Luther College Department of Visual and Performing Arts presents:

Much Ado About Nothing
A Shakespearean Comedy

October 4, 6, 10, 11 at 6 pm & October 5, 2012 at 5:45 pm.
Outside of Sampson-Hoffland on the Harvey Wilkins Plaza.
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
by
William Shakespeare

Cast (In Order of Appearance)

Leonato, Governor of Messina ........................................ Michael Ehrecke '15
Messenger & The Sexton ............................................. Sarah Brandt '15
Beatrice, niece to Leonato ........................................... Elisabeth Athas '15
Don Pedro, Prince of Arragon ........................................ Tyler Hagy '13
Benedick, a young lord of Padua .................................... Bryce Muenchow '15
Don John, bastard brother to Don Pedro ....................... John Dimit '12
Claudio, a young lord of Florence. ................................. Tim Komatsu '15
Conrade, follower of Don John ....................................... Lucas Chase '15
Borachio, follower of Don John ...................................... Anna Murray '14
Antonio, brother to Leonato .......................................... John Werner '14
Hero, daughter to Leonato ........................................... Holly Fusco '14
Margaret, waiting gentlewoman to Hero ......................... Maggie Sulentic '16
Ursula, waiting gentlewoman to Hero ............................. Kelly Harris '15
Dogberry, a Constable .................................................. Josh Harper '16
Verges, his deputy ...................................................... Max LaFontant '13
The Watch, deputies all .............................................. Emily Ebertz '15
                                                                      Miriam Harries '16
                                                                      Adrienne Kulzer '15
The Friar ...................................................................... Abigail Wacholz '14
Musicians ..................................................................... Shannon Curtis '13
                                                                      Nick Harvey '13
                                                                      Sydney Kjerstad '13

Place: Messina
Time: Late 1940's

For this production a condensed version of the play is being utilized
as edited by Mark Muggli.
Production Staff and Crew

Directors .................................................. Robert Larson
                                           Mark Muggli
                                           Kristen Underwood
Stage Design & Construction ......................... Tom Berger
Costume Design & Construction ....................... Lisa Lantz
Lighting Design ........................................ Jeff Dintaman
Stage Manager ........................................... Alex Klyn '14
Rehearsal Assistant ..................................... Brett Steelman '14
Production Manager ..................................... Ashley Wright '13
Music Coordination ..................................... Sydney Kjerstad '13
Poster Design .......................................... Micayla Irmiter '14
Dressers .................................................. Rebecca Chapin '15
                                           Elizabeth Larget '16
Spot Operator ............................................. James Russell '14

Stage Construction
Charline Abraham, Shelby Babcock, Aaron Busch, Jessica Dobson,
   Hannah Fisher, Taylor Graydon, Miriam Harries, Tim Komatsu,
   Max Lafontant, Dakota Lancour, Spencer Loufek, Meredith McDowell,
   Jessica O'Brien, Jake Putnam, Rachel Skinner

Costume Construction
Gabrielle Boisseau, Stephanie Branchaud, Maria Brown, Rebecca Chapin,
   Phoebe Jan-McMahon, Clara Miller, Brian Nnajoji, Jessica O'Brien, Hayley
   Ryan, Abby Wacholz, Holly Williams

Costume Stock Management
Dani Gibbs, Makenna Klein, Caitlin Shoemaker, Lydia Svendsen
The unexpected honor of being named the 2011-13 Jones Humanities Professor gave me the opportunity to develop "Our Shakespeare," a project aiming "to nurture our community's rediscovery of the range, power, and wisdom of Shakespeare's art." It was easy to imagine a film series, a Chapel series, book give-aways and discussions, faculty development workshops, visiting lecturers, a website, and a semester-long, outdoor reading of the sonnets (see http://www.luther.edu/english/ourshakespeare/ for details). But I quickly realized that this burst of activity, however illuminating, would feel a bit hollow without some on-campus Shakespeare productions. I was therefore pleased that Tonya Gertz agreed to include a professional As You Like It in the 2012-13 Center Stage Series, and I was even more excited that Jane Hawley agreed to collaborate with me on a dance production of Macbeth, to be performed in mid-November, and that Bob Larson decided to direct one of Shakespeare's comedies. Bob and I settled on Much Ado About Nothing because it is both accessible and brilliant in language and theme. Bob imagined an outdoor setting and an actor-focused ethos that echoed the practices of the travelling troupes of Shakespeare's time, and I snipped the script by 40% for the same reason.

What a joy it has been to collaborate again with Bob and with Kristen Underwood—we first worked together exactly twenty years ago on a Commonweal Theatre Macbeth (with set design by Jeff Dintaman). And how appreciative I am of our students. They have accepted the actor's vulnerability in order to help us all explore together the kinds of love that are most efficacious, personally and civilly. --Mark Muggli

Bits and pieces said now and then, here and there:

Hey, let's get a show up and running by homecoming. Are you kidding me?! It would be fun to do it outside like in Will's day. Are you kidding me?? Maybe Muggli could condense it to 75 minutes. Are you kidding me? What if it rains? Hey, stop kidding!! Can we build a stage in 3 weeks? Sure, as long as no one relies on me to measure, cut, and pound! How much is it to do about nothing? Who knows, probably the same as doing a dancing Macbeth. Are you kidding me? So Much Ado is up, outside, and by homecoming as A Tragedy Like Macbeth lurks in the wings for November, but all kidding aside thanks to everyone who made this evening a reality. It remains a delight to work with creative colleague collaborators and inventive, energetic students. --R. Larson