

Standing
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PRESENTS

August 4-13, 2023

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE'S



MUCH
ADO
ABOUT
NOTHING

Great Red Wine

*made in Iowa
from Grapes
grown in Iowa*



Iowa In the Dark

is a dry red with light, fresh notes. First impressions are tangy acid followed by black cherry fading to plum, a dry mid-palate, and a long, pleasing finish. Made from Marquette, St. Croix, Petite Pearl, and Steuben grapes grown in Iowa, it's a versatile wine that pairs well with grilled meat and spicy foods.

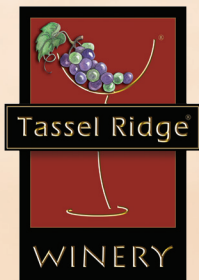
2019 Iowa Sabrevois

is a dry red with bold aromas of spices and leather on the nose followed by blackberry and plum notes with hints of baking spice, smoke, and licorice on the palate. Made from Sabrevois grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, it pairs well with grilled meat.

2020 Iowa

Reserve Marquette

is a dry red with bright cherry notes and hints of baking spice on the nose and palate followed by a long, moderately acidic finish. Made from Marquette grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, it pairs well with spicy foods.



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A Note From The Director

Right in the middle of William Shakespeare's career - after he'd toiled for years on wonderful but methodical comedies such as *The Comedy of Errors* and the *Taming of the Shrew* (written in verse, grounded in rigid Italian structure and almost devoid of song) and just before his later period of lyrical, poetic work (filled with music and pulsing with the wit of fools) such as *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night* - he performed a strange experiment. He gave the world a cracking comedy that broke all the rules, was written almost entirely in prose, and was populated by decidedly older characters. The language in this play sounds shockingly contemporary, and the characters that speak it seem to come from our own neighborhoods. This leads to it being easily adapted to different time periods. *Much Ado About Nothing* stands by itself as a unique work, not only for having one foot in each of these distinct periods of Shakespeare's writing, but for being the most accessible, warmest, and funniest comedy he ever penned. *Much Ado About Nothing* concerns a community of people starting their lives again after being torn apart by a foreign war. The war that takes place prior to curtain is presented as necessary and righteous, and I chose for our setting. Messina, NY after World War 1. While tragic and horrific, the war lives in our national memory as a moral and justified conflict. The city of Messina served as an oasis of sorts. A sulfur springs resort it was known for its peaceful treatments. But in the evening it would turn into a decadent nighttime experience. In the 1920's, where we set this version, I found great influence in both the music and political toil from this time. In particular for women's rights and the differences between the classes of society. This seemed a perfect fit for *Much Ado About Nothing*, so come join us for a tale of beauty, magic, music and celebration.

Much Ado About Nothing

Don Pedro	Sam Sides
Don John	Whit Ellsworth
Claudio	Zander Reed
Benedick	Charlie Hubbard
Hero	Maren Grant
Beatrice	Brynn Kelly
Leonato	Tim Ward
Antonia	Ruthellen Cunnally
Balthasar	Adriann Arrington
Barachio	Chance Wheeler
Margaret	Katie Ammerman
Ursula	Kaitlyn Meylor
Conrade	Katie Wollan
Dogberry	Julia Spera
Verges	Dave Binder
Friar Francis	Therese Riordan
A Sexton/Ensemble	Zack Schultz
1st Watch/Ensemble	Dakota Hogue
2nd Watch/Ensemble	Juliette A. Sasa Valle

Time: 1929

Place: Messina, New York

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Please refrain from any videotaping, photography, or other recordings of this production out of respect for the cast and crew.

Production Team

Director	Charissa Hamel
Assistant Director	Robert Hamel
Producer	Cheryl Clark
Set Design	Robert Hamel
Set Construction	Charissa Hamel, Robert Hamel, Corinn Brush, and cast
Set Painting	Charissa Hamel, Robert Hamel, Corinn Brush, Alison Buechler, and cast
Set Construction	Charissa Hamel, Robert Hamel, Corinn Brush, and cast
Light Consultant	Charissa Hamel, Matt Tuttle
Light Technician	Lisa Gould
Sound Consultant/Technician	Charissa Hamel
Costumes	Cheryl Clark
Props	Emily Higdon
Program	Lauren Mills
Photographer	John Guzman
Logo Design	Nicole Titus
Marketing	Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn, Stacie Bendixen, Lauren Mills

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Mailing Address: PO Box 122, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

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Email: information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Biographies



Sam Sides (Don Pedro) has been seen in many shows around the Des Moines area, but this is his first at ACT! Previous performances include Aaron (*First Date*, ACTORS), the wolf/Rapunzel's prince (*Into the Woods*, Tallgrass), Henry (*Next to Normal*, Carousel Theatre) and Alex (*Code Five*, Carousel Theatre), where he received the ICTA festival award of outstanding achievement by a performer in a leading role. Sam graduated from Wartburg College in 2018 with a degree in multimedia journalism and is the proud father of three (furry) children.



Whit Ellsworth (Don John) is delighted to put a lifetime of preparation into his ACT debut as the villainous prince. While Whit is most often seen giving command performances to an audience of none in his living room, he was last seen on stage as Kip in Tallgrass Theatre's *Wonder of the World*. Whit would like to express his gratitude to Scott, Rich, Kirk, and Steve for their love and support and give special thanks to Carol MacVey for inspiring his passion for Shakespeare. Whit will be thrilled to connect with you on instagram @withwhit.



Zander Reed (Claudio) hopes that you enjoy tonight's performance! Break a leg to the cast & crew!



Charlie Hubbard (Benedick) is an ACT newcomer! Charlie was involved with theater at Northwestern College; some of his favorite productions he was in there include *The Crucible*, *Endgame*, and *Noises Off*. In Charlie's spare time he enjoys reading and playing board games. Charlie is a high school math teacher in the Des Moines Public School system.



Maren Grant (Hero) is a senior at Drake University majoring in acting and English. She is a member of the education staff and the Des Moines Playhouse and frequently teaches youth theatre camps. Some of Maren's recent roles include Margaret Leavitt in *Silent Sky* and Agave in *The Bacchae*, both at Drake University. When not on stage, Maren enjoys reading, baking, crocheting, stage managing, and directing.



Brynn Kelly (Beatrice) is originally from Lawrence, KS and is a first-timer on the ACT stage but has been seen around the area in the ensemble of *Kinky Boots* and Lauren/Nicola understudy at the Playhouse, Miss Gardner in *Carrie* at Drake University, and Little Red Riding Hood in *Into The Woods* at Tallgrass. She is currently a 5th year senior at Drake University majoring in musical theatre with minors in business, writing, and theater tech/design. Brynn would like to thank your family for their love and support, and Sam Sides for running lines with her.



Tim Ward (Leonato) is a bi-vocational pastor and teacher. He has a love for theater with experience as an actor, director, and producer in high school and community theatre productions back in Illinois. Tim considers himself a pop culture enthusiast who enjoys all things 80's. He is thrilled to be making his ACT debut in his favorite Shakespeare play.



Ruthellen Cunnally (Antonia) has been seen in the metro area theater scene several times! Some of her favorite roles include Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* and Doris in *The Cemetery Club* (both ACTORS), Karen in *Plaza Suite* (ACT) and part of the ensemble in *Women Playing Hamlet* (Tallgrass). In her free time she enjoys photography, hiking, and reading. Ruthellen is retired and enjoys spending time with her husband and three grown sons.



Adriann Arrington (Balthasar) made her ACT stage debut playing Recollection Kate in *Geezers*, followed by playing Rudy in *Godspell* last summer. Adriann has also served as a stage manager for *A Piece of My Heart* and *Borrowed Beats*, and did costumes for *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*. She played Joanie in *The Full Monty* at ACTORS. Adriann loves to sing (all the time), paint, and wear what she wants because life is too short to worry about what anyone else thinks.



Chance Wheeler (Barachio) was recently seen in his ACT debut, *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong!* Another favorite credit includes *Who's Dying To Be A Millionaire?* at ICCC. Chance will return as a student to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York this fall. He says along the way of playing Borachio he's learned a little about love and hopes you enjoy the show! "Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn." - William Shakespeare.



Katie Ammerman (Margaret) is excited to be in her first production at ACT. She has done several other performances with DMACC. She is currently working on getting her bachelors degree in theatre at Iowa State University. Katie wants to thank everyone for their hard work. She hopes you enjoy the show!



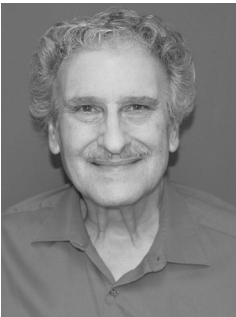
Kaitlyn Meylor (Ursula) is a recent graduate of Iowa State University with a BA in performing arts - and is bringing her talents to the ACT stage for the first time! Some of her favorite past roles include Agnes in *She Kills Monsters* and Maria in *The Sound of Music*. Kaitlyn enjoys spending time with her cat Max and girlfriend Alyssa. Kaitlyn sends out a special shoutout to her awesome and supportive dad, Mike!



Katie Wollan (Conrade) is hitting the stage again after some time off, making her ACT debut! Katie has been seen at Webster City Community Theatre as Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes*, Fairy May in *The Curious Savage*, and as an ensemble member of *Quitters*. Katie is an aspiring (but only moderately successful) cook, gardener, painter of walls, rememberer of birthdays, and writer of biographies.



Julia Spera (Dogberry) was first seen on the ACT stage as a member of the jug band in *Hankerin' Hillbillies* and more recently in *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Christine/ Inspector Carter). She attended Belhaven University where she received her BFA in Acting. Some of her favorite shows she's been in are *These Shining Lives* (Pearl), *The Illusion* (Alcandre), and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Susan). She enjoys reading, crocheting, and playing the piano. Julia and her husband live in Baxter, Iowa.



Dave Binder (Verges) previously appeared as George in ACT's production of *Godspell*. He appeared as the Narrator in DMACC Ankeny Theatre's production of *Turn of the Screw*. As part of the Los Angeles All-City Choir, he performed in the ensemble in the Greek Theatre production of *The Music Man*. He enjoys doing improvisational acting at the Des Moines Police Academy as part of cadet training. He thanks the many people who mentored and assisted him in his journey over the years. Lastly, he would like to thank you, the audience, for without you there would be no play.



Therese Riordan (Friar Francis) is excited to be in her first production at ACT. She has done several other performances with DMACC. She is currently working on getting her bachelors degree in theatre at Iowa State University. Katie wants to thank everyone for their hard work. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Zack Schultz (A Sexton/Ensemble) lives in Polk City, Iowa and is making his ACT stage debut! Zack went to school at Ankeny Centennial High School before continuing his education at DMACC. While at DMACC Zack started getting into and enjoying acting, knowing it was something he wanted to continue to pursue. Zack works at Kwik Star and enjoys playing sports.



Dakota Hogue (1st Watch/Ensemble) has never shown his face on the ACT stage until this show, but was last seen playing a prime in *Marjorie Prime* last April. Dakota has experience competing in state speech and performing in the individual monologue category. Born and raised in Queens, New York, Dakota likes to spend his free time making music, acting, modeling, working out, and playing Dark Souls. A fun fact about Dakota: he has read the Harry Potter series seven times!



Juliette A. Sasa Valle (2nd Watch/Ensemble) is an undergraduate student studying theatre and public health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has been the stage manager for *Noises Off*, and *Into the Woods*, as well as assistant stage manager for *Much Ado About Nothing*, all at UAB. Juliette would like to thank Emma Mae Mansour, Thomas McFerran, and Bailey Dumlao for her theater journey.



Charissa Hamel (Director) is a local director, actor and musician in the Des Moines area. She is happy to be returning to Ankeny after previously directing *Kiss Me Kate* and *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She just recently directed *The Wolves* for DMYAT. Other local credits include: Tallgrass *Into the Woods*, Des Moines Playhouse's *Velveteen Rabbit*, and DMYAT's *Disney Descendants*. She has been working in theater in various forms for the last 30+ years and enjoys every aspect. She spends her limited free time with her dogs and going to the movies. She wants to thank everyone for coming to this show but most especially her cast for all of their extraordinary work on this production!



Robert Hamel (Assistant Director) is a veteran of theatre. Recently retired, he is happy to be back to work doing what he loved for many years. Previously he was a professor of theater at Westmont College in Montecito, CA and Graceland University in Lamoni, IA. He has a masters in theatrical scenic design from the University of Iowa. This is his first Ankeny production, and hopefully not his last. He is a father of 3 and a grandfather of 2. Thanks to everyone who supported his decision to come back to theater design again.

2022 - 2023 Contributors

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their generous support of our organization.

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B R A V O

GREATER DES MOINES

ACT's Mission:

To provide opportunities for Central Iowa community members to present and enjoy quality live theater.

ACT's Vision:

To be a welcoming place where people of diverse backgrounds have fulfilling theatrical experiences that are a vital part of the cultural landscape and the quality of life in our community.



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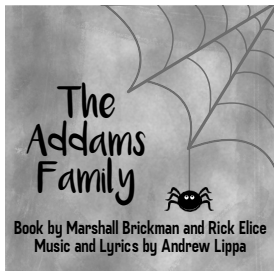
John Guzman is available for your photography needs across the Des Moines metro!

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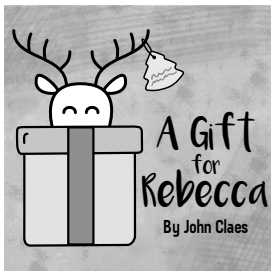


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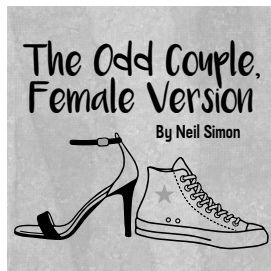
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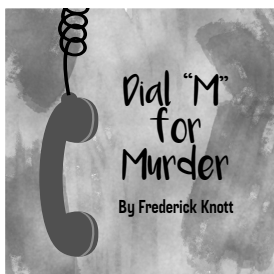
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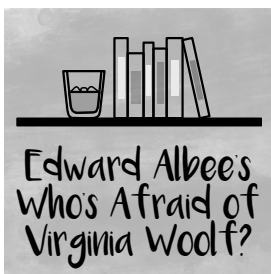
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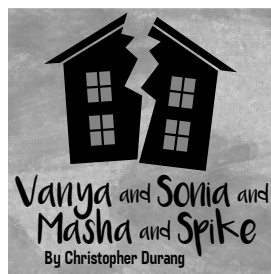
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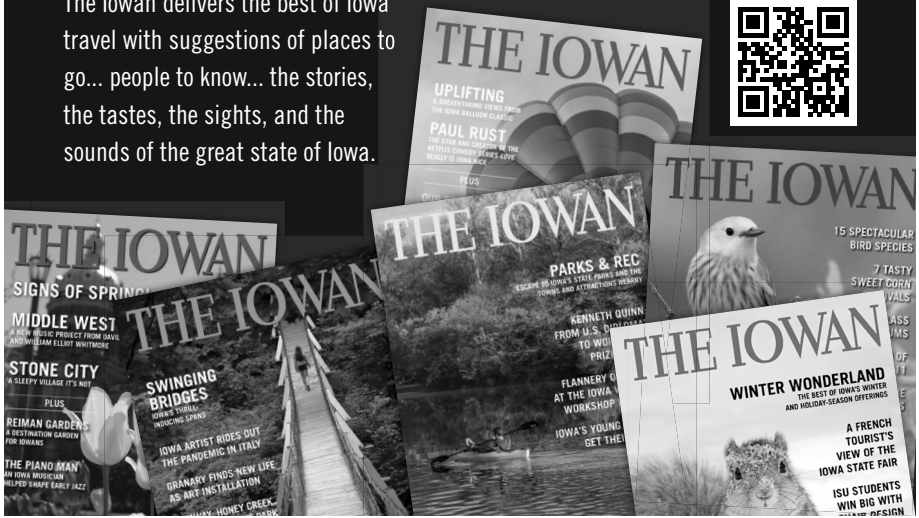
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As a child, I watched my father perform on stage playing great characters such as Atticus Finch, Ebenezer Scrooge and Captain Hook before earning roles of my own. I will always be grateful for the confidence and collaboration skills learned in the theatre and am proud that three generations of my family have been part of these special experiences.

Bankers Trust's commitment to community represents a different kind of character and is what attracted me to join the company. We help communities grow and thrive, not only through banking and lending, but also through volunteerism, employee engagement and charitable giving. It's part of the Bankers Trust Difference.

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