



**McCoy Theatre
Rhodes College**

presents

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

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| Director | Harold M. Leaver |
| Set Designer | Jason McDaniel |
| Lighting Designer | Laura Canon |
| Costume Designer | Maegan Leith* |
| Technical Director | Laura Canon |
| Musical Direction/Original | |
| Music Composition | Andrew Sullivan |
| Stage Manager | Erin Cook |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Sarah Stepp |
| Production Crew | Drew Doss, Caroline Garner, Robert Herring, Dave Hurt, Bryan Kopta, Trent Lutz, Charlie Patrick |
| Costume Crew | David Jilg, Maegan Leith, Liz Watt, Rachael Graeff, Lindsey Patrick, Patricia Gray, Tamra Patterson, Shelley Stenshol, Sarah Stepp |

Special Thanks

Letha Elliott, Memphis Arts Council

*in partial fulfillment of requirements for senior project

Cast

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| Don Pedro, Prince of Aragon | John Ramsey |
| Don John, his bastard brother | Matthew Nelson |
| Claudio, a young lord of Florence | Mark Thibadeau |
| Benedick, a young lord of Padua | Daingerfield Henley |
| Leonato, Governor of Messina | Gregory K. Krosnes |
| Antonio, an old man, his brother | Russell Young |
| Balthasar, attendant on Don Pedro | Jonathan Russom |
| Borachio, follower of Don John | Bob Coleman |
| Conrade, follower of Don John | John Whitfield |
| Friar Francis | Jeremy Boyd |
| Dogberry, a constable | Dave Hurt |
| Verges, a headborough | Matt Reed |
| A Sexton | Charlie Patrick |
| Messenger/Boy | Sara Davis |
| Hero, daughter to Leonato | Elizabeth Watt |
| Beatrice, niece to Leonato | Tamra Patterson |
| Margaret, gentlewoman attending on Hero | Shelley Stenshol |
| Ursula, gentlewoman attending on Hero | Ashley Sewell |
| First Watch | William Baldwin |
| Second Watch | Robert Herring |
| Servant | Caroline Garner |

Scene: Messina

Who's Who

William Baldwin (First Watch) is a sophomore history/political science major from Dallas, TX, where he has appeared in numerous Shakespeare productions.

Jeremy Boyd (Friar Francis), a junior political science major from Memphis, has been seen in the McCoy productions of *Richard III* and *The Hypochondriac*.

Laura Canon (lighting designer, technical director) is a theatre professor and has designed the lighting for most of the McCoy productions. Recently Laura received a Memphis Theatre Award for her outstanding lighting design for *Blood Brothers*.

Bob Coleman (Borachio), a junior business/economics major from Little Rock, AR, is appearing on the McCoy stage for the first time.

Erin Cook (stage manager) is a sophomore biology major/theatre minor from Birmingham, AL, where she performed in productions such as *Crazy for You* and *The Nerd*.

Sara Davis (Messenger/Boy), an English major from Memphis, is a first-year student and is making her McCoy debut.

Caroline Garner (Servant) is a sophomore English/theatre major from Franklin, TN, and is a Fine Arts Award recipient.

Daingerfield Henley (Benedick), is a first-year English/theatre major from Richmond, VA, where he was seen in *A Doll's House*, *The Long Goodbye*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Robert Herring (Second Watch), a sophomore computer science major from Little Rock, AR, is appearing on the McCoy stage for the first time.

Dave Hurt (Dogberry) is a senior English major from Millington, TN. Dave has been on the production crew for many shows at the McCoy.

Gregory K. Krosnes (Leonato), a Rhodes alum and theatre professor, most recently performed on our stage in *The Hypochondriac* and was the director of the award-winning production of *Blood Brothers*.

Harold M. Leaver (director) is a Rhodes alum and returns as The McCoy Visiting Artist. While at Rhodes, Harold was seen in *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Another Part of the Forest*, and *Living Together*.

Maegan Leith (costume designer), a senior theatre major/art minor from Huntsville, AL, co-designed costumes for *Actor's Nightmare* and was costume designer for *Buried Child* and *Blood Brothers*. Maegan also had roles in *Love Talker* and *Uncommon Women*.

Jason McDaniel (set designer) returns to Memphis after a semester of studying theatre in England. He recently received the Memphis Theatre Award for his set design of Circuit's *Equus* and will be scenic designer for U of M's *The House of Blue Leaves*.

Matthew Nelson (Don John), a senior theatre major/English minor from Cordova, has had roles in *Pippin*, *Our Country's Good*, *Sister Mary*, *Assassins*, *Buried Child*, *Blood Brothers*, and *Extremities*, for which he received a Memphis Theatre Award.

Charlie Patrick (Sexton) is a first-year political science major from Rossville, GA, where he was seen in *The Curious Savage*, *Identity Crisis*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Tamra Patterson (Beatrice), a junior theatre/psychology major from Little Rock, AR, was seen on the McCoy stage last year in the children's production of *Play: the Verb*.

John Ramsey (Don Pedro), a sophomore business major/theatre minor from Friendswood, TX, is making his McCoy debut with this production.

Matt Reed (Verges) is a sophomore biochemistry major/theatre minor from Huntsville, AL. Matt was seen in last year's production of *Blood Brothers*.

Ashley Sewell (Ursula) is a sophomore from Russellville, AR, where she had roles in numerous productions. She is a member of the Rhodes Community Orchestra.

Shelley Stenshol (Margaret), a junior English major from Camarillo, CA, received a Memphis Theatre Award for her role in the McCoy production of *Blood Brothers*.

Mark Thibadeau (Claudio) is a sophomore physics major from Atlanta, GA, where he was seen in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Flowers for Algernon*.

Elizabeth Watt (Hero), a senior theatre/anthropology major from St. Louis, MO, has had roles in *Our Country's Good*, *Ernest in Love*, *Richard III*, *Assassins*, *The Hypochondriac*, *Extremities*, and *Fifth of July*. Liz also performed in the 1997 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

John Whitfield (Conrade) is a sophomore biology major from Murfreesboro, TN, and is interested in improv theatre.

Russell Young (Antonio), a junior English major from Little Rock, AR, was last seen on our stage in *The Hypochondriac*.

Rhodes College
The Harry B. McCoy, Jr.
Visiting Artists Program



presents

HAROLD M. LEAVER

Guest Director

Much Ado About Nothing

Opening Night
October 7, 1999

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Several friends, upon learning I was to direct *Much Ado*, excitedly asked me, "Well, what's your concept?" This question had, of course, already occurred to me, and I felt I was a bit of a party-pooper. For the theory behind a "conceptual" version of a Shakespeare play is to emphasize that play's universality, its timeliness. But, it seems to me, the timeliness of Shakespeare's work lies in its *text*, not in any context enforced upon it.

I had already entertained the idea of putting the action of the play in some Victorian setting, or even in America's wild West. But I could find no *textual* justification for any setting beyond Shakespeare's own vision. He was, after all, writing for a specific audience, for an even more specific stage, and what he knew and imagined about Italy in its High Renaissance is surely worthy of investigation. We would, I decided, put this work together in the seemingly remote context of Shakespeare himself. This would not be "traditional" Shakespeare, nor one of high concept, but simply put, a *directed* approach. After all, do we really need another Shakespeare set on a planet in the Andromeda galaxy?

Maegan Leith, the costumer, has diligently sought out artwork of the Italian Renaissance, and based her designs on what she saw. Jason McDaniel, the set designer, began looking at the properties of the Shakespearean public theatres and combined these with the architecture of Italy at the time. I researched the daily life of the Italians in the 1500's, their rules of behavior and class structure, while encouraging the actors to simply *imagine* themselves in this world. Then, along with all of my collaborators, I set out to tell the story. The result, I believe, is far from dull, but full of life and its everyday joys and pitfalls (thank you, Shakespeare!). I hope you enjoy the work as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.

I would like to dedicate the work to our teachers (you know who you are!). May we always honor your roles in our personal and artistic growth.

Harold M. Leaver

Harold M. Leaver

was the Rhodes College Department of Theatre Outstanding Graduate of 1984. While a student he performed in a number of campus productions, including *The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Norman Conquests*. Before moving back to Atlanta he also performed major roles at Theatre Memphis.



He credits his experience at the McCoy Theatre with giving him the tools to co-found Atlanta's highly successful Actor's Express, which was hailed nationally as "Atlanta's finest theatre" by the time its first season was complete. Along with his administrative duties with the Express, Harold appeared in its productions of Caryl Churchill's *Traps* and Christopher Durang's *Laughing Wild*, and directed the world premiere of *The Vision*, which was named best Atlanta premiere for the 1989-1990 season alongside Athol Fugard's *Playland*. For six years Harold was also an administrator and performer with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, while performing and directing for a number of Atlanta theatres.

In the past two years, while teaching in the Department of Drama at the University of Georgia (from which he holds a Master of Fine Arts), Harold has performed major roles in ten productions (including the title role in Bertolt Brecht's *Edward II* at Theatre Emory and Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest* for Soulstice Repertory) and directed several shows, including the world premiere of *Conspiracy Theories* at UGA, and Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, the premiere production for the first professional opera company in Athens, Georgia. For five years now he has been a Core Member of the Highlands Playhouse in North Carolina, performing sixteen major roles in that time period, including Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. This coming holiday season he will star in *The Santaland Diaries* at Atlanta's Horizon Theatre, and in the Spring of 2000 he is scheduled to be a Visiting Artist at Atlanta's Clayton University where he will teach acting and direct *The Glass Menagerie*.

The Harry B. McCoy, Jr. Visiting Artists Program

The Harry B. McCoy, Jr. Visiting Artists Program welcomes Harold Leaver. Established in 1978, the McCoy Visiting Artists Program has brought to Rhodes an impressive variety of performing artist. Among those who have shared their talent and time with Rhodes students are:

Nancy Tatum, dramatic soprano;
Agnes de Mille, dancer and choreographer;
Hakan Hagegard, baritone;
The New Shakespeare Company of San Francisco:
Pat Carroll as "Gertrude Stein;"
Siobhan McKenna, actress;
the Tokyo String Quartet;
Paul Badura-Skoda, pianist;
Alicia de Larrocha, pianist;
Gavin Cameron-Webb, theatre director;
the New York Woodwind Quintet;
Gail Niwa, pianist;
The Chicago Chamber Brass;
Zoë Caldwell as "Lillian;"
The Pooh Kaye/Eccentric Motions Modern Dance Company;
The Tallis Scholars, Renaissance choir;
Kronos Quartet;
Valli, Indian dancer;
The Chestnut Brass Company;
Kallen Esperian, soprano;
the St. Olaf Choir;
Elfin Vogel, theatre director;
Mary Jane Johnson, soprano;
Manuel Barrueco, classical guitarist;
the Beaux Arts Trio;
Marian McPartland, jazz pianist;
The Aquila Theatre Company;
The Jubal Trio;
Emmanuel Pahud, flutist;
and The Core Ensemble