



Town and Country Players Theatre (Online)

presents

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

June 1st, 2020

8 PM

Directed by Jim Moore
Artistic Design by Jessica Briggs

Hosted by Roseann Enwright
Produced by Sarah LeClair

Ken Ambs (Antonio/Sexton)

A performer since high school, he was seen in *Willy Wonka* as Mr. Bucket and in T&C's productions of *The Nutcracker*. Previous T&C performances include the T&C Holiday Show, *City of Angels*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, & *Sweeney Todd*. Ken has also appeared in productions of: *1776*, *42nd Street*, *T'was the Night Before Christmas*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Music Man*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Forum & Annie*.



Gabe Blaikie (Boy/2nd Watchman/Lord)

Hello all you viewers out there! I'm Gabriel Blaikie, a sophomore at Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. In the fall I'll be transferring to Interlochen Arts Academy where I'll be studying Theater Arts. Credits include Christopher in *The Curious Incident...*, Toby in *Sweeney Todd*, Steve in *She Kills Monsters*, Francis Flute in *Midsummer*, all at Charter Arts. At Bucks County Playhouse as part of the Playhouse Summer Youth Company I performed the part of Donkey in

Shrek the Musical. I love Shakespeare and am very excited to be participating in my first Town & Country performance, albeit remotely!

Tim Blaikie (Messenger/Watchman)

Socially distanced theater is right up my alley, that is if I were any good at bowling. But enough about my athletic skills. I am thrilled to be part of this rag tag group. My previous creds include Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, RH Macy in *Miracle on 34th Street* and Drosselmeyer in the Roxey Ballet's *Nutcracker* among a bunch of other theater type things. I hope all you out there in the interweb are staying safe and healthy. Looking forward to when we can all gather at the Barn once again to enjoy and celebrate the theater we love!



Jessica Briggs (Beatrice) last performed with T&C in 2018 in the ensemble of *Bonnie & Clyde*. She has been the official photographer for T&C for the past two seasons, and is directing the musical *Young Frankenstein* for T&C. She is elated to be playing the role of Beatrice with a phenomenal cast and wonderful director. Thank you to her husband Lee, for all of his unending support and being her cheerleader in this and all things, Caity, for being the best scene partner a gal could ask for, and to Jim for trusting her with this dream role.

Bill Hoblin (Conrade)

This is Bill's 8th production at T&C and his 1st Shakespearean play! His other T&C shows include: *The Secret Garden*, *Detective Sketches*, *The Holiday Show*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Holes*, *Willy Wonka*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. This is the part in the bio where I should say nice things about my castmates but I'm the Wicked Sidekick to the Baddie and I'm not going to.



Sarah LeClair (Borachio) is performing in her third T&C production of *Much Ado* since 1998! For the first, she was forced to miss her senior prom. For the second, she was forced to miss her wedding anniversary. For this production, she was forced to abandon all human contact and remain inside her home. Every time, though, Shakespeare makes her smile. *Thank you all for supporting theater when theater needs you the most!*

Caity Logan (Benedick) has been dreaming of this day since she was a 15 year old at Shakespeare camp. She never imagined that being an essential health care worker during a pandemic would lead to the pinnacle of her acting career. In the past 10 years at T&C she has been delighted to serve in a variety of backstage capacities (in fact the last time you saw her act was in 2010's *Carousel* or the 2012 One Acts) and has fallen in love with this community theater. She thanks Jim, who has never seen her perform, for this opportunity, Jess for being the best scene partner she could ask for, and her T&C second family for all they've given her the past several years.





Jenny McNiven (Hero)

Jenny is so happy to be bringing Shakespeare to your living room with T&C's reading of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Hero is quite a different role from her last Shakespearean performance as Lady MacBeth, but she's not complaining about having a happier ending this time around. You may have seen Jenny on the T&C stage as Esmeralda in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* or the last two season's Holiday Shows. Thanks to everyone for supporting this wonderful theatre as they find new ways to connect us while keeping the arts alive.

Melissa Mongi Copestake (Don John)

has been performing with T&C for ten years. Most recently she performed as Clopin in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Ms. Teevee in *Willy Wonka* and in 2011's version of *Much Ado About Nothing* as Margaret. She's thrilled to be playing a villain from the comfort of her home, as her 11-month-old son sleeps upstairs and her husband plays a video game in the basement.



Alyssa Moore (Margaret)

is thrilled to be a part of a show where she can sit the entire time AND wear sweat pants. Some of her T&C credits include *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Inherit the Wind* (Rachel), and *A Christmas Story* (Mother). Her most challenging role has been working and entertaining her 3 year old and 1 year old during this quarantine. She will be hiding in the upstairs office during this performance, while hoping they don't barge in demanding snacks.

Jim Moore (Don Pedro)

is honored to make his internet directorial debut with this cast of all stars. Before quarantine you may recall Jim as Black Stache from *Peter and the Star Catcher* or as Rivers Philadelphia's Poker Tournament Manager. These days Jim is an entry level stay at home dad with the adorable Evelyn Claire Moore. Please enjoy Much Ado!!



John Neuman (Claudio)

A fifteen year veteran of the T&C stage, John was most recently seen on stage in 2014's *Scarlet Pimpernel*. He has more recently been appearing behind the scenes. His directing credits include *Anne of Green Gables*, *Holes*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. He is excited to be presenting *Much Ado About Nothing* in this unique format with such a dynamite cast! Much thanks to Jim for organizing this production and to his wife and son for tolerating him shouting olde English at his computer in the other room.

Kevin Palardy (Balthazar/Verges)

is so grateful to be bring the theater home to you all with this virtual production of "Much Ado"! Having already appeared in *The Complete Works (Abridged)* last season, he's now fully an authority on all things Shakespeare, of course. Nowadays Kevin can be found working for eternity from home, endlessly scrolling through the Netflix catalog, or zoning out trying to remember what human contact felt like. Thanks so much for your support and to everyone involved, break a... screen?



Joe Perignat (Dogberry)

I am totally corybantic about being assigned the part of this character. Having played the comic, the buffoon, the dolt in many T&C productions, I hope to rise to the occasion in this wonderful production. I am surrounded by an incredibly talented cast and I ask for their patience and indulgence as I wend my way through The Bard.

Mary Saile (Ursula/1st Watchman)

is pleased as punch to be returning to the (virtual) stage! She last performed in T&C's One Acts in 2017 and won a Towny award for her role of Cassie in *Rumors*. She is excited for her first foray into performing Shakespeare and is most grateful to have a script in hand and to not have to memorize all this during a quarantine.



David Swartz (Leonato)

The Governor of Messina, David "Leonato" Swartz, cordially invites you to his estate for a little Shakespeare. Fresh from a Longwood Gardens non-appearance as Sir Roderick Murgatroyd (perhaps next year Savoy), he offers a sumptuous evening's entertainment, and assures that delectable snacks and astonishing libations will be served "on-the-house" during the entire performance! Reserve your place at his princely table now.