

April 1 - 2016

## It's much ado about the Bard

Queensland Theatre Company's *Much Ado About Nothing* promises plenty about everything!

Queensland Theatre Company will mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the great William Shakespeare in true style, by staging one of his greatest comedy's ***Much Ado About Nothing*** under the direction of the acclaimed stage powerhouse **Jason Klarwein**, starring a cast of 11 outstanding actors and a company-first collaboration with the genre-busting maestro, **Gordon Hamilton**.

The world's original romantic comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing* is the spectacular tale of two pairs of very different lovers and will open on April 28 at the Playhouse Theatre. It is Klarwein's mainstage directorial debut.

Not only does the production promise romantic sparring at its Shakespearean best performed by some of the country's leading stage stars (think **Christen O'Leary**, **Tama Matheson**, **Hugh Parker**, **Bryan Proberts**), but there is more. Much, much more.

"In a lush setting under the moon and stars, a group of locals will fall in love and tear each other apart simultaneously. With a design straight out of a 5-star resort and a trip-hop groove to match, this story also stars extraordinary live acapella which will morph classical, modern, beatbox and more in a brilliant musical jigsaw, performed by three of Brisbane's best vocalists under the direction of Gordon Hamilton," said Klarwein.

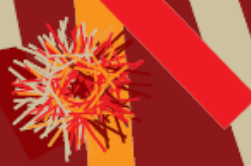
Famous for reimagining music, and composing orchestral experiences with new music leaders, Gordon Hamilton has composed music for the Shakespearean songs featured in the play and also incorporates his own version of chart topper *Heya* by **OutKast**.

"*Much Ado About Nothing* is a wonderful look at the battle of the sexes and the freedom of individuals. The common perception of the play is that it is a little comedy that is really all about nothing, but on closer inspection, this is not the case. Not at all," said Klarwein.

"*Much Ado About Nothing* is really much ado about human nature. It takes a brutal, albeit funny, look at how men treat women. On the surface of this production you will find lush tropical sunsets in which characters sip cocktails (set in a Hamilton Island-inspired location no less) and indulge in witty banter but underneath something far more profound is occurring. Emancipation and equality."

After working closely with globally acclaimed Shakespearean specialist director **Michael Attenborough** (*Hamlet*) and acting in many applauded productions, stage star **Jason Klarwein** is the perfect lens through which to deliver *Much Ado About Nothing* in this most important of years.

On stage the cast has been carefully curated – a fine mix of the talents of **Ellen Bailey** (*Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Macbeth*), **Liz Buchanan** (*Grimm Tales*), **Mark Conaghan** (*Absurd Person Singular*, *The Venetian Twins*), **Patrick Dwyer** (*La Boite's Hedonism's Second Album*), **Hayden Jones** (Shock Therapy Production's *The Pillowman*), **Christen O'Leary** (*Ladies in Black*, *Gloria*, *End of the Rainbow*), **Tama Matheson** (*The Odd Couple*, *Macbeth*), **Kathryn McIntyre** (*Ladies in Black*), **Hugh Parker** (*Black Books*, *I'm Alan Partridge*, *The Seagull*, *Brisbane*), **Bryan Proberts** (*The Odd Couple*, *Australia Day*) and **Megan Shorey** (QPDA 2014-2015 finalist - *One in Seven*). See credits for roles played.



*The Story:* For the bantering, bickering Beatrice and Benedick, love is a battlefield. Once bitten and twice shy, the sharp-witted pair are locked in a verbal fencing match with no quarter asked and none given. Is there any way their friends can open their eyes to their true feelings for each other? For the starry-eyed young couple Claudio and Hero, love is a many-splendoured thing – that's if they can take their eyes off each other long enough to avoid being deceived by bitter schemer Don John.

**Queensland Theatre Company presents *Much Ado About Nothing***

By William Shakespeare

**28 April – 15 May** at Playhouse, QPAC (Previews commence 23 April)

**Director:** Jason Klarwein

**Designer:** Richard Roberts

**Lighting Designer:** Ben Hughes

**Sound Designer:** Justin Harrison

**Composer:** Gordon Hamilton

**Cast Includes:**

Christen O'Leary as Beatrice

Hugh Parker as Benedick

Tama Matheson as Don Pedro

Ellen Bailey as Hero

Bryan Probets as Leonato

Hayden Jones as Don John

Patrick Dwyer as Claudio

Mark Conaghan as Borachio

Kathryn McIntyre as Margaret

Liz Buchanan as Dogberry

Megan Shorey as Verges

**Tickets are available at [queenslandtheatre.com.au](http://queenslandtheatre.com.au) or by calling 136 246**