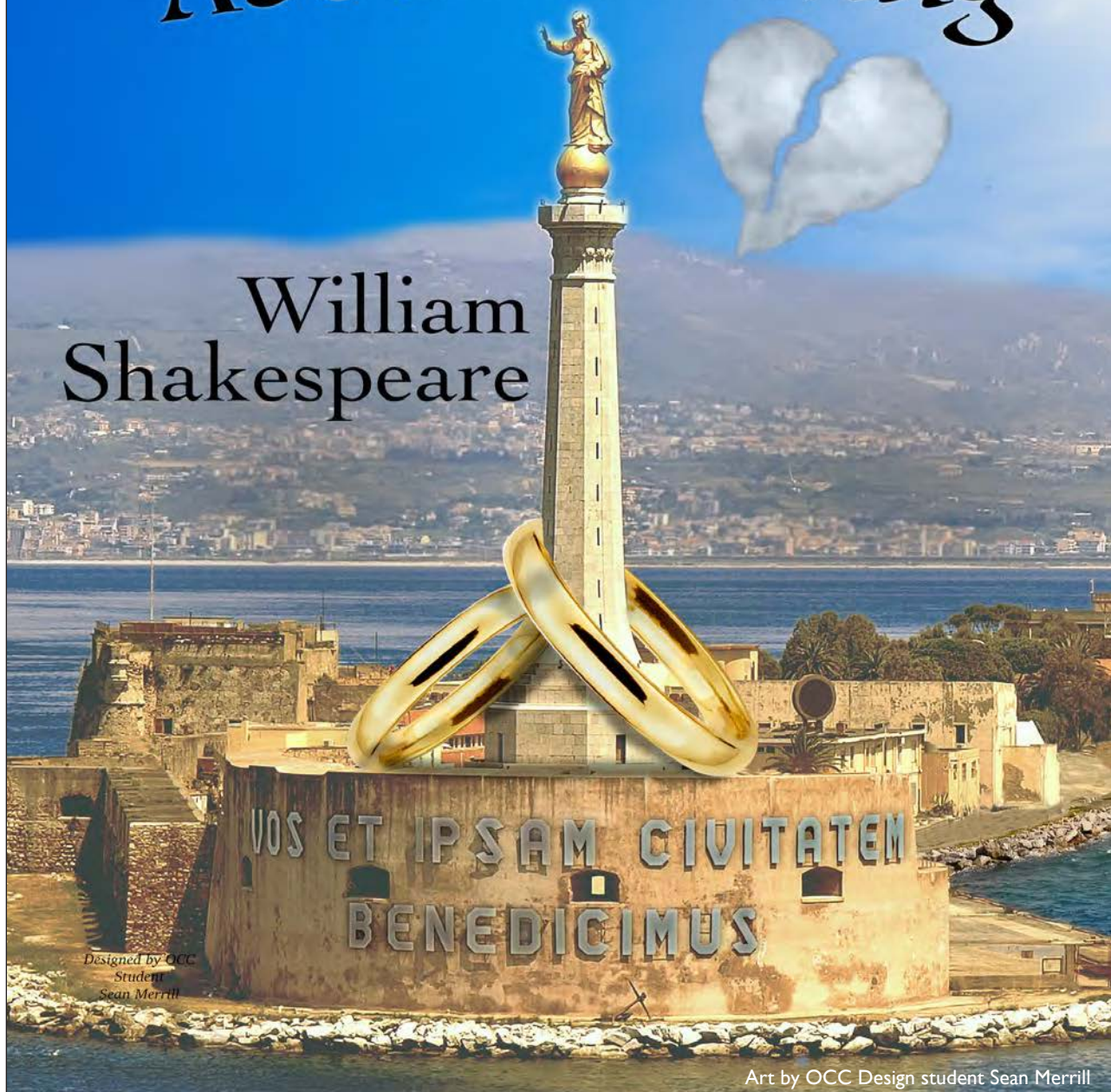


# Much Ado About Nothing

William  
Shakespeare

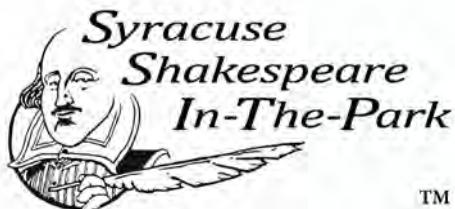


100<sup>th</sup> GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS  
FOUNDATION



Colonial  
Laundromat

Produced by Ronnie Bell & Directed by Kenneth Walling



Musical guests at pre-show and intermission  
Special appearance by **Syracuse City Ballet**

For more info:  
315-476-1835 or [ssitp.org](http://ssitp.org)  
<https://ssitp.ticketleap.com>

**Fri. August 7, 14 – 5:30PM**  
**Sat. August 8, 15 – 5:30PM**  
**Sun., August 9 & 16 – 2PM**

**Thornden Park Amphitheatre**  
Beech St. & Park Drive  
Syracuse, NY

<https://tickets.ssitp.org/much>

## Pay-What-You-Will

- **FREE** Admission and Parking
- Food for sale at the Thornden Park Bulldogs' Concession Stand

**Premium Seats- \$25**



This project is made possible, in part, by a Project Support Grant through the County of Onondaga and administered by CNY Arts.

## Board of Directors

Jane Hudson

Susan Lison

Mary Jane Monsour(*Chair*)

Ron Monsour (*Treasurer*)

Kim Palmiter

Loreen Walker

### ***Board Emeritus***

*Sarah Bradstreet*

*Kathy Fanella*

*Lorraine Morganti*

*Deb Pearson*

### **Executive Director**

**Ronnie Bell**

## Production Board

**Ronnie Bell**

**Tony Brown**

**Nancy Chapellier**

**Anne Childress**

**Caitlin Friedberg**

**Lynn Barbato King**

**Michael King**

**Simon Moody**

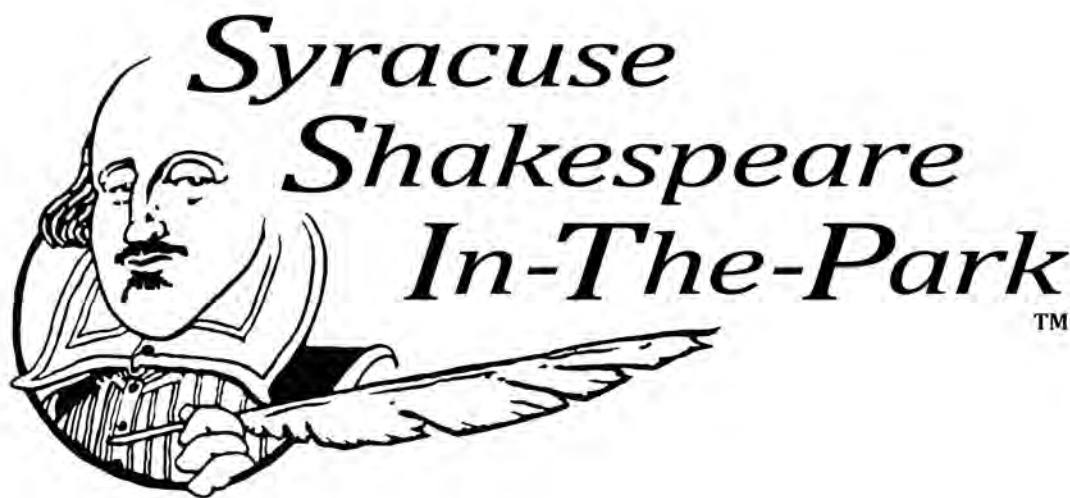
**Bob Reid**

**Jack Sherman**

**Barbara Toman**

**Ken Walling**

**Christa Wirth**



*The **Boards of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park** acknowledge and appreciate the financial support of our corporate and foundation sponsors, our government contributors, individual donors, Syracuse University and all who have become **Friends of SSITP***

# **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**

*presents*

## ***Much Ado About Nothing***

**by William Shakespeare**

*Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park is presented by the*

*Boards of SSITP with in-kind support from*

*Syracuse Parks, Recreation & Youth Services Dept.,*

*Syracuse University*

*and many other wonderful sponsors*

*acknowledged in this playbill*

**Produced by Ronnie Bell, Executive Director**

**Directed by Kenneth Walling**

**Fri/Sat Aug. 7,8,14 & 15, 2020- 5:30 pm**

**Sun Aug. 9 & 16- 2:00 pm**

**Thornden Park Amphitheatre...**

*between the Pool and the Field House*

**in beautiful Thornden Park**

*The mission of **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park** is to bring the beauty, poetry and language of **Shakespeare** to everyone in **Central New York** especially **school-aged children and seniors**. We also strive to attract visitors from outside the region to supplement and support the health of the **CNY** economy. We will achieve these goals by presenting high quality productions of **Shakespeare** plays in period costumes for our two outdoor shows in the **Thornden Park Amphitheater** in June and August each year. The public is invited to attend the shows for free and encouraged to make donations to ensure the high quality of future productions. We will achieve these goals by reaching out to **CNY school-aged students and seniors** through classes, workshops, in-school performances, field trips to **Thornden Park** and virtual programming based on current curricular needs and identified goals. We will collaborate with as many community groups and funders as possible to widen and strengthen our productions. We hope to attract future grants for senior programming.*

***We are dedicated to making Shakespeare-in-the-Park  
available as free public performances.***

*If you would like to join us in our mission,  
please fill out an **SSITP Friends** form (located on page **10** of this playbill)  
along with a \$10 + donation.*

***We are a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit, charitable, educational organization***





# Syracuse Shakespeare-in-the-Park

## 2020 Angels: Jan-June



### ***\$2,500 and above:***

Anonymous  
CNY Arts/NYSCA  
Syracuse Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs Dept. Syracuse  
University

### ***\$1,000 - \$2,499:***

Air Bell Music Recording Studio: Honoring Black Lives Matter  
CNY Arts/Onondaga County Tier 3 Project Support  
Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation  
Thornden Park Association

### ***\$500 - \$999:***

Beer Belly Deli  
Colonial Laundromat  
Gannon's Isle Ice Cream  
Geddes Federal Savings & Loan Association  
Onondaga County Public Library  
Price Chopper/Golub Corp.  
Stewart's Shops

### ***\$250 - \$499:***

Melinda/Ronnie Bell  
B & C Storage  
Loretto  
Penguin Random House  
Syracuse Teachers Assoc.

### ***\$100 - \$249***

Kimberly Amodio/Tim Welch  
Stephen Bowman  
Melanie Donovan  
Lauren Monforte  
Mary Jane/Ron Monsour  
Laura Myhr/Mark Ryan  
Barbara Toman  
Lennie Tucker

### ***\$10 to \$99***

Network for Good Barbara  
Bova  
Carl Mellor  
Bob Reid  
Ellen/Steven Weingart *in  
memory of Henry W. Allen*  
Marilyn Zaleon

### ***Special Thanks***

*to all who contributed to the  
inaugural year of the*

### ***SSITP Fund***

*established in July 2019 to raise capital  
funds for our own, indoor theatre home*

***First Year Total= \$10,748.79***

*Contributions can be made at anytime  
through the Central New York  
Community Foundation*

## Cast (in order of appearance)

<i>Leonato</i> .....	<b>Samuel Tamburo</b>
<i>Hero</i> .....	<b>Mackenzie Moran</b>
<i>Beatrice</i> .....	<b>Rebekah Tadros</b>
<i>Margaret</i> .....	<b>Diane Bostick</b>
<i>Ursula</i> .....	<b>Anne Childress</b>
<i>Don Pedro</i> .....	<b>Mark Braiman</b>
<i>Benedick</i> .....	<b>Jay Merante</b>



Our *Benedick*, **Jay Merante**, wants to tell you why he'll never get married...

<i>Don John</i> .....	<b>Jack Carr</b>
<i>Claudio</i> .....	<b>Jesse Navagh</b>
<i>Balthasar</i> .....	<b>Aaron Alexander</b>
<i>Antonio</i> .....	<b>Chris Best</b>
<i>Conrade/Friar Francis</i> .....	<b>Peter Andres</b>
<i>Borachio</i> .....	<b>Margot Reed</b>
<i>Dogberry</i> .....	<b>Jason Luscier</b>
<i>Verges</i> .....	<b>David Hitchcock</b>
<i>Watchman/Messenger</i> .....	<b>Elena Ricks</b>
<i>Second Watchman</i> .....	<b>Ben Hayes</b>
<i>Sexton</i> .....	<b>Jacob Garofalo</b>

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Sound Designer/A1 ..... Kristina Parker

Costume Designer ..... Barbara Toman

Cover Design ..... OCC Design Student Sean Merrill & Prof. Bruce Osborne

Publicity Photography ..... François James

Playbill Design ..... Richard Franin

Stage Manager/Prop Master ..... Dominic DiCaprio

Assistant Director ..... Katherine Gournier

Producer ..... Ronnie Bell

Director ..... Kenneth Walling

## SPECIAL APPEARANCES

Musician, Guitar ..... Peter Allen

*Opening Night Only English Country Dance performed by.....*

*..... Phil Eisenman, Ruth Florey, Carmen Giunta, Bob Nicholson, Gayle Ross, Nancy Skye*

Musician, Fiddle ..... Eileen Kalfass



L>R, SCB dancers  
Bridget Allen,  
Maddie Scheirer  
& Claire DeMore  
in last year's  
*Tempest*

Picture courtesy  
of Royce  
Burgess © 2019

Artistic Director ..... Kathleen Rathbun

Executive Director ..... Elizabeth Naughton

Choreographer ..... Aldo K. Santiago

SCB Dancers ..... Cara Connolly, Felipe Panamá, Claire Rathbun

Music by ..... Jules Massenet

# DIRECTOR'S VISION

*Open your heart to hear new love described.*

*Watch as the lies become beliefs in mind.*

*What is our truth but chosen thoughts imbibed?*

*And then, to hate, or move to love in kind.*

***Much Ado About Nothing***, a comedy written by William Shakespeare, is about how we are led into love or hatred based upon what we believe and how our actions flow out of those beliefs. As the characters change what they believe, their actions are directly impacted. The things we believe impact **how** we behave and **who** we show up as. If we change our thoughts, we change our attitudes and beliefs. This flows out as our speech. Our words shape who we are and our actions solidify that. *Benedick* and *Beatrice* are in a “merry feud” with each one believing the other is out to get them. They continue to throw verbal abuse at every opportunity. Once given new thoughts through the practiced art of friendly deception, their beliefs about one another are amended, their behaviors change... and move towards love.

*Don John*, too, attempts to change hearts and minds through practiced deception. However, *Don John* is working against the current of the ever-present good. One bad character can fight against the river - but the current will win out in the end. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Although undoubtedly a comedy, ***Much Ado*** also challenges the audience to go deeper. It calls us all to examine the things we believe and recognize how fragile our beliefs may be in the face of new information. Are we willing to change our minds and move towards love? Or, would we “rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in His grace”?

**Kenneth Walling**

***Much Ado About Nothing* Director**

## ***Special Thanks***

**Mayor Ben Walsh, Comm. Julie LaFave,  
County Exec. Ryan McMahon,  
Chief-of-Staff Sue Stanczyk,  
Thornden Park Association,  
NYS Dept. of Health,  
Jyvonna Chambers,  
Thornden Park Bulldogs  
and the Boards of  
Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**



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

# Cast Credits

(alphabetically)

**Aaron Alexander** (*Balthasar*) was last scene in **SSITP's** production of *Love's Labor's Lost-virtual* in June 2020 as *Longaville* and as *Trinculo* in August 2019's *The Tempest*.

**Peter Andres** (*Conrade/Friar Francis*) last appeared as *Tony Kirby* in *You Can't Take It With You* for **Theatre in the Mist**. He sang the baritone roles *Maestro Spinelloccio* & *Amantio de Nicolao* in the opera *Gianni Schicchi* for the **International YA Project**. This is Peter's debut for **SSITP**.

**Chris Best** (*Antonio*) has appeared in many **SSITP** productions including June's *Love's Labor's Lost-virtual* as *Dull*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry V* & *Measure for Measure*. He was in **CNYP's** recent production of *Shakespeare in Love* as *Mr. Fees*.

**Diane Bostick** (*Margaret*) was *Frosine* in Moliere's *The Miser* at **OCC Drama** & *Bette* in Albee's *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* at **Contemporary Theatre of Syracuse**. She was *Peaseblossom* in *AMND* at the **The Ren Faire** and is making her **SSITP** debut.

**Mark Braiman** (*Don Pedro*) played *King Alonso* in last August's *Tempest* & *Menenius* in *Coriolanus*, both for **SSITP**. He played multiple roles in *Henry V* for **SSITP** & also performs in the **Syracuse Opera Chorus**, most recently in February 2020's production of *Candide*.

**Jack Carr** (*Don John*) was last seen as *Bob Cratchit* in *A Christmas Carol* at the **Center for the Arts of Homer** and is writing a new play, *Maintenance*, with Matthew B. Steele. He has appeared in numerous productions throughout CNY and is making his debut for **SSITP**.

**Anne Childress** (*Ursula*) was last seen as *Ella* in Paul Robeson PAC's *Soul Food Junkies*. She garnered a **SALT** nomination for her directorial debut of last August's *Tempest* for **SSITP**. Among her many **SSITP** performances her last Park role was *Calpurnia* in *Julius Caesar* in June 2018.

**Jacob Garofalo** (*Sexton*) makes his debut for **SSITP** & in Shakespearean theatre. He was *A Storyteller* in *Tuck Everlasting* at **CNS High School** this year, the *Wino/Audrey 2 Puppeteer* in *Little Shop of Horrors* & *Ensemble* in *Damn Yankees* at **NSJHS** the previous two years.

**Ben Hayes** (*Second Watchman*) was last seen as *Phil* in *The Contract* & *Freddy Eynsford-Hill* in *Pygmalion* for **Niagara University Theatre**. He is making his **SSITP** debut.

**David Forest Hitchcock** (*Verges*) last appeared in three roles for **SSITP's** *Love's Labor's Lost-virtual* in June 2020. He likes to find the unique humanity in minor characters such as *First Lord*, *Forester* and *Mercado* in that show. His favorite **SSITP** role was *Adam* in *As You Like It*.

**Jason Luscier** (*Dogberry*) last appeared as *Holofernes* in **SSITP's** *Love's Labour's Lost-virtual* in June 2020. He has graced our stage and made us laugh as *Caliban* in *Tempest*, *Falstaff* in *Merry Wives of Windsor* & *Touchstone* in *As You Like It*. Professional credits include work with **Shakespeare on the Boston Common** and the **Greater Hartford Shakespeare Festival**.

**Jay Merante** (*Benedick*) was the *Sherrif* in *August: Osage County* and *Guildenstern* in *Hamlet* for **SSITP**. Other credits include *Ludie* in *Trip to Bountiful*, *Mark Powell* in *The Steadfast*, and *Gooper* in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. He is a working (and very funny) stand-up comedian.



## Cast Credits

(continued)

**Mackenzie Moran** (*Hero*) was last seen in her high school's fall production of ***Clue: On Stage*** as *Mrs. Peacock*. She is making her debut for **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**.

**Jesse Navagh** (*Claudio*) played *Sebastian* in **SSITP's *The Tempest*** last August and was *Romeo* in the **SSITP/SCSD** high school tour of ***Abridged Romeo & Juliet in 2018***. He has played numerous ghostly roles for **OHA** whenever they present their ***Ghostwalks*** around CNY.

**Margot Reed** (*Borachio*) was last seen in **SSITP** productions as *Catesby* in ***Richard III*** and *Host of the Garter Inn* in ***Merry Wives of Windsor*** in June 2019 and August 2018, respectively.

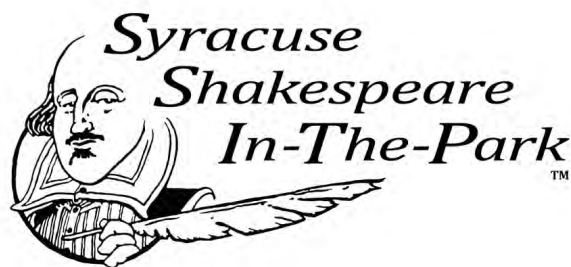
**Elena Ricks** (*Watchman/Messenger*) last played *Maria* in **SSTIP's** production of ***Love's Labor's Lost-virtual*** directed by **Basil Allen** in June 2020.

**Rebekah Tadros** (*Beatrice*), making her third appearance with **SSITP**, last played *Ariel* in ***The Tempest*** in August 2019, for which she garnered a **SALT** nomination, and *Portia* in ***Julius Caesar*** in June 2018. Recently, she wrote, produced and acted in a short film, set to release this year, entitled ***Where I've Been***.

**Samuel Tamburo** (*Leonato*) was last seen on the **SSITP** stage in August 2019 as *Gonzalo* in ***The Tempest***. Over the years he has appeared with many **CNY** theatre companies including **Salt City, CNYP, Auburn Players & Ithaca Shakespeare Festival**.



*L > R, Benedick (Jay Merante) is very surprised to hear that Beatrice (Rebekah Tadros) secretly loves him... only a little while later, Beatrice is equally surprised to hear that Benedick secretly loves her... will they eventually find each other?*



## Friends of Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park (FOSSITP) Form:

*please print your name for our friends list*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_ \_

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 (FOSSITP) playbill/program annually;
5. Opinions sought for selection of future productions;
6. Receipt of semi-annual e-mail newsletter.

### Your cost per year:

**\$10-Bard Club; \$25-Angels Club; \$50-Globe Club; \$100-Folio Club**

### How would you like to volunteer? (Please check a box to join us)

General Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Production Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ (please specify how \_\_\_\_\_)

Board member \_\_\_\_\_ (please specify your area of interest \_\_\_\_\_)

*Send your completed form and a check payable to **SSITP** to:*

SU's Cantor Warehouse  
350 W. Fayette St., Room 006  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
Attn: SSITP Friends

# SYNOPSIS: The First Half of the Show

**Prologue:** The **Syracuse City Ballet** portrays the victors' success in war before traveling to visit with the **Governor of Messina**.

**Act I, Scene 1-** We find *Leonato*, the **Governor of Messina**, outside his house, coming to meet his long-time friend, *Don Pedro*, the **Prince of Arragon**, and his men who are invited to stay as Leonato's guests. We also learn that *Benedick*, one of *Don Pedro's* men and a **Lord of Padua**, and *Beatrice*, *Leonato's* niece, both intend to forsake love forever and live out their days unwed. Meanwhile, *Claudio*, a young lord of Florence, professes to *Benedick* & *Don Pedro* his love for *Hero*, *Leonato's* daughter. *Don Pedro* plots to woo in *Claudio's* name and win *Hero's* hand for his friend.

**A1, S2-** *Leonato* hears from his brother, *Antonio*, incorrectly, that *Don Pedro* is in love with *Hero*, and intends to ask *Leonato* for her hand, if he finds *Hero* accepts his proposal.

**A1, S3-** One of *Don John's* follower, *Conrade*, prompts him to "play politics" with his brother, the Prince, but, *Don John* claims he can only be a "plain dealing villain." A second *Don John* loyalist, *Borachio*, brings accurate information of *Don Pedro's* plans to woo *Hero* for *Claudio*. *Don John* affirms he will disrupt these plans to make *Claudio* suffer.

**Act 2, Scene 1-** In a hall of *Leonato's* house, *Beatrice* affirms she will not marry while *Hero* is reminded if the **Prince** asks for her to marry, "she knows her answer." Merriment ensues in the form of music, dancing, and a bit of fun with masks worn by the men. During this time, *Beatrice*, not fooled by *Benedick's* mask, insults him thoroughly in his disguise and *Don Pedro* woos *Hero* for *Claudio*. However, *Don John* plants a seed of doubt in *Claudio's* ear so *Claudio* believes that *Don Pedro* intends to marry *Hero* himself. *Claudio* storms off only to be brought back and told the truth. Plans for *Hero* & *Claudio* to marry are made.

**A2, S2-** Having failed to disrupt the plans for *Claudio* to marry *Hero*, *Don John* & *Borachio* plot to destroy the wedding plans. *Borachio* plans to set a scene the night before the intended wedding in which *Claudio*, *Don Pedro*, and *Don John* will all seemingly witness *Hero* being untrue to *Claudio* with another man. *Hero's* gentlewoman attendant, *Margaret*, whom *Borachio* is involved with, is convinced to impersonate *Hero* in *Hero-like* clothing.

**A2, S3-** After affirming he will not marry, *Benedick* hides in the garden to eavesdrop on *Claudio's* marriage plans, but instead, he hears a purposeful disinformation campaign to convince him that *Beatrice* really loves him. Believing this to be true, *Benedick* decides to return her love.

**Act 3, Scene 1-** *Beatrice* hides in the garden to eavesdrop on *Hero* and *Ursula's* conversation but receives instead, their deceptive information that claims *Benedick* loves her. Believing this to be true, *Beatrice* decides to return *Benedick's* love as well.

**A2, S2-** *Don Pedro*, *Claudio* & *Leonato* poke fun at *Benedick* who now appears to be in love. He does not know they have deceived him. *Don John* approaches his brother and *Claudio* after *Benedick* takes *Leonato* aside. *Don John* sets the final stage for his trap by informing *Claudio* his *Hero* is untrue. He says he can prove it to them if they come with him to see for themselves.

**A3, S3-** *Dogberry*, a half-wit constable, sets his watchmen to do their work. They overhear *Borachio* brag to *Conrade* about the evil he did to win a pretty purse from his master, *Don John*. *Borachio's* drunken bragging is a solid confession of wrong-doing. The watchmen arrest *Don John* & *Conrade*.

**INTERMISSION: 15 minutes**

## SYNOPSIS: The Second Half of the Show

**A3, S4-** *Hero* prepares for her wedding. *Beatrice* gets a little ribbing from *Margaret* who knows she is in love and the deception that has led to it.

**A4, S5-** – *Leonato's* refusal to see past appearances brings on social disaster. *Dogberry* arrives to inform *Leonato* of the criminals *Borachio* and *Conrade*. But rather than do his job as **Governor of Messina**, *Leonato* puts his legal duties off to focus on the wedding... that is about to blow up in his face.

**Act 4, Scene 1-** The wedding *almost* happens. Believing the deception they saw at the window, both *Claudio* and *Don Pedro* slander the innocent *Hero* and leave her for dead at the altar. *Friar Francis* and the bridal party devise a plan to make *Claudio* believe that *Hero* is, in fact, dead. *Beatrice* asks *Benedick* to kill *Claudio*. With great reluctance, *Benedick* finally affirms he is engaged and will challenge *Claudio*.

**A4, S2-** *Conrade* and *Borachio* are questioned before the *Sexton* and the truth of *Borachio's* deceptive deeds are brought to light.

**Act 5, Scene 1** – *Leonato* and his brother, *Antonio*, are determined to get justice and nearly come to blows with *Claudio* when they meet him walking with *Don Pedro*. *Claudio* is challenged a second time when his friend, *Benedick* says they must duel at the time and place of *Claudio's* choosing. *Benedick* also lets them know that *Don John* has fled Messina. Then, *Don Pedro* and *Claudio* encounter *Dogberry*, the *Watch*, and their prisoners and learn how they were deceived into believing *Hero* was untrue. Their guilt overwhelms them. As penance, *Claudio* happily agrees, sight unseen, to help restore *Hero's* good name as well as wed *Leonato's* brother's daughter who is said to be an exact replica of *Hero*.

**A5, S2-** *Benedick* and *Beatrice* profess their love for one another – as best they can.

**A5, S3-** It turns out *Antonio's* would-be daughter is actually *Hero* in disguise. *Claudio* agrees to wed her before he knows. *Benedick* and *Beatrice*, too, with urging from their friends, commit to marry. *Don Pedro* is informed that his brother, *Don John*, has been apprehended and *Benedick* suggests they deal with his punishment tomorrow, so they can all be happy for today.



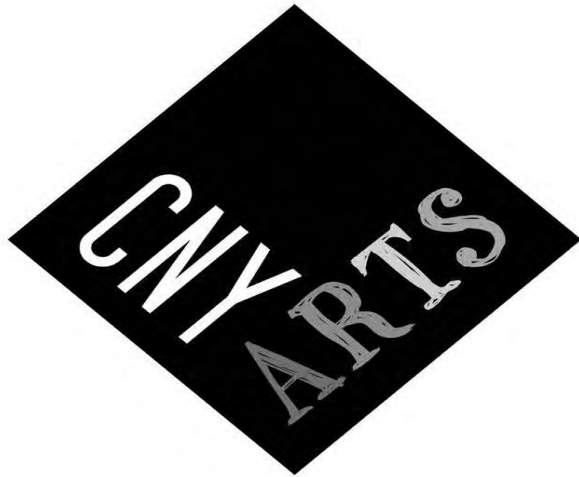
Jason Luscier, pictured above, as *Caliban* in last year's *Tempest*, does another comic turn today as *Dogberry*

Pictures are  
courtesy of  
Royce Burgess,  
© 2019



L > R, Jesse Navagh & David Hitchcock in *Tempest*, Aug.2019, play *Claudio* & *Verges* in *Much Ado...*, respectively





This project is made possible, in part, by a Project Support Grant through the County of Onondaga and administered by CNY Arts.



*is your partner in  
community service*

---

---

---

## *Trivia Challenge for Your Party*

- Q 1- What were the first two plays Shakespeare wrote? What year(s)?  
Q 2- SSITP is an acronym for \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Q 3- What year was *Much Ado* probably written?  
Q 4- What % of *Much Ado* is written in prose? (within 10%)  
Q 5- About how much shorter is *Much Ado* than *Hamlet*? (within 100 lines)

**Answers are found on page 18...**

*5 points per correct answer...highest score in your group is the Shakespeare Trivia Champion for Summer 2020!*

---



is proud to be a full sponsoring partner for the 18th season of  
Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park.

Break-a-leg to all the fabulous performers in the show! **Remember**  
**to tell your friends about the great Beer Belly Deli food**  
**you select as a premium seat audience member.**

---

## Syracuse Parks, Recreation and

**Youth Programs Dept. salutes**



## Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park

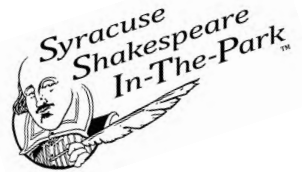
*on 18 years of presenting free*

*outdoor Shakespeare at the beautiful*

***Thornden Park Amphitheatre***

*Break-a-leg on*

***Much Ado About Nothing***



*is proud to be a supporter of*

***Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park***

***for the 2020 summer season***

***Huzzah! and Bravo! on another fantastic season of***

***great outdoor Shakespeare:***

***Love's Labor's Lost-virtual, June 2020***

***Much Ado About Nothing, August 2020***

---

## ***Much Ado About Nothing*: Background from the Dramaturg**

As its lengthy stage history attests, ***Much Ado About Nothing*** is one of Shakespeare's most admired comedies. Since it was first staged in the late 1590s, its witty language, shocking twists, and beloved characters have gone on to captivate countless audiences all over the world. King Charles I loved the play's famous couple so much that he reportedly crossed out its title and replaced it with a succinct, yet self-explanatory, "***Beatrice and Benedick***."

Although this witty couple has become synonymous with the play, they're a just portion of its *dramatis personae*, which includes the youthful *Hero*, the devious *Don John* and the blundering *Dogberry*, among others. Set in Messina, Sicily, the early scenes of ***Much Ado*** portray a post-war repose. The play opens as *Don Pedro*, the **Prince of Aragon**, and his men make their way home after achieving success in the Italian Wars. *Leonato*, the **Governor of Messina**, father of *Hero*, and uncle of *Beatrice*, invites the war heroes to enjoy an extended stay at his home. But what ensues on his grounds quickly shifts from romance and fun to a struggle for honor much akin to the strife seen on the battlefield.

At its core, ***Much Ado*** has all the trappings of a traditional Renaissance comedy: it portrays a struggle amongst lovers, navigates a few cases of mistaken identity, and ends happily by pointing to a marriage ceremony or two. But before reaching this comedic conclusion, it broaches several weighty topics, such as the dangers of deception, the complexities of gender, and the consequences of dishonor. Among these critical explorations, the play's ending underscores the most important take-away of them all: even though forces of evil and deception may sidetrack us from time to time, love always lights the way to truth.

**Morgan Taylor Shaw**, PhD candidate, English, **Syracuse University**



supports the wonderful work of **Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**  
and congratulates the cast of ***Much Ado About Nothing***  
on another outstanding *family-friendly experience...*  
*just like the one we provide at* **Price Chopper!**

**Break-a-leg!**





P.O. Box 6604, Syracuse, New York 13217

*The **Thornden Park Association** is a proud sponsor of  
**Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**  
and how they **enhance** the **cultural profile** of Thornden Park  
Bravo for  
**Much Ado About Nothing***

---

# Colonial Laundromat

*is proud to sponsor the fabulous community work of*

**Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park**  
presenting free Shakespeare  
**for 18 years**

*Congratulations to the talented cast and  
production team of **Much Ado About Nothing***

---




---

## *Trivia Challenge Answers for Your Party*

Ans #1- The first plays by Shakespeare were *Two Gentlemen of Verona* & *Taming of the Shrew* in 1590/91 (5 pts. per play & 5 pts. for the year= 15 points)

A 2- SSITP is the acronym for our name: Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park (5 pts.)

A 3- *Much Ado* was probably written in 1598 & 1599 (5 pts. for either year)

A 4- 28% of *Much Ado* is written in prose (5 pts. with 10% variance)

A 5- There are 1,400 less lines in *Much Ado* than in *Hamlet* (5 pts. with 100 lines variance)

*5 points per correct answer: Perfect score is 35*

---



*Available for your eating pleasure at the  
Thornden Park Bulldogs' Concession Stand*

*...has the best ice  
cream in CNY and  
we're proud  
supporters of the  
best outdoor  
Shakespeare in CNY  
Break-a-leg  
Much Ado-ers*



**GEDDES FEDERAL SAVINGS  
and Loan Association**

*...is the longest  
consecutive  
sponsor of  
Syracuse Shakespeare-In-  
The-Park...*

*for 18 years.*

*Come on in and see us  
for checking, savings  
and home loans*



SU's Nancy Cantor Warehouse, 350 W. Fayette St., Room 006, Syracuse, NY 13202, 315-476-1835

## SSITP celebrates Shakespeare's 456<sup>th</sup> birthday with plans for four fantastic shows for summer, Xmas and Spring '21

Syracuse Shakespeare-In-The-Park celebrates the Bard's 456<sup>th</sup> and our 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with four fabulous shows for '20/'21:

### June 5-14, 2020

Fri/Sat 5:30 pm

Sun 2 pm

Free

### ***Love's Labor's Lost-virtual***

"Shakespeare's most mannered and Elizabethan comedy with witty debates, dazzling wordplay and strongly drawn comic characters." ***Due to the COVID-19 restrictions we presented this show virtually on Zoom and livestreamed to our Facebook page.***

### August 7-16

Fri/Sat 5:30 pm Sun

2 pm

Free, temp checked,  
socially distanced,

150 ticketed seats,

50 walk-ins

### ***Much Ado About Nothing Thornden Park Amphitheatre***

"No Shakespearean lovers enjoy quarrelling more than Beatrice & Benedick." As we said when last produced 10 years ago, "Love is a battlefield," also epitomized by Hero and Claudio. One of the Bard's liveliest comedies. Presented on the main stage.

### December 11-13

***Beer Belly Deli (\$40)***

***Green 6 pm dinner/theatre*** emphasis on fun & audience participation. **SSITP Fund** fundraiser.

### ***Scrooge Meets Shakespeare's Ghosts Cantor Warehouse***

A revival of our original, musical script with an ***Fri/Sat 8 pm (\$20)***

### April 16-25, 2021

Fri/Sat 7 pm

Sun 2 pm

(\$10 to \$25)

### ***I Hate Hamlet by Paul Rudnick Community Black Box Theatre***

An L.A. actor is cast as *Hamlet* in NYC's Shakespeare-In-The-Park and lives on Central Park West. One day, he blurts out, "I hate ***Hamlet***," & is visited by the ghost of John Barrymore. Action packed farce & hilarity ensue a la ***Noises Off***. Zany situations & ridiculous characters abound.

***For tickets and more information: Contact R. Bell @ 315-476-1835, text @315-395-0691, email [ronnie@ssitp.org](mailto:ronnie@ssitp.org) OR [bell444@gmail.com](mailto:bell444@gmail.com), website: <https://ssitp.org>, OR directly to our ticketing site @ [ssitp.ticketleap.com](https://ssitp.ticketleap.com)***



Right, *Benedick* (**Jay Merante**) tries to show *Beatrice* (**Rebekah Tadros**) he loves her... but she will have none of it (**below**)



*R, above*, **Elena Ricks** is one of four cast members appearing in both **MAAN** (*Watchman/Messenger*) & **LLL** (*Maria*)



# B&C Storage

**B&C Storage** is proud to support  
**Much Ado About Nothing.**  
Break-a-leg to all the wonderful  
performers in the show!

**B&C Storage - Locally Owned & Operated**  
16 locations in the Central New York area  
**[bcselfstorage.com](http://bcselfstorage.com) • 315-469-6200**

*Beatrice (Rebekah Tadros)*  
can stand up to any man and  
is always ready for a verbal  
dueling contest...



**Anne Childress**, last year's  
**SALT** nominated director of  
*The Tempest* plays *Ursula*





*L, watch out, Beatrice (**Rebekah Tadros**) might be looking at you, kid... ready to hurl a few barbs your way...*

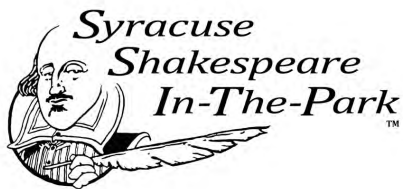


**Mark Braiman** as *Alonso* in *Tempest* for **SSITP** in August 2019



Pictures, *L* & directly above are courtesy of **Royce Burgess**, © 2019

*L, Samuel Tanburo* as *Gonzalo* in *Tempest* for last year's edition of **Shakespeare-In-The-Park**



SU's Nancy Cantor Warehouse  
350 W. Fayette St., Room 006,  
Syracuse, NY 13202,  
315-476-1835

## Audience Survey

*Circle Your Day Please*  
Fri 8/7, Sat 8/8, Sun 8/9,  
Fri 8/14, Sat 8/15 &  
Sun 8/16

### ***Much Ado About Nothing***

1. ***Where did you hear about the show? (Circle all that apply)***

Newspaper   Lawn Sign   Internet   Google Ad   Post-Standard   Text/message   Cast Member   TV  
Instagram   Facebook   Twitter   Family/Friends   Email   Poster   syracuse.com   ssitp.org   pop-up ad  
Other: (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

2. ***Please rate the following components of the show by checking the boxes below:***

<i>Aspect of Show</i>	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
Actors						
Story						
Costumes						
Music						
Direction						

3. ***What's your Zip Code?***   \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. ***Your comments are always read and appreciated:***

---

---

---

---

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

***Your response is appreciated. Please hand just this page to any volunteer.  
Stay safe and be well. We appreciate your patronage.  
Please review us on Google.***