

# *Much Ado* **about nothing**

## **Rehearsal Notes 1 – dated 09 Jan 98**

### **SM**

1. Possible table and one garden canvas chair.
2. Dogberry and Verges and 1<sup>st</sup> Watch may require truncheons.

### **LX**

3. Act 1 to be in the garden.

### **Sound/Music**

### **Wardrobe**

4. Rehearsal skirts for women requested asap.
5. Parasols for Ursula, Beatrice and Hero requested. (We have sticks in rehearsal at the moment).

### **General**

6. Play to be set around end of 19<sup>th</sup> century, in and around a country house in the south of England.
7. General feel is pre-suffragette but Oscar Wilde wit permissible

Mike Draper

### Distribution:-

Declan Donnellan, Nick Ormerod, Dan Jemmet, Jane Gibson, Paddy Cunneen, Angie Burns, Judith Greenwood, Barbara Matthews, Simon Sturgess, Anthony Alderson, Prompt Copy

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## Rehearsal Notes 2 – dated 13 Jan 98

### SM

1. Tea set required for Act 1 garden party. Tea-pot, milk jug, sugar bowl, strainer, spoons, tray, a dozen small cups and saucers.
2. There may be sandwiches at the garden party.
3. Page 13, ducat for Don John to give to Borachio

### LX

4. The ball is likely to take place off SL with side light from SL

### Sound/Music

### Wardrobe

5. Mr Beazley will play a waiter in Act II masked dance.

### General

### Text Changes

6. Bottom page 5, Cut  
*Leonato Please it your grace lead on?*  
*Don Pedro Your hand, Leonato; we will go together.*  
*Exeunt all except Benedick and Claudio*
7. Top page 7, Don Pedro's first line, cut  
*...that you followed not to Leonato's.*
8. Bottom page 8, Don Pedro's last speech, cut  
*From ...repair to Leonato's... to ...made great preparation.*
9. Top page 9, cut all down to Benedick's second speech which now reads:  
*Benedick Examine your conscience; and so I leave you.*
10. Page 11, Ursula's second speech, cut  
*... walking in a thick pleached alley in mine orchard...*
11. Page 13, Borachio's first speech, cut  
*I came yonder from a great supper*
12. Page 13, Borachio's fifth speech, cut  
*Being entertained for a perfumer, as I was smoking a musty room.*
13. Page 13, Don John's last speech, cut 'both' so that last sentence now reads:  
*You are sure, and will assist me?*

Mike

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## **Rehearsal Notes 3 – dated 14 Jan 98**

### **SM**

1. Champagne corks popping may be required part way through the ball for the announcement of the engagement of Claudio and Hero.
2. Drinks will also be served by a waiter (Mr Beazley)

### **LX**

### **Sound/Music**

3. A long intro will be required for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ball dance (Gay Gordons) to enable the cast to find their partners.

### **Wardrobe**

4. Page 14, Ursula, Margaret and Beatrice are getting Hero and her ball gown ready.

### **General**

5. The whole of Act II scene 1 will be preparation for and then enacting the ball which takes place through the night. Pages 14 – 16 will take place downstage of a large banner which will then fly out for the entry of the men on page 16 when there will be a dance of four couples - Don Pedro/Hero, Balthazar/Margaret, Ursula/Leonato, Beatrice/Benedick -with the dialog taking place during the dance. The dancing will then move to SL wing but spilling onto the stage. All subsequent conversations take place on stage with the participants observing the dance occurring offstage

Mike

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