



MEDIA RELEASE

A LOT IS HAPPENING WITH THEATRE CALGARY'S **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

MARCH 22 - APRIL 10, 2011

For Immediate Release

MARCH 14, 2011

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March 14, 2011 – Calgary, AB... Theatre Calgary makes a long awaited return to presenting the works of William Shakespeare with a staging of his comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*. This production marks only the third time in 10 years that the work of the Bard has made it to our stage (*Romeo & Juliet* in 2001, *Macbeth* in 2005). It also is the first time that artistic director Dennis Garnhum has directed Shakespeare for a major theatre.

THE STORY

Claudio and Hero are young, in love and getting married. Beatrice and Benedick are older, single and can't stand each other. As friends and family gather for the wedding, hidden desires, jealousies and mischievous schemes threaten to keep the bride and groom from the altar. Will young love prevail, or will another romance bloom instead? One thing is certain – as long as there are men, women and passion there's always "much ado."

THE PLAY

Amongst Shakespeare's known 38 plays, there are several that are almost universally known and quoted. Ask just about anyone and they will likely be able to describe the story and recite famous lines from *Hamlet*, or *Romeo & Juliet*. However, *Much Ado About Nothing*, though perhaps not as well-known, has equal claim as one of English theatre's most influential plays, both for its continued popularity and for its influence on our popular culture. The play's title alone has become a common expression from which innumerable puns and references have emerged. So while *Much Ado* may not be the Shakespeare play most commonly taught in schools, or quoted in speeches, perhaps its lasting impression is due to a more intangible, but equally impressive quality. The ability to capture what is innately human and humorous in what we do, whom we embrace and how we love.

WHAT'S UNIQUE?

Theatre Calgary is undertaking a major investment in seven young actors on this show via our FUEL program. The FUEL program is designed to give young artists an opportunity to work in a large theatre, in a large scale production. The seven actors selected for this performance are **RIELLE BRAID** (Ensemble), **GEOFFREY BROWN** (Watch), **DEVON DUBNYK** (Watch), **BOBBI GODDARD** (Ensemble), **BROOKLYN RITCHIE** (Watch), **CARMELA SISON** (Ensemble) and **PAUL WELCH** (Conrade). Throughout the rehearsal process, these seven actors have not only been receiving training through rehearsal, but they have also been given workshops and seminars from the leaders of the Calgary and Canadian artistic community such as Dean Paul Gibson, Rebecca Northan and Vanessa Porteous. On top of that, Theatre Calgary has been incredibly fortunate to have the Stratford Festival's **IAN WATSON** join us to work as Text Coach for not only the FUEL ensemble, but the rest of the cast as well.

THE CAST

Much Ado About Nothing stars **VALERIE PLANCHE** as Beatrice and **ALLAN MORGAN** as Benedick. Also in the cast are **BRIANNA BLIZZARD** (Margaret), **SHAWNA BURNETT** (Ursula), **KEVIN COREY** (Dogberry), **TYRELL CREWS** (Claudio), **CLARICE EVANS** (Ensemble), **NICOLE FURLAN** (Girl), **STEPHEN HAIR** (Leonato), **CHRISTOPHER HUNT** (Friar Francis), **HAYSAM KADRI** (Don Pedro), **ELIZABETH KIRKLAND** (Hero), **GRANT LINNEBERG** (Antonio), **ROBERT MORRISON** (Boy), **GRAHAM PERCY** (Verges), **KARL SINE** (Don John) and **DAVID TRIMBLE** (Borachio), **TYRELL CREWS** (Claudio).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

DENNIS GARNHUM, Director | **PAM JOHNSON**, Set Design | **KELLY WOLF**, Costume Design | **GERALD KING**, Lighting Design | **JEREMY SPENCER**, Original Music | **ANITA MIOTTI**, Choreographer | **SHARI WATTLING**, Production Dramaturg | **IAN WATSON**, Text Coach | **JANE MACFARLANE**, Voice Coach | **EVAN R. KLASSEN** Stage Manager | **RUBY DAWN EUSTAQUIO** Assistant Stage Manager | **EMMA BRAGER**, Assistant Stage Manager.

Performances at Theatre Calgary run Tuesday thru Sunday with evening curtain at 7:30pm (Tues-Thurs & Sunday) and 8:00pm (Fri & Sat), weekend matinees at 2:00pm. Tickets for all performances start as low as \$25.00 and can be purchased through Theatre Calgary at 403-294-7447, or online at theatreocalgary.com. Rush tickets may be available at the box office, one half hour prior to showtimes for \$20. All performances take place in the Max Bell Theatre in the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts.

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For more information or interview requests please contact:
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TELEVISION MEDIA CALL - TUESDAY, MARCH 22 - 1:00pm

Max Bell Theatre, Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts

PRINT - photos available upon request