

Audition notice

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**. We would like to invite you to audition for an acting role or contact us if you would like to be part of the productions in another area. For a description of each non-acting role, please see pages 3 and 4.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Playwright:	William Shakespeare
Director:	Caroline McCann
Pre-audition Shakespeare Workshop:	Saturday, 25th November 2017 at 2.00 pm in the bar at WLT
Audition place and time :	Sunday, 10th December 2017 at 2.00 pm in the auditorium at WLT
Production dates:	11th - 21st April 2018

Synopsis of play

Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick and Don John all return from the war and are welcomed into Leonato's house. Here, Claudio falls in love with Hero and asks the Prince to woo her in his name. Benedick and Beatrice already know one another and pick up where they left off with arguments. Claudio and Hero plan to marry. In the meantime, a game is played on Benedick and Beatrice which results in them falling in love with each other. Meanwhile, out of jealousy for his brother (and maybe Hero) Don John plans to break-up the forthcoming wedding of Claudio and Hero.

His wicked plot succeeds and he runs off. The Friar hides the shamed Hero and tells Don Pedro and Claudio that she has died.

Borachio boasts of his involvement in the plot to Conrade and they are both overhead and arrested by the Watch and brought to trial before the Sexton. All is revealed and Hero is proved innocent. Claudio is overcome with sorrow and all ends happily for the two couples.

Director's notes

The play will be set at the end of WW1 in 1918 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Great War which happens to fall in the year 2018.

I am looking for good strong actors who will be committed to every rehearsal in which they are needed. There are large parts and smaller parts in the play. Some parts may be doubled up. Every part is equally important. Voice projection is our key aim. The audience must be able to hear every word.

Much Ado About Nothing is a very funny play and I hope to get every laugh we can so that the cast will really enjoy taking part in this wonderful piece of literature.

Rehearsals

3 times a week (2 in the week and 1 at the weekend). These days can be arranged with the cast.

Audition pieces

These be provided to auditionees on request of a script

Cast - list of characters

Don Pedro	Male (35-55). The Prince of Aragon.
Benedick	Male (35-45) A Bachelor. Strong comedy part. Companion to Don Pedro.
Claudio	Male (25-35). A young Lord in love with Hero. Companion to Don Pedro.
Don John	Male (25-35) The Baddie, illegitimate brother of Don Pedro.

Borachio	Male (25-35) A soldier and a follower of Don John
Conrad	Male (30ish) A gentleman and a follower of Don John
Leonato	Male (45+). Governor of Messina. Hero's father.
Hero	Female (20s) - Leonato's daughter, an innocent young lady in love with Claudio.
Beatrice	Female (35-45) - Strong comedy part secretly in love with Benedick. Niece to Leonato, an orphan.
Antonio	Male (45+) Leonato's brother. A small part.
Margaret	Female (25-45) Lady's maid to Hero, a right madam!
Ursula	Female (45+), Housekeeper, very pleasant lady. Could be doubled up with the Sexton.
Friar Francis	A Friar (30+). This could also be a double up part with Conrad.
Dogberry	Male/Female (45+) - Strictly comedy. Constable in charge of the Watch.
Verges	Male (45+) - Dogberry's sidekick. A Parish Officer
The Sexton (a Judge)	Female (50+) . A no-nonsense figure.
Balthasar	Female, a singer, attendant on Don Pedro. (must be a good singer) small part but must sing about 2/3 songs.
Messenger, Watch and attendants	These parts can be doubled up.

Scripts

To request a script contact the Director, Caroline McCann, by telephone on 01942 397647 / 07813 926526, or by email to caroline.pendle70@gmail.com, or ask any member of the Play Selection & Casting Committee:

Linda Donbavand	...	07798 647002	...	linda-donbavand@blueyonder.co.uk
Anne Woolley	...	07799 061558	...	akwoolley@blueyonder.co.uk
Tracey Dawson	...	07715 534716	...	traceydawson67@hotmail.com
John Naughton	...	07786 941858	...	john.naughton1@blueyonder.co.uk
Kath O'Leary	...	07863 794431	...	kathleenoleary14@hotmail.com

Please note that you will be required to become a member of Wigan Little Theatre to take part in any production, in any capacity.

THE COMPANY

Actors

WLT aims for a very high standard of production and maximum commitment is required to achieve this. Rehearsals can take place for 8 to 12 weeks prior to the performance dates, typically 3 or 4 times a week in the evenings or on Sundays. In the event of not being able to attend the audition date, you should contact the Director or a member of our Play Selection and Casting Committee (PSCC). Please be aware that only one alternative audition will be held and times will be limited due to everyone's availability. If you are interested in auditioning for a part, please contact the Director or any member of PSCC.

Bar

Members of this team should be over the age of 18. They are responsible for working behind the bar, which is open from 7.00pm until 11.00 pm during each production. Members often do one or two nights during any production. If you're interested in bar work please contact Tony on 07465 438580

Box Office

We need friendly and helpful people who have good interpersonal skills both face to face and over the phone. Experience of working with IT will be an advantage but training will be given on the box office computer and administrative systems. Box Office opening hours are 7 - 9 p.m. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Pat Hall on 01257 253197

Coffee

Coffee is sold during the interval. Most helpers arrive prior to the opening of the show on one or two separate occasions to make and serve the coffee, and once the washing up is done they are free to go! If you're interested in making and serving coffee please contact Muriel on 01942 741583

Front of House

The Front of House (FOH) team welcome the public to a show, hand them their tickets where appropriate, escort them to their seats if necessary and remain on hand until the end of the show when the FOH representative will wait until the last patron has left before locking the main doors. The usual commitment is for one or two nights during the run of a show from 7 – 10 approximately. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Tracey on 07715 534716

Lighting and Sound

The Technical Support Group is responsible for the design and operation of the lighting and sound for each production. Setting up a new show normally takes place on two or three separate evenings before the Technical Rehearsal, and then two or three members are at the Theatre each night of the production to operate the lighting and sound desks and provide any additional services required by the show. Training will be given and you won't be left to work alone until you feel completely confident. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Pat Hall on 01257 253197

Programme Sales

This job is as simple as it sounds! All you need is your smile and the ability to handle cash - and then all you have to do is wait for patrons to come to you to buy a programme! Programme sellers usually arrive at around 6.45 and stay on duty until the start of the show at 7.30 p.m. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Pat Hall on 01257 253197

Prompts

Members of the prompt team are never seen – and hopefully never heard – during the run of a production! Prompts work on a rota basis and attend rehearsals for approximately three weeks prior to the opening of the show and for one or two nights during a show, sitting in the wings with a copy of the script, ready to whisper a helpful reminder if required! If you're interested in prompting a please contact the Director of the production.

Properties

Attention to detail when setting the scene can certainly bring life to a production. This is the aim of our props team. New members are welcome to join us with maybe a view to becoming a props leader. To fulfil this we are looking for volunteers who are organised, creative and who can deal with situations in a sensible and realistic manner. Commitment to shows and their rehearsal time is necessary. Working together we can create innovative and exciting productions. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Elaine on 07772 833544

Set Building

For this any DIY or trade experience would be useful, but definitely not necessary! A lot of the work involves carrying/moving theatre flats, steps, doors etc. and holding them while they are fixed in place. We have a workshop at the side of the stage with the materials and equipment that we need. There is always someone around so you won't be asked to do any job or use any tools that you don't feel comfortable with. Generally, we build the sets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 7 until 9 p.m. All times are approximate and, of course, you can come and go at whatever time suits you within those time periods. So, if you could spare any time at all (even just the odd hour) we would appreciate it. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Brian on 07811 530293.

Set Painting

Set painters bring the set to life with their paintbrushes, whether it's a Victorian Drawing Room or a street of terraced houses! You don't have to be Monet - anybody who can use a paintbrush is welcome and the ability to climb a step ladder is also useful! Set painters work during the day, usually the week before a play opens, generally between 10 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Guidance will be provided along with frequent coffees and a lunch break – and you can stay for as long or as short as you like If you're interested please contact Christine on 07716 318886

Stage Management

The role of the stage manager is to ensure the smooth running of a performance. You will enjoy this role if you are interested in all things theatrical; tactful when dealing with directors, actors and other members of the theatre; able to remain calm under pressure; able to organise a team; be a good communicator; are mature and sensible in attitude – ideally over 18 years of age. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Pat Hall on 01257 253197

Sweet Sales

Sweets are sold prior to the start of the show and the interval, along with ice creams, during each performance. Sweet sellers are expected to be on duty from around 6.45 until after the interval, the time for which obviously varies. If you would like to help us by selling sweets please contact Muriel on 01942 741583

Wardrobe

The Wardrobe Department supplies and constructs suitable costumes for every production. In addition, the Department is responsible for cleaning, repairing and maintaining the existing costumes. Some heavy lifting can be required, however any help is a benefit to support the department. Ability to sew is a bonus. If you're interested in joining this team please contact Helen on 07852 489155

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