

TAPROOT THEATRE

C O M P A N Y

A Theatre of Hope

The mission of Taproot Theatre Company's education and outreach department is to make TTC's live theatre productions, social issue plays and educational programming accessible to students and all members of Puget Sound's diverse communities. We seek to develop programs that cultivate future artists, encourage an appreciation for the art of theatre and explore the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning.

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