

Faringdon Dramatic Society

(affiliated to NODA)

presents



*Much Ado
About Nothing*

by William Shakespeare

in the grounds of

Sudbury House Hotel, Faringdon

18th, 19th and 20th June 2003

in support of the British Heart Foundation

British Heart Foundation

Great progress has been made in the fight against heart disease. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) has been able to play an important role in advances like improved heart valve replacements, pacemakers and more effective drugs to treat angina, heart failure and high cholesterol. Research provides the key to future knowledge - this is why the BHF exists.

We are working to solve the remaining mysteries in the fight against heart disease - the UK's biggest killer. We still don't know why some people are more likely to develop heart disease than others.

Most of BHF's funds are spent on research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Money is also spent on educating and informing the public and medical profession, and on life-saving cardiac equipment. The BHF also helps heart patients to return to a full and active way of life through BHF Nurses, rehabilitation courses and heart support groups.

You can play a valuable part in the continuing fight against heart disease. The BHF receives no government funding and is supported entirely by voluntary donations. Your contribution - however large or small - will go straight to the heart of the problem.

Faringdon Dramatic Society

The Society was formed over fifty years ago, in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions. Last year *Brush up your Shakespeare*, an anthology, was performed at Buscot House, but *Much Ado* is the first full-length Shakespeare play the Society has produced. Our next production will be *Separate Tables* by Terence Rattigan, in November. New members are always welcome. Please contact our membership secretary, Debbie Lock (01367 242507).

For full details of the society please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

The Play

Much Ado dates from 1598-99 and chronologically falls roughly halfway within the cycle of Shakespeare's plays, between *Henry V* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

The action is set in Messina in Sicily. Leonato, the city's governor, welcomes Don Pedro, who is Prince of Arragon, and his followers back from the wars, and invites them to stay awhile. Don Pedro's retinue includes his brother Don John, with whom he has only recently been partially reconciled, young Count Claudio, who has distinguished himself in battle, and Benedick, a confirmed bachelor who has visited Messina on previous occasions.

Leonato has a niece Beatrice, who, like Benedick, is determined not to marry. They are old sparring partners and resume their witty verbal duels. Claudio, meanwhile, has fallen in love with Leonato's daughter, Hero. Don Pedro offers to woo her on Claudio's behalf, and a wedding is soon arranged.

Don John, in a spiteful attack on Claudio and his brother, is inveigled by a henchman, Borachio, into a plot to tarnish Hero's reputation. The local watch overhear Borachio and Conrade discussing the plot and arrest them. The news does not come to light in time to prevent Claudio denouncing Hero at their wedding, however. She faints, and Friar Francis, who was to have married them, suggests that it be put out that she has died, in the hope that Claudio will repent. Beatrice urges Benedick to challenge Claudio to a duel to avenge the insult to her cousin.

Earlier, the friends of Beatrice and Benedick had played tricks on them to make them believe each was in love with the other. As a result, they have softened in their attitudes towards one another. Believing Hero to be dead, a repentant Claudio agrees to marry Leonato's 'niece', who turns out, of course, to be Hero herself. The play closes with the prospect of a double wedding – between Claudio and Hero, and Beatrice and Benedick.

There will be an interval of twenty minutes when the raffle will be drawn and drinks can be obtained from the Hotel bar.

Cast (*in order of appearance*)

LEONATO, Governor of Messina	Dave Headey
MESSENGER	Wayne Jones
HERO, Leonato's daughter	Annabel Holdsworth
BEATRICE, Leonato's niece	Rachel Coward
DON PEDRO, Prince of Arragon	Simon Wisbey
CLAUDIO, companion of Don Pedro	Adrian Wells
BENEDICK, companion of Don Pedro	Gary Thompson
BALTHASAR, a singer	Allyn Richardson
DON JOHN, Don Pedro's brother	Cleve Forty
ANTONIO, Leonato's brother	David Field
CONRADE, follower of Don John	Roger Leitch
BORACHIO, follower of Don John	Peter Webster
MARGARET, attendant on Hero	Mary Mountford-Lister
URSULA, attendant on Hero	Sarah Couzens
FIRST BOY	Elliot Coard
DOGBERRY, Constable in charge of the watch	Denis Peach
VERGES, Dogberry's deputy	David Campbell
FIRST WATCHMAN	Debbie Lock
SECOND WATCHMAN	Sarah Varnom
THIRD WATCHMAN	Jeni Summerfield
FRIAR FRANCIS	Nick Tyndall
SEXTON	Claire Stehle
SECOND AND THIRD BOYS	James Campbell
	Callum Coard
LORDS, LADIES, ATTENDANTS	Joan Lee
	Natasha Price
	Claire Stehle
	Carolyn Taylor
	John Taylor
	Kathryn Whiffen

Directed by **John Taylor**

Music by **Downwind**, a local group which plays early music on crumhorns, pipe & tabor, cornamuse and recorders.

Dances arranged by **Carolyn Taylor**

Production Team

Assistant Director	Debbie Lock
Stage Manager	Nick Coard
Set Designer	Jo Webster
Set Construction	Tim Evans, Nick Coard, Andrew Logan, Jim & Carole Tappenden, Peter & Jo Webster
Costumes designed by	Jeni Summerfield
Masks	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Mary Mountford-Lister
Properties	Alan Taylor
Prompt	Angela Stone
Lighting	Ian Chandler
Sound	Gary Bates
Publicity	Cleve Forty, Gary Bates, Rachel Coward
Poster Design	Adrian Wells
Programme	Dave Headey, Pat Evans
Front of House	Denise Monk, Ann Taylor

Costumes created by Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield and members of the wardrobe team.

Music for Balthasar's songs composed by Allyn Richardson

Acknowledgements

The Society would like to thank the following for their assistance:

- British Heart Foundation (Jim Brown, Joy Blake, Peter Hunt)
- Andrew Ibbotson and Sudbury House Hotel
- Faringdon United Church for rehearsal venue
- Tetronics Ltd for storage
- White Horse Country Wear for box office
- Tourist Information Office for window display

Principal Players

David Field (Antonio)

Although David has been involved in past productions with the Cotswold Arcadians, this is his first with Faringdon Dramatic Society. He was once Promotions Manager with Bang & Olufsen, where he devised and presented concerts in major venues throughout the UK.



Allyn Richardson (Balthasar)

Allyn joined FDS three years ago and has played an Ugly Sister in **Cinderella**, Cheever in **The Crucible**, Demetrius and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in **Brush Up Your Shakespeare**. He co-directed **Cabaret** last year and is also a member of Wantage Stage Musical Company and Abingdon Operatic Society.

Rachel Coward (Beatrice)

"Happy front or backstage, I've been fortunate enough to have been involved (in some capacity) in every production since arriving in Faringdon in September 2000: from 'Little Nell' to the wicked 'Sybil', 'Pantomime Fool' to 'Beatrice': What Fun!"



Gary Thompson (Benedick)

Gary joined FDS five years ago and made his debut as a soldier home from the war in **Lark Rise**. He carved a niche in pantomime as Buttons in **Cinderella** and most recently appeared as a sinister rabbit-eating weasel in **The Wind in the Willows**.

Peter Webster (Borachio)

Although he is seen on stage from time to time, Peter is more likely to be found with a paintbrush or screwdriver behind the scenes. Or with a pen - he is the author of six pantomimes, all of which have been produced by FDS.



Adrian Wells (Claudio)

Adrian's involvement with FDS has been dominated by singing roles in productions as diverse as **Peter Panto**, **Lark Rise** and **Oh What a Lovely War**. His personal highlight was taking the part of John Proctor in the award-winning production of **The Crucible**.

Denis Peach (Dogberry)

Denis has been involved in over 30 theatrical productions and has been a member of FDS for 2 years. He was Petruchio in **Brush Up Your Shakespeare** and Danforth in **The Crucible**. He also co-directed the society's recent production of **Cabaret**.



Cleve Forty (Don John)

Playing the malign Don John in *Much Ado* is Cleve's fourth role with FDS and one he's looking forward to enormously. Previous Shakespeare outings have included Claudio and Lorenzo in last year's **Brush up your Shakespeare**, and a rather dodgy kilt-wearing **Macbeth** in a spoof of the same name.



Simon Wisbey (Don Pedro)

Simon has been with FDS for about ten years and has taken part in many productions. His performance as Eddie in **Blood Brothers** was a particular triumph. Simon's appearance as an inebriated scoutmaster in **Gosforth's Fete** continues to be remarked upon by many!

Nick Tyndall (Friar Francis)

This is his first appearance with FDS - Nick may be more familiar in Faringdon Market Place on Boxing Day as one of the cast of the traditional Mummers play staged by the Icknield Morris Men.



Annabel Holdsworth (Hero)

"I'm 14 and I've always wanted to act. At Buckland School I enjoyed being in **Oliver**, **My Fair Lady** and **The Sound of Music** but unfortunately I am not the best of singers! Now I have extra drama lessons and intend to go to Drama College. This is my first production with FDS."

Dave Headey (Leonato)

Dave's first Shakespearean role came at the age of 17 when he was made up with false grey beard and hair for Old Gobbo in a school production of **The Merchant of Venice**. Forty years on (25 of them with FDS) he plays an old man once more but now grows his own makeup.



Mary Mountford-Lister (Margaret)

Mary's first appearance with FDS was the bossy queen in **Cinderella**. "Captain of the Upper IV" in **Daisy Pulls it Off** and last summer she concluded **Brush up your Shakespeare** with a romantic excerpt from **The Merchant of Venice**.

David Campbell (Verges)

David Campbell has been with FDS now for 8 years. During that time has played in **Lark Rise**, **Habeas Corpus**, and most recently in **Brush Up Your Shakespeare**. He has also provided technical support for many productions and is most at home behind a lighting or mixing desk.



Sarah Couzens (Ursula)

Sarah's debut with FDS was as Daisy Meredith in **Daisy Pulls It Off** back in November 2001. In her student days her one claim to fame was her chorus role in a professional production of the **New Pirates of Penzance** at Exeter's Northcot Theatre along with appearances in other G and S student productions.

Haine & Smith

OPTICIANS



Quality eyecare

complemented by a wide range of
spectacles and contact lenses

7 Cornmarket, Faringdon
01367 242262

www.haineandsmith.co.uk

S.G. BOWLER (Builders) Ltd

Established 1920

Building Contractors
Painters & Decorators
Carpenters & Joiners

13a London Street • Faringdon • Tel: 01367 240140

DAVIS D.I.Y. Ltd

Kitchenware and Curtain Tracks
Tools, Locks, Screws & Nails
Electrical, Gardening & Plumbing
Calor Gas, Paraffin, Keys Cut
Timber, Paint, Sand & Cement

13-17 London Street • Faringdon
Tel: 01367 240140