

Much Ado About Nothing

Character Descriptions

A Note About Casting:

The intention of the director is to create an ensemble cast of 10 actors, most of whom will be doubling with other roles in the show. Many roles will be cast without regard for age or gender. The list below is an estimation of the ten larger roles that will remain separate from each other.

Beatrice (F, 25-35) The niece of Leonato and cousin of Hero. Beatrice is extremely quick-witted and verbally adept. Sometimes, she uses her wit to mock others, Benedick most of all. Some might call that flirting, but she's the last to know. She has no intentions of marrying.

Benedick (M, 25-40) A gentleman soldier, and friend to Claudio and Don Pedro. Benedick is a proud bachelor, who hopes never to marry because he believes women are not trustworthy. He has a sharp sense of humor and often goes head to head with Beatrice. Like her, he's oblivious that this is flirting.

Hero (F, 20-30) The beautiful young daughter of Leonato, and cousin to Beatrice. Hero is lovely, gentle, innocent, and forgiving. She quickly falls for Claudio when he declares his interest in her.

Claudio (M, 25-35) A young soldier who falls in love with Hero upon his return to Messina. He is loving and shy, but unfortunately gullible and is often walked over by Don Pedro.

Leonato (M or F, 40+) The father of Hero, uncle of Beatrice, and Duke of Messina, where the events of the play take place. He is respected, well-to-do, and at the center of all revels.

Don Pedro/Don John (M, 25-40) This actor will play both Don Pedro, the triumphant prince bringing his men home from war, and his brother, Don John, a bitter bastard keen on making everyone else's life miserable. Don Pedro is the alpha among his friends, and while generous with them, he is quick to believe the worst in others and seek revenge. Don John is more melancholy, sullen, and jealous.

Dogberry (M or F, any age) The chief of law enforcement in Messina, in charge of the watch. Earnest about his job, though he has a desire to appear of higher class. Most notably, he tries to flaunt a vocabulary bigger than the one he is gifted with, often using the wrong word to comedic effect.

Margaret (F, any age) Hero's serving woman, more bawdy than the lady she waits on and has connections with the wrong crowd. She has a flirtation with Borachio which is used to unknowingly sabotage Hero.

Borachio (M or F, any age) An associate of Don John's who does his bidding. Has a flirtation with Margaret.

Conrad (M or F, any age) Another associate of Don John's who supports his schemes.