

2019 SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

MECC LINKS TO THE CLASSROOM

MACKAY
ENTERTAINMENT
CONVENTION
CENTRE

MECC

A BUSINESS UNIT OF
MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

BELL SHAKESPEARE - MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DIRECTOR JAMES EVANS



Claudio and Hero are deeply inloved. Beatrice and Benedick would rather swap sassy insults than sweet nothings.

Much Ado About Nothing is a saucy and razor-sharp battle of wits between the bickering Beatrice and Benedick, who wield words as weapons, their banter betraying their love for each other.

Claudio however is quickly consumed by envy and his idyllic world threatens to come tumbling down as he humiliates Hero. Beatrice and Benedick must join forces to defend true love – even if they can't recognise it in themselves.

But will truth and honesty win the day, and does love really conquer all?

Directed by Bell Shakespeare's Associate Director, James Evans (*Julius Caesar*) and starring Zindzi Okenyo (*Antony and Cleopatra*, MTC's *An Ideal Husband*) as Beatrice, this *Much Ado About Nothing* will be a powerful exploration of the struggle for identity and self-knowledge in a male-dominated world. The pursuit of love is framed in a social context that enhances the darker themes in this timeless comic gem.

SHOW DETAILS

- > Term 3, week 9
- > Thursday, 12 September
- > 7.30pm
- > 2 hours 10 minutes + 20 minutes interval
- > Ages 13+

PRICES

- > Student \$22
- > Adult \$42
- > Friend \$38
- > Concession \$38
- > Group 6+ \$35 each

SUBJECT LINKS

English:

- > *Much Ado About Nothing* is part of the QCAA prescribed text list for plays and dramas.
- > Reflective response to literature.
- > The study of how literary texts draw from historical, social and cultural contexts.
- > The effect of persuasive language in spoken oratory.

Drama:

- > The study of Shakespeare.
- > Shakespeare in modern context.
- > Study of dramatic elements.

BOX OFFICE: 07 4961 9777

EXTRA LEARNING OPPORTUNITES

WORKSHOPS

Regional Access Workshops

The *Much Ado About Nothing* Regional Access Workshops (RAW) provide invaluable opportunities for students in regional areas to learn more about Shakespeare, live performance and the production they are about to see.

How do they work?

Regional Access Workshops are presented by a Bell Shakespeare Teaching Artist about a month in advance of the performance. Teachers who book tickets to see the show can access the workshops at no charge to the school.

JOHN BELL SCHOLARSHIP

The John Bell Scholarship is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students living in regional or remote areas, who are interested in a career as a performer. Three students are selected each year from across Australia to come to Sydney and spend a week with Bell Shakespeare. They will participate in acting masterclasses, be taught by John Bell, observe one week of Bell Shakespeare rehearsals, see live theatre and perform their winning monologue for Artistic Director Peter Evans and a Bell Shakespeare cast.

How do they work?

Auditions take the form of 15 minute one-on-one masterclasses with a Bell Shakespeare artist. To be eligible to audition, students must be at least 16 years of age by 31 December 2019, and still be at high school full time in 2019. Auditioning students must complete a registration form, to be handed to the Teaching Artist at their audition.

How to prepare!

Each student must perform a 1-2 minute monologue from the suggested monologue list provided by Bell Shakespeare or a monologue of their choice from any Shakespeare play. Please note, selecting from Bell Shakespeare's suggested list will not affect the success of the students' audition. The suggested list is designed to make the selection of appropriate monologues a simpler process for students. Students may perform from either list, regardless of character gender.

USEFUL LINKS

> www.bellshakespeare.com.au/much-ado-about-nothing/

> <https://www.bellshakespeare.com.au/learning/scholarships/john-bell-scholarship/>

CONTACT

For bookings or enquiries please contact:
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THIS SHOW WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**BELL
SHAKESPEARE**



Australia
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