

William Shakespeare's

# Much Ado About Nothing



THEATRE MEMPHIS presents William Shakespeare's "MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING"  
Directed by IRENE CRIST ■ Sponsored by DR. THOMAS RATLIFF  
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IN THE NEXT STAGE AT THEATRE MEMPHIS

# Much Ado About Nothing

by **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Directed by **IRENE CRIST**

Executive Producer  
**DEBBIE LITCH**  
Scenic and Properties Designer  
**JACK NETZEL-YATES**  
Lighting Designer  
**NICOLE NORTHINGTON**  
Sound Engineer  
**JASON ESCHHOFEN**  
Sound Designer  
**JOHN M. HEMPHILL**  
Director of Stage Management  
**ASHLEY J. NICKAS**  
Crew  
**KAYLEE WEBB**

Production Manager/Tech Director  
**MICHAEL COMPTON**  
Costume Designer  
**ASHLEY SELBERG**  
Hair and Makeup Designer  
**ASHLEY SELBERG**  
Choreography  
**LINDSEY ROBERTS**  
Original Music  
**BENNETT FOSTER**  
Assistant Director  
**MEGHAN LISI LEWIS**  
Stage Manager  
**JENNIFER TOWNSEND**

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**CAST**

Friar Francis . . . . .	<b>BILL ANDREWS</b>
Hero . . . . .	<b>EVIE BENNETT</b>
The Watch . . . . .	<b>DANA BERNSTEIN</b>
Ursula . . . . .	<b>RENEE DAVIS BRAME</b>
Beatrice . . . . .	<b>MARY BUCHIGNANI</b>
Don John . . . . .	<b>MICHAEL CLAYBOURNE</b>
Balthasar . . . . .	<b>BENNETT FOSTER</b>
Benedick . . . . .	<b>JOHN M. HEMPHILL</b>
Sexton . . . . .	<b>MICHAEL HOLLIDAY</b>
Attendant . . . . .	<b>MARY JADE LEARNED</b>
The Watch . . . . .	<b>STEVE LOPEZ</b>
Antonio . . . . .	<b>ROBERT McINTOSH</b>
Claudio . . . . .	<b>SEAN MOORE</b>
Dogberry . . . . .	<b>ART ODEN</b>
Borachio . . . . .	<b>JEFFREY POSSON</b>
Leonato . . . . .	<b>CHASE RING</b>
Verges . . . . .	<b>LINDSEY ROBERTS</b>
Don Pedro . . . . .	<b>JS TATE</b>
Conrade . . . . .	<b>ASHLEY TREVATHAN</b>
Attendant . . . . .	<b>KIERRA TURNER</b>
Margaret . . . . .	<b>MELISSA WALKER</b>
Messenger/The Watch . . . . .	<b>MARK WESTON</b>

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

**BILL ANDREWS** (Friar Francis) is forever grateful for his Agent/Manager John Hemphill, who invites him to join all sorts of shenanigans; for his wife Susan Andrews, who tolerates nearly all of the silliness; and for the transformational gift that live theater brings to this remarkable community.

**EVIE BENNETT** (Hero) is thrilled to be returning to Theatre Memphis after her recent graduation from Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis. Recent credits include: Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, lead in *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.*, and Pearl in the collegiate premier of *Deadly: The Musical*.

**DANA BERNSTEIN** (The Watch) is thrilled to be part of this production! Dana has acted in several plays at theatres around town since 2004. Her most recent role at Theatre Memphis was as a ghost in *Cicada*. Shout out to her husband, Kevin, for his enthusiastic support of her theatre habit!

**RENEE DAVIS BRAME** (Ursula) past credits include, *Ruthless! The Musical* (Ostrander nomination), Witch in *Into the Woods*, Trio in *Boy from Oz*, Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*, Lotty in *Enchanted April* (Ostrander nomination), ShoWagon Alum. Love to Aaron, Dmitri, Calliope, Mom, Dad, and Leigh Ann.

**MARY BUCHIGNANI** (Beatrice) is happy to be sharing the stage with her real-life husband and reprising one of her favorite roles. Other favorites include *42nd Street*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Copenhagen*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *1776* and *Good People*. Peace and Love to my family, especially Beau and Bella.

**MICHAEL CLAYBOURNE** (Don John) *Much Ado About Nothing* is Michael's fourth production with Theatre Memphis, following *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Dracula*, and *Fences*. Michael received his BFA in Acting from Howard University and has trained at The British American Drama Academy and The School at Steppenwolf.

**IRENE CRIST** (Director) is thrilled to be directing at Theatre Memphis again. Her last production here was *Heisenberg* with Natalie Jones and Jerry Chipman. A recipient of the Eugart Yerian Lifetime Achievement Award, she has been acting and directing in Memphis for over 40 years. Prior to moving to Memphis, she was a founding member of RoundHouse Theatre in Maryland. She has three beautiful children and five even more beautiful grandkids.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (cont.)

**BENNETT FOSTER** (Balthasar) makes his TM debut, performing his original song which was written for the play at the request by Irene, (their mom). Bennett feels deeply grateful for this special collaboration and for the chance to watch his mom work.

**JOHN M. HEMPHILL** (Benedick) is thrilled to be returning to the Theatre Memphis stage for a third go around playing one of his all-time favorite characters. Local roles include *A Tuna Christmas*, *The Addams Family*, *Guys & Dolls*. Much love to Beau & Bella...and to Mary - "I do love nothing in the world so well as you."

**MICHAEL HOLLIDAY** (Sexton) is delighted to be starting my 60th year in Memphis theatre as an actor, director, playwright, designer, costumer, and administrator. It all goes by so fast. Also my long time association with no numbers to protect the innocent with the wonderful Irene Crist...my favorite stage wife and acting partner. Love always to Angie.

**MARY JADE LEARNED** (Attendant) is thrilled to be performing in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She would like to thank Irene Crist for this wonderful opportunity as well as her family and coaches for their encouragement and support.

**STEVE LOPEZ** (The Watch) has been a part of the Memphis theater community for 10+ years working backstage on some awesome shows over the years. He would like to thank the theater community for allowing him in the family with open arms. He would also would like to thank Irene for this opportunity to be on stage.

**ROBERT McINTOSH** (Antonio) is delighted to join this talented director, cast and crew. His past credits at TM include *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Boy from Oz*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He has also been a part of POTS' production of *On Golden Pond*. Thanks to all for coming to see this wonderful production!

**SEAN MOORE** (Claudio) would like to send all his love to Irene Crist for reaching out to him for *Much Ado* over a year ago and is happy to finally bring her vision to life. He wishes peace and love to the cast, and just as much to the audience.

**ART ODEN** (Dogberry) is terribly excited to come take a playcation in Memphis. Art dedicates this performance to the memory of the wonderfully talented and beloved John Rone and Jim Ostrander who he still misses after all these years. Thank you, Tara, for convincing me to come home and play one more time.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (cont.)

**JEFFREY POSSON** (Borachio) is happy to be working with Irene again. Jeff's last encounter with Shakespeare was playing Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*. His next project will be directing *Macbeth* for Theatre Memphis this winter. Auditions are in October. Jeff is the resident dramaturg for Threepenny Theatre Company.

**CHASE RING** (Leonato) is excited to return to TM since 2018's *Stage Kiss*. This is his second Shakespeare, and one he is incredibly proud to be a part of. "All of my love to my beautiful wife Ellen, and many thanks to this amazing cast and team. Yippee-ki-yay, Mother Father!"

**LINDSEY ROBERTS** (Verges) is excited to work with this exceptionally talented cast and crew. Previous TM credits include *Mamma Mia!*, *42nd Street*, *Chicago*, and *Crazy For You*. Special thanks to Irene for her incredible direction and insight and to John for his tenacity and passion for this project.

**JS TATE** (Don Pedro) was last seen in *Mississippi Goddamn* and *Sweat* at Circuit Playhouse, and *Detroit 67* and *Jitney* at Hattiloo Theatre. He would like to thank this cast and director. He would also like to thank his parents for all their love & support, his sons Elijah, Malachi, and Nolan, and Jasmine for simply everything!

**ASHLEY TREVATHAN** (Conrade) is delighted to be back on the Theatre Memphis stage in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their years of support and her amazing husband for sharing this incredible journey with her. Tauntaun!

**KIERRA TURNER** (Attendant) is a singer, actor, filmmaker and teaching artist from Memphis. She studied business and theatre at Christian Brothers University. She has performed with many local theatres and production companies in many different capacities, but her first love has always been theatre. She is excited to be part of *Much Ado!*"

**MELISSA WALKER** (Margaret) has enjoyed being part of this delightful production for all three of its lives. Her sides are still splitting from laughing at John Rone's Dogberry from years past. What a glorious and hilarious legacy to leave. What an honor to experience. Peace and love to all!

**MARK WESTON** (Messenger/The Watch) After the pandemic brought law school to an unceremonious end, Memphis native Mark Weston returned to his hometown determined to make progress on his bucket list. A genuine Shakespeare fan (really!), he's convinced that making his Theatre Memphis debut with such a fun show is his best check mark yet!

## DEDICATION: To John Rone



This production of *Much Ado About Nothing* is dedicated to the loving memory of John Rone. A treasured Memphis actor and director, John was a cast member of the 2010 *Much Ado* directed by Irene Crist. During his career, John was involved with hundreds of productions at Theatre Memphis as well as multiple other theatres around the Memphis and MidSouth area. John was beloved, and his memory is cherished by all who had the pleasure to know him! Theatre Memphis recently established our new Chair for Excellence in Directing in John's honor. If you would like to make a contribution, please visit our website at [www.theatrememphis.org/donate](http://www.theatrememphis.org/donate).

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