Love’s Labor’s Lost
William Shakespeare

Produced by Ronnie Bell & Directed by Basil Allen

Fri. June 5, 12 – 5:30PM
Sat. June 6, 13 – 5:30PM
Sun., June 7 & 14 – 2:00PM

FREE
Pay-what-you-will
Premium seating tickets available

Virtual- Live on social Media
tickets.ssitp.org/loves

Art by OCC Design student Michael Bleskoski

This project is made possible, in part, by a Community Arts Grant through NYSCA and administered by CNY Arts

State of the Arts
NYSCA
Omontaga County Public Libraries
CEDDES FEDERAL SAVINGS

Laundromat
The Boards of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park hope you and your family are staying safe and well at home as much as possible.

Although we have made a CNY tradition out of presenting our summer shows in the beautiful Thornden Park Amphitheatre, current conditions and restrictions make it impossible to do so for Love’s Labor’s Lost in June. So, we are presenting this show according to our usual schedule— but coming to you virtually through our Facebook Live connection and at least one other outlet TBD.

We hope to have you and our actors safely back in the Amphitheatre in August, socially distanced, temperature checked and meeting all the guidelines set out by NYS, Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse, all of whom partner with us in the presentation of our summer shows.

Please make your plans to safely attend

Much Ado About Nothing
Aug. 7-16, 2020

Cast of Richard III gets a standing ovation on opening night in June 2019
Cast in order of appearance

Ferdinand .......................................................................................................................... John Triana
Longaville ......................................................................................................................... Aaron Alexander
Dumain ............................................................................................................................. Michael King
Berowne ............................................................................................................................ Derek Powell

Derek Powell (R) was a student in our first Summer KIDS (Kids Doing Shakespeare) program in July 2006. He played Grumio in Act 4, Scene 1 of The Taming of the Shrew. It's great to have Derek back!

Photo by Joe Marino

Dull .................................................................................................................................... Christopher Best
Costard .................................................................................................................................. John Brackett
Don Adriano ......................................................................................................................... Jim Uva
Moth ..................................................................................................................................... Brionna McDonald
Jaquenetta .......................................................................................................................... Jennifer Cutter
Boyet ..................................................................................................................................... Simon Moody
Princess ............................................................................................................................... Kassandra Melendez-Ramirez
First Lord/Forester/Mercade ............................................................................................. David Forest Hitchcock
Maria ...................................................................................................................................... Elena Ricks
Katherine ............................................................................................................................. Chelsea Lembo
Rosaline ............................................................................................................................... Alyssa Otoski-Keim
Sir Nathaniel ......................................................................................................................... Tony Bersani
Holofernes ........................................................................................................................... Jason Luscier
Basil, R, appeared in last June’s production of Richard III, as the title character, and was nominated for a SALT Award for his outstanding portrayal. Many of our audience members, as we did, felt he deserved to win the award.

Rosaline, R, played by Alyssa Otoski-Keim have very definite plans for their future but the pearls are merely symbols of love... not love itself.
SSITP’s Shakespeare-In-The-Park series stretches all the way back to 2003 when we debuted with *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

*Love’s Labor’s Lost* continues this tradition except it is the first show being produced virtually.

A Princess and her retinue of ladies come to the court of a King and his lords. Four women; four men. And a play’s worth of playful wooing. Surely, it’s a story worthy of making four happy couples, right?

*Love’s Labor’s Lost* is a play of sport. The sport of love, the sport of wordplay, the sport of staying one step ahead of friendly rivals. A battle of wits. A battle of the sexes. A time to come together and engage in the excitement of loving banter.

And in that time, all those engaged in this sport can forget their troubles, duty and harsh realities of the world, just for a few moments, and feel as if the they haven’t a care in the world. Before reality inevitably returns, as it must. As it should.

We could all use a pleasant distraction sometime, if only for a short while... come on in...

*Special Thanks To:*
Mayor Ben Walsh, Julie LaFave, Britney Farmer, our new SSITP Marketing Team, Thordden Park Association, Onondaga County Public Library, Christian Zabriskie and Cara Luddy

Jim Uva (above) plays the over-the-top, comic relief character, *Don Adriano de Armado*, because the Spanish were a popular foil after the English defeated their Armada.

*The Producer, Director, and Boards of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park* regret any errors or omissions in this program.
CAST CREDITS in alpha order

Aaron Alexander (Longaville) has graced SSITP stages for almost a decade. He was seen last summer as Trinculo in August 2019’s The Tempest & played Mark Antony & Romeo for SSITP in June 2018 & 2017, in Julius Caesar and Romeo and Juliet, respectively.

Tony Bersani (Sir Nathaniel) is a perennial actor for SSITP. He appeared in our last two SCSD High School Tours as Soothsayer & Octavius in Abridged Julius Caesar & Friar Lawrence in Abridged Romeo and Juliet.

Chris Best (Dull) last played Master Page in Merry Wives for SSITP in August 2018 & has played French Ambassador in Henry V & Prostitute's Customer in Measure for Measure, both SSITP June shows.

John Brackett (Costard) last appeared as Lord Tilney in Shakespeare In Love at CNY Playhouse. Last August he made his SSITP debut as The Master in our production of The Tempest.

Jennifer Cutter (Jaquenetta) last year played The Murderer in our Richard III & Peter Simple in Merry Wives of Windsor, August 2018. Previously, she played Metellus Cimber in Julius Caesar for SSITP in June 2018.

David Forest Hitchcock (First Lord/Forester/Mercade) is a gardener and writer. His favorite role for SSITP was Adam in As You Like It. He conceived, wrote, organized & narrated Creation: A Celebration in Fall 2019.

Michael Richard King (Dumain) was last seen as Duke of Clarence in Richard III last June which he also directed. Mike played Dr. Seward in Bram Stoker’s Dracula @ CNYP in 2019 & Maxwell Smart in Get Smart at Fulton Community Theater.

Chelsea Lembo (Katherine) debuted for SSITP as Mistress Page in 2018’s Merry Wives. Her favorite recent roles were Mack Talman in Wait Until Dark, Berthe in Boeing, Boeing & Cookie Cusack in Rumors, all at CNYP.

Jason Luscier (Holofernes) played Caliban in The Tempest, Falstaff in Merry Wives, & Touchstone in As You Like It the last three summers, respectively, for SSITP. His next role is Dogberry in August’s SSITP production of Much Ado About Nothing.

Brionna McDonald (Moth) played Captain Hook in Peter and Wendy & Red Queen/Jury in Alice and Wonderland, both at Redhouse. She is making her SSITP debut.

Kassandra Melendez-Ramirez (Princess) directed Merry Wives of Windsor for SSITP in August 2018. She will be playing Margaret in Much Ado About Nothing for SSITP in August.

Simon Moody (Boyet) has been enjoying Shakespeare for forty years. Recent performances include Macbeth, Julius Caesar and Polonius. He appears next as Don Pedro in the SSITP production of Much Ado About Nothing in August.

(R) Alyssa Otoski-Keim (Rosaline) made their SSITP debut in August 2018 when they played Pistol in Merry Wives of Windsor. They were Capulet/Balthasar/Apothecary & co-fight captain in Romeo & Juliet for Redhouse in February 2020.

Derek Powell (Berowne) has recently been seen as Paris in Romeo and Juliet at RedHouse, Jervis in Daddy Long Legs at CFTA Homer & Father Dan in Banging Heads at Alternative TC. Coming up in fall he will be in Hypothetical News Magazine at the Building Company Theater.

Elena Ricks (Maria) is making her SSITP debut.

John Triana (Ferdinand), making his SSITP debut, will also be Friar Francis in Much Ado About Nothing this coming August with SSITP.

Jim Uva (Don Adriano de Armado) has played tragedy and comedy with SSITP including turns as Banquo in Macbeth and Feste the Clown in Twelfth Night. He is a well known character actor throughout CNY theatres.
Kassandra Melendez-Ramirez (Princess of France) is a multi-talented force in CNY theatre and a strong proponent of immersive theatre.

Mike King (Dumain) acted in and directed Richard III at the T.P. Amphitheatre in June 2019.

Jason Luscier (Holofernes) is an Associate Professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences at LeMoyne College.

Chelsea Lembo played Mistress Page in 2018’s Merry Wives of Windsor.
Friends of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park Form:

please print your name for our friends list

First Name____________________ Last Name __________________________
Address__________________________________________________________
Phone # __________________  E-Mail ____________________@___________

Your benefits as a friend of SSITP are:

1- Invitations to special SSITP events;
2- 50 % discount on all SSITP merchandise;
3- Preferred seating for all SSITP shows;
4- Name listed in Friends of SSITP playbill/program;
5- Opinions sought for selection of future productions;
6- Receipt of semi-annual e-mail newsletter.

Your low cost per year: $10-Bard Club; $25-Angels Club; $50-Globe Club; $100-Folio Club

Would you like to volunteer? Yes _______  No thank you _______

General Volunteer ....... _____
Production Volunteer .... _____ please circle acting, directing, designing, tech, backstage
Board member ............ _____ please specify area of interest/expertise __________________

Send your completed form and a check payable to SSITP
c/o R. Bell
517 Stinard Ave
Syracuse, NY 13207

OR email a copy of the form to ronnie@ssitp.org and donate online: https://ssitp.ticketleap.com/friends-of-ssitp/
In Navarre the King, Ferdinand, is taking an official oath to study for three years with three of his Lords: Dumain and Longaville agree, but Berowne is unsure of other conditions of the oath, such as fasting, and not consorting with a woman. However, Berowne eventually relents and signs as well. The constable Dull brings in a swain, Costard, who was caught with a wench, Jaquenetta. The Lords have a good laugh in reading a letter from a visitor of the court, Don Adriano de Armado, which explains how Costard was caught.

Elsewhere, Don Armado and his servant boy, Moth, speak of Don Armado’s love for Jaquenetta. Speak of the devil, in she comes as Dull delivers Costard into Don Armado’s custody. The two flirt and they promise to meet again.

Soon, the Princess of France arrives at the court with three of her Ladies and an attendant, Boyet. She comes to deliver a letter from her sickly father concerning a dispute of lands and money, but Maria, Katharine, and Rosaline are more interested in discussing the Lords themselves. When the Lords arrive, all four are all stricken with affection towards the several Ladies, but may not act on it, due to their oaths.

Later in the day, Don Armado sends Moth to bring Costard to him. After a prolonged diversion, Don Armado gives Costard his freedom, in return for delivering a love letter to Jaquenetta. Moments later, Berowne employs Costard to deliver his own love letter to Rosaline. Alone, Berowne wrestles with his fate to have fallen for a woman.

As the Princess and a Forester are preparing to hunt deer, Costard finds the Ladies together and delivers one of his love letters to Rosaline. But as they read it, they find it is the wrong one! They all have a good laugh at Don Armado’s composition, and Boyet attempts his own flirtations with the Ladies, ultimately coming up short.

In another part of the forest, the schoolmaster Holofernes and a curate, Sir Nathaniel, instruct Dull on the finer points of learning. Jaquenetta enters and asks them to read the love letter Costard delivered to her. But once again, it is the wrong one. They all learn of Berowne’s intentions to break his oath.

Berowne, all alone, is still coming to terms with his new-found love. He hides himself as Ferdinand enters and learns that the King is also in love with the Princess, and then he hides as well, as Longaville proclaims his love for Maria, and then again as Dumain does the same for Katharine. The four Lords all come out of hiding, one after another, and come to a happy agreement to pursue their loves, come hell or high water.

Returning from dinner, Holofernes and Sir Nathaniel discuss their feelings about Don Armado. Speak of the devil, in he comes with Costard and Moth, and informs everyone that the King wishes them all to put on a performance. Holofernes suggests a presentation of famous figures, or Worthies, and they all plan who shall play each part.

The four Ladies come together and find that each one has received gifts from their would-be lovers, who they all poke fun at. Boyet then arrives and tells them that he has learned of a secret plot: the Lords plan to arrive disguised as Russians, in an attempt to woo their Ladies. The Ladies decide to take advantage of this, and change places with each other; Katharine with the Princess, and Maria with Rosaline. The Lords arrive, disguised, and attempt to woo their lovers, but mistake them, and are thus rejected. The Ladies have a good laugh as they leave, and then take their own places as the Lords return, no longer disgusted. The Lords attempt to woo their Ladies again, but are once again outmaneuvered as the Ladies reveal their knowledge of the Lords’ plot.

Everyone then sits down to watch the presentation of Worthies, as the Lords, now in good spirits, heckle and jest at it. Their fun is cut short as Mercade arrives with news: the Princess’s father has died. She must return to France at once. The Lords now attempt once more to gain the favors of their Ladies, but winning their loves is not so easy. The Ladies ask for the Lords to wait a full year, as proof of their sincerity to love. The Princess and Rosaline also give arduous tasks to their would-be lovers for the year; the Lords agree. Will they live happily together one day? As they all part, Don Adriano speaks a poem of spring and winter.
**Love's Labor's Lost: Program Notes**

*by Ashley O'Mara, PhD candidate in English/University Fellow, Syracuse University*

*Love’s Labor’s Lost* is a play about love of language, and the language of love. Word games, rhymes, and sonnets make appearances throughout the play, but it is the poetic love letters that the play’s lovers send which cause the most consternation... and entertainment. We know Shakespeare wrote the play sometime before its 1597 performance for Queen Elizabeth, and sometime after Philip Sidney’s 1595 treatise, *The Defence of Poesy*, which the play directly engages. Sidney’s essay praises the merits of poetry that faithfully imitate reality, or “nature,” and decries poetry and drama that might mislead readers and audiences, especially plays that mix genres. Shakespeare makes use of this supposedly “unnatural” device in *Love’s Labor’s Lost*. While the play seems to march merrily toward the marriage of Navarre men and French women, the audience is denied the expected conclusion of a comedy, thus making it one of Shakespeare’s "problem plays."

With its witty wordplay and satirical references, we might think of *Love’s Labor’s Lost* as something like the *Saturday Night Live* of its time. Shakespeare plucks names from the 1590s’ world news and drops them into the play. Some of these are straightforwardly comedic: Don Adriano, a Quixote-like figure, is only as unthreateningly buffoonish as he is because England had recently defeated the Spanish Armada. Others are more complicated: Ferdinand Navarre is a clear and controversial reference to the Protestant-turned-Catholic French king, Henry Navarre. Shakespeare pokes fun at religious controversy as well in the monastic-style vows that Ferdinand’s court makes. A popular belief in post-Reformation England maintained that the vow of lifelong chastity was impossible, and it only provoked those who made the vow to break it. Although Ferdinand and the Lords pledge three years of abstinence, this belief accentuated the humor of how quickly they break their vow.

The Elizabethans couldn’t imagine celibacy, but they also believed that too much association with women made men feminine and distracted them from allegedly masculine pursuits, such as academic study. Meanwhile, the women of the play find power in being forced to camp outside, in nature, the same undomesticated upside-down world that we find in *As You Like It* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* — a land where the rules and expectations of so-called civilized society need not apply. In nature, women have the opportunity to assert dominance and refuse the objectification to which the men of the play subject them, and instead insist upon genuine companionship. Though the events of *Love’s Labor’s Lost* might be “unnatural” by Elizabethan standards, Shakespeare uses them to arguably more realistic ends.

---

*Aaron Alexander (Longaville) as Romeo in SSITP’s *Romeo and Juliet* in June 2017 in the beautiful Thornden Park Amphitheatre. Photo by Royce Burgess*

*Jennifer Cutter (Jaquenetta) as seen in June 2019's *Richard III* for SSITP as The Murderer.*
We thank our **major show sponsors** for helping us to bring **Syracuse Shakspeare-In-The-Park's Love's Labor's Lost virtually** to you this year.

Our fourteen *dynamic* sponsors whose logos appear above appreciate the efforts of **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park** and congratulate **SSITP** on their continuing commitment to bringing **FREE Shakespeare** to the **Central New York public**, its visitors, especially school-aged students and seniors.
1. Where did you hear about the show? (circle all that apply)
   - Newspaper
   - Facebook
   - syracuse.com
   - Internet
   - Post-Standard
   - ssitp.org
   - Email
   - Poster
   - Friend/Family
   - Cast Member
   - TV
   - Instagram
   - TicketLeap.com
   - Other (please specify): ________________________________

2. Please rate the show components by checking a box:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect of Show</th>
<th>Very Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>Very Satisfied</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costumes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What’s your zip code? _____ _____ _____ _____

Your comments below are always read & appreciated:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Would you like to be on our contact list for info on future shows and programs?

First Name ___________________  Last Name ___________________

Address ____________________________

Phone ( _ _ _ ) _ _ - _ _ _ OR ( _ _ _ ) _ _ - _ _ _

Email __________________________________ @ ____________________

Your response is appreciated. Please send your survey to ronnie@ssitp.org OR bell444@gmail.com