

Summer 1950

SCANDALO

Molto rumore per nulla

In This Issue

Benedick & Beatrice
Enemies to lovers?

Donna Joan's
Treachery

Hero is no
maiden!

Ultimate
Staycation



shakespeareintheruins.com

A Hilarious
NEW
Tragedy

THE PLAYER KING

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
Ron Pederson of MAD TV fame

STARRING
Rodrigo Beilfuss

ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED
AND PERFORMED BY
Cuinn Joseph

DESIGNED BY
Joseph Abetria



SHAKESPEARE
IN THE RUINS
SUMMER 2022
JUNE 10
- JULY 2



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Welcome to our 2022 season! Welcome to the Ruins. WELCOME BACK!

It is so exciting to be here, in your company, once again. We missed you, and we are so grateful for your support after such a long time.

I spent the last two years imagining myself writing these words, finally welcoming you back to the park, and now I find myself—as Bassanio says in *The Merchant of Venice* - bereft of all words.

This season was imagined for you. Above all, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Player King* are stories of joy, whose characters refuse to succumb to despair and instead find release and hope in laughter. And as the late Brazilian comedian Paulo Gustavo said (before Covid took him in 2021 at the age of 42), given the times we are living through: *“to laugh is an act of resistance.”*

Science, social contracts, and cooperation got us this far. But what will ultimately heal us now is Art. We wouldn't be here without the help and generosity of many, many people: supporters, patrons, donors, institutions, artists, technicians, administrators, volunteers...friends.

All, friends.

Friendship is the great hidden transmuter of all relationships: it can transform a troubled marriage, make honorable a professional rivalry, make sense of heart-break and unrequited love, and become the newly discovered ground for a mature parent-child relationship. The dynamic of friendship is almost always underestimated as a constant force in human life: a diminishing circle of friends is the first terrible diagnostic of a life in deep trouble: of overwork, of too much emphasis on a professional identity, of forgetting who will be there when our armored personalities run into the inevitable natural disasters and vulnerabilities found in even the most average existence.

— DAVID WHYTE



PHOTO: Chandravani Sathiyamurthi

If you're a returning patron, welcome back. We are so happy to see you again. Thank you for being here.

If this is your first SIR experience, welcome. We hope this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

xo
Rodrigo

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Rodrigo Beilfuss in *The Player King*, photo: Leif Norman

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Did you know you can buy a drink before the door opens or during intermission and enjoy it anywhere in the park?

Our promenade experience can now be enjoyed with a beverage from our bar!

Shakespeare in the Ruins is a not-for-profit theatre and an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), and engages under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE RUINS PRESENTS

Much Ado About Nothing

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

CAST (in alphabetical order)

SARAH CONSTIBLE
Beatrice, Musician/Singer

RITCHIE DIGGS-CLAUDIO
Sexton, Musician/Singer

MALLORY JAMES
Margaret, Dogberry, Paparazzi, Musician/Singer

TOM KEENAN
Friar Antonio, Borachio, Messenger, Paparazzi, Musician/Singer

OMAR ALEX KHAN
Don Pedro, Verges, Musician/Singer

HERA NALAM
Hero, Seacoal, Musician/Singer

SOPHIE SMITH-DOSTMOHAMED
Donna Joan, Oatcake, Paparazzi, Musician/Singer

MELANIE WHYTE
Leonata, Conrade, Musician/Singer

CORY WOJCIK
Benedick, Musician/Singer

TOBY HUGHES
Standby/Understudy: Benedick, Don Pedro, Claudio, Friar Antonio

SPENCER PAYNE
Standby/Understudy: Beatrice, Hero, Leonata, Margaret, Donna Joan

ARTISTIC

ANN HODGES Director

SOPHIE SMITH-DOSTMOHAMED Assistant Director

SHAUNA JONES Set & Props Designer, Co-Costume Designer

KSENIA BRODA-MILIAN Co-Costume Designer

TOM KEENAN Musical Arrangements & Music Director

HERA NALAM Music Composition

JOSEPH SEVILLO Choreographer

CHRISTOPHER BRAUER Text Coach

SHARON BAJER Intimacy Director

ROBERT BORGES Fight Director

PRODUCTION

STEVEN VANDE VYVERE Production Manager & Running Crew

CARI SIMPSON Technical Director & Running Crew

KATIE HOPPA Stage Manager

SAMANTHA SAGE Apprentice Stage Manager

KATIE SCHMIDT Props & Set Coordinator

KATE GEORGE Wardrobe Maintenance

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Much Ado About Things People Hear Others Say About Them

Apparently, in Shakespeare's Day, the word "nothing" was pronounced very similarly to "noting" — meaning "noticing" but also "gossip, rumour and hearsay". So, the comedy you're about to see today could be referred to as "Much Ado About Things People Hear Others Say About Them".

In 2022, we are well-acquainted with the idea of misinformation (where truth is distorted intentionally or unintentionally) and disinformation (where truth is distorted with a malicious intent). We are inundated with both, in the news, advertising, and social media. And no one can deny that these 'alternate truths' have had enormous social and political implications in recent years. One only has to look at a newspaper to see the enormous impact of various forms of misinformation and disinformation around the world — with, often, rather terrifying results.

So, it may be surprising that a playwright in 1612 used comedy (with a few brushstrokes of tragedy) to explore these ideas. Yes, Shakespeare, in *Much Ado About Nothing*, wrote a hilarious but also extremely pertinent story of the impacts of misinformation and disinformation — as funny as a practical joke on TikTok, yet as serious as the front page news.

We spend the first part of the play laughing at how fun it is when characters spread harmless misinformation by mis-hearing, misunderstanding, or purposely spinning innocuous falsehoods to play a little practical joke on a couple of friends. We enjoy seeing the 'truth' bring love to two characters who thought it may have passed them by.

But then, the play begins to shift to a darker place — becoming a story about disinformation, where misleading lies are deliberately spread with the intention to cause harm. The accuracy and seriousness with which Shakespeare explores this disinformation game, makes one wonder if he was the recipient of disparaging insinuations or half-spoken inferences spread with a malicious intent.

But ultimately, it remains a comedy — and a story of very genuine love — as the truths are finally revealed — but not before all the characters have learned an important lesson in...checking their sources...



Stefania Sandrelli. Rome, Early 60s. Agenzia Dufoto www.stenzattolo.com

We've playfully placed this exuberant comedy in a time and location when spreading scandal could mean good money for the paparazzi photographer who captures the right photo, or the reporter who insinuates just enough to create a headline. In our 'alternate Messina' (which somewhat resembles late 1950s Italy), the wealthy, well-respected widow Leonata, her single daughter, Hero and avowedly single niece Beatrice are visited by the royal Don Pedro and his contingent of high-spirited soldiers on their way home from a war that wasn't quite so weighty it dampened their joie de vivre. Add a disgruntled (and recently demoted) princess, a high-society wedding, inexperienced security guards, a few musicians, a loquacious priest and perky servant, and we have the recipe for a tabloid full of scandal, love affairs, mistakes and hijinks.

Enjoy — and thank you for supporting live theatre once again. We're thrilled to be back.

Ann Hodges

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WHO'S WHO

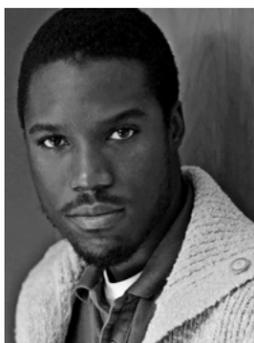
CAST



Sarah Constible
Beatrice, Musician/Singer

Sarah Constible: Don't Hesitate - Mary Oliver - If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of

fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.



Ritchie Diggs
Claudio, Sexton, Musician/Singer

Richie Diggs returns as Claudio in SIR's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Last seen in One Trunk Theatre's *Boundary Avenue* (2018), the actor took advantage of the pandemic's forced hiatus by returning to singing, and completing a degree at the University of Winnipeg. In the Winnipeg Music Festival, Diggs entered as an Operatic Baritone and

was well reviewed. Other credits in the actor's corpus include, *Trish Cooper's Social Studies* (Prairie Theatre Exchange), *Breaking Through* (Sarasvati Productions), *Opera Shorts* (Little Opera Company), *Pirates of Penzance*, (Gilbert and Sullivan Society), and a reprisal of Trish Cooper's *Social Studies* in Vancouver for which the actor was nominated for Vancouver's Jessie Richardson Award in the best actor category.



Mallory James-Margaret Dogberry, Paparazzi, Musician/Singer

Mallory James is very excited to be making her first appearance at SIR. Selected credits include: *Frozen River*, *Peter Pan* (MTYP); *Miracle on 34th Street*, *The Foreigner* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); East Van Panto: *Wizard of Oz* (Theatre Replacement); the title role in *Cinderella* (TUTS); *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *Rocky Horror Show* (Wasteland Productions). Training: Studio 58. Mallory is very grateful to all the artists and caretakers of this land that came before her and endeavors to do her part to keep the world rich in verdure for future generations of imagineers.



Tom Keenan
Musical Arrangements & Music Director, Friar Antonio, Borachio, Messenger, Paparazzi, Musician/Singer

Tom Keenan is a Winnipeg actor and singer-songwriter (as Tommy Douglas Keenan) who has performed on stage and screen across Canada. He's delighted to be back out at the Ruins, or anywhere, for

that matter. He will soon follow up his first album, *Romantic Fitness*, with another LP.



Omar Alex Khan
Don Pedro, Verges, Musician/Singer

Omar Alex Khan appears in his third show for SIR, and also, coincidentally, his third time working with director Ann Hodges. Omar first appeared for SIR in their 2007 production of *The Merchant of Venice*, in which he and SIR Artistic Director Rodrigo Beilfuss both made their professional acting debuts. Omar also appeared in the

company's production of *Richard III* in 2016. Other theatre highlights include *As You Like It* and *Titus Andronicus* (Canadian Stage), *Oslo* (Mirvish/Theatre 180), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (RMT), *Iceland* (Theatre Projects Manitoba), *The Kite Runner* (Theatre Calgary/Citadel), and a season at The Stratford Festival where he appeared in *Timon of Athens*. Omar is a born and bred Winnipegger now residing in Toronto, and holds a BA in Theatre and Film from the University of Winnipeg.



Hera Nalam
Music Composition, Hero, Seacoal, Musician/Singer

Hera Nalam was born and raised in the Philippines, and first came to Canada in the year 2011 when she was 16 years of age. In the last 10 years in Canada she has immersed herself in the local creative platforms from music, theatre, film and fashion and is making waves as a true

inter-disciplinarian and collaborative artist.

Hera attended the University of Winnipeg and acquired her Bachelor of Arts with Honours for Theatre and Film Performance in 2019. She wowed audiences with her charm when she first performed on school productions at university such as *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Concord Floral* and *Time and The Conways* (University of Winnipeg). Coming out of University, she was quick to book performances all over the city of Winnipeg. She first appeared in local theatre productions like *Timon of Athens* (Shakespeare in the Ruins) and *Torn Through Time* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People), *Romeo & Juliet* (Pocket Frock) and *QUEST* (Meraki Theatre Productions). She also successfully wrote original music for three Fringe Festival productions in 2019, namely: *The Last Garden* (Walk&Talk Theatre), *Cob Bob* (Awkward Cheese Co.), and *QUEST* (Meraki Theatre Productions).



Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed
Assistant Director, Donna Joan, Oatcake, Paparazzi, Musician/Singer

Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed is a queer, mixed-Middle Eastern theatre practitioner usually found in her sun-soaked kitchen with a cat named Bug on Treaty 1 Territory. Primarily an actor (BAH in Acting from the University of Winnipeg), Sophie is also the

Associate Artistic Director of Shakespeare in the Ruins, a co-founder of Out From Under the Rug theatre collective (currently in residence with Prairie Theatre Exchange), and writes love letters often as well as plays every once in a while. Having completed the National Mentorship Program with MTC as well as one with Creative Manitoba, Sophie has several mentors-turned-friends to thank for all that she knows.

Selected performance credits include: *Orlando*, *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (MTC), *Snail and the Whale* (MTYP) *Love's Labour's Lost* (UW).

Believing in Big Love at all costs, Sophie really just wants to keep making art with her friends forever, or until it stops being fun. She's also a Pisces. Clearly. Insta: @sophiesmithdost



Melanie Whyte
Leonata, Conrade, Musician/Singer

Melanie Whyte's last live show before the pandemic hit was *Spelling 2-5-5*, the MTYP Touring Show of 2019/20. She played Polonia in *Hamlet* and Sempronius in *Timon of Athens* for SIR and is excited to follow that up with Leonata this season. Other favourite shows include *The Light in the Piazza* for Dry Cold Productions,

Cinderella and *Mary Poppins* at Rainbow Stage, and *Fly Me To the Moon* at PTE. Melanie runs a private voice studio, teaching and coaching singers, and is a member of the Fu Fu Chi Chi Choir, which is really a band. She says "What a thrill it is to be playing Shakespeare in the Ruins on Treaty 1 land, in the weather, whatever it brings, and with all of you here to play to!"



Cory Wojcik
Benedick, Musician/Singer

Cory Wojcik appeared as Nick Bottom the Weaver in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *King Henry VIII* in Debbie Patterson's musical *Head*. Other selected theatre credits include *Strike! The Musical*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *The Producer's* (Rainbow) *Kill Me Now*, *Billy Elliot*, *A Doll's House* (RMT); *Butcher* (PTE) *Another Way Home*

(WJT) *A Man of No Importance* (Dry Cold) and two Winnipeg fringe shows he wrote and performed called *Joe Job* and *Mix Tapes from My Mom*. Selected film credits include *Champions*, *The Porter*, *Breakthrough* and *A Dog's Purpose*. Cory also performs and writes music in his band Good Show! They released their first album, *Graysville*, in June of 2021. Love to Heather and the boys!



Toby Hughes
Standby/Understudy: Benedick, Don Pedro, Claudio, Friar Antonio

Toby Hughes is an Artistic Associate with Shakespeare in the Ruins, and has appeared in seven shows with the company since it returned to the ruins in 2011. Favourite roles include Prince Hal / King Henry in *Henry IV* and *Henry V*, both Antipholuses in *The Comedy of Errors*,

and Catesby in *Richard III*. In addition to SIR, Toby has toured the province several times performing for audiences as far away as Leaf Rapids, and has travelled Canada performing with his musical improv company Outside Joke. Within city limits, Toby lives downtown with his wife and cat, and performs onstage with independent companies and every major acronym in town.



Agenzia Dufoto.
Paparazzi in vespa seguono l'auto di Soraya Roma, 1959 circa

SOURCE: www.widewalls.ch/magazine/paparazzi-photography-exhibition-vicenza



Spencer Payne

Standby/Understudy: Beatrice, Hero, Leonata, Margaret, Donna Joan

Spencer Payne is a graduate of the University of Alberta's BFA acting program. She is co-creator of clown companies *The Talentless Lumps* and, *The Red Nose Diaries*, seen at the Fringe Festival, the Playwright festival and the Canada Summer Games. She's toured

Manitoba with Prairie Theatre Exchange's *Munsch Busters*, *The Good, the Bad, and the Munsch*, and *Munschtopia*, and across Canada with Green Kids Inc. solo puppet show *Wild Wild Wilderness*. A highlight in her career was getting to produce and perform in the immersive production of *The Crackwalker*, and enjoying a pint performing with Shakespeare in the Pub. In August, she is marrying her very own Ben, and feels so supported by his love - and his daughters' love - for Shakespeare, as they joined her on this ride.

ARTISTIC



Ann Hodges Director

Ann Hodges was one of the co-founders of Shakespeare in the Ruins many years ago and is thrilled to be back in this gorgeous setting. Ann directed SIR's first four productions: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, and *Twelfth Night*. Since SIR, Ann has had a busy career directing plays, musicals and

operas on every stage in Winnipeg, and across Canada in nine provinces. She has many fond memories of the rough-and-tumble first years of the company, and is so thrilled to see the growth that SIR has undergone since then, and particularly the community connections and accessibility initiatives that are being implemented under the leadership of Rod and Sara (a bus! a bus!). When we traipsed through the snowy ruins that long-ago winter and dreamt about doing 'promenade Shakespeare' that spring, we had no idea our one-time production would result in a company still thriving so many years later. Bravo to all the artists and staff who have contributed so much to this company over the years, and to the audiences who embraced the kooky idea with us.



Shauna Jones

Set & Props Designer, Co-Costume Designer

Shauna Jones is thrilled to return to the Ruins. What a joy, she says, to collaborate and build with this group of talented, brilliant and passionate people. She would like to extend a special thanks to the best Costume Co-Designer a person could hope for: thanks, Ksenia!. Other credits include

Le conte d'hiver/ The Winter's Tale at SIR (Winnipeg, MB), *Calpurnia, The (Post) Mistress, Women of the Fur Trade, Miss Bennet and Christmas at Pemberley* at RMTTC (Winnipeg, MB) and *Lawrence and Holloman, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Good People* and *Prelude to a Kiss* at the Guild Hall (Whitehorse, YT).



Ksenia Broda-Milian Co-Costume Designer

Ksenia Broda-Milian is a set, costume, and lighting designer; educator; Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Professional; and member of the Associated Designers of Canada. She has studied with the Pratt Institute, University of Alberta (MFA), the Banff Centre, and University of Winnipeg (BAH).

Recent credits include designs for: TCM, PTE, Magnus Theatre (Thunder Bay), Rainbow Stage, Chemainus Theatre Festival, and WJT; and assisting at the Stratford Festival, Royal MTC, and RWB. Ksenia is happy to pop back into the world of costumes, and to help to build and visit the world formed by this wonderful team of creators, performers, and crew! Upcoming: World Stage Design exhibitor with Triga Collective's Eco-Design Charette, LiVE Virtual Experiment #9 with potatoCakes_digital and ADC; and spending her days working in Royal MTC's education department.



Joseph Sevillo Choreographer

Joseph Sevillo made his full show directorial debut with *Shrek Jr* for MTYP'S Musical Theatre Company. He's the founder of Rise Musical Theatre Company and the head of the Musical Theatre Department at the Shelley Shearer School of Dance. Joseph is the creator of *Ma-Buhay! A New Musical*, which will have its world

premiere at Rainbow Stage in 2024. He's an award-winning choreographer at the MB Dance Festival, Canadian National Dance Competition, Move, On The Floor and The View Dance Challenge and has created choreography for new commercial children's theatre works such as the *Backyardigans*, *Shopkins* and *Bubble Guppies* with Koba Entertainment. He has over 30 professional theatre credits as a stage performer and is a proud member of the Canadian Actors Equity Association for 21 years.



Christopher Brauer

Text Coach

Christopher Brauer is delighted to be coaching again after what's felt like 100 years of solitude. He is inexpressibly grateful to be back with the wonderful generous artists and craftspeople of Shakespeare in the Ruins. For Shakespeare in the Ruins he has text-coached *The Merchant of Venice*, *Taming of the Shrew*,

Henry IV, *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, and *Timon of Athens*, and has directed *Richard III* and *Othello*. Upcoming he will be directing *The Three Musketeers* at RMTTC. Christopher is an Associate Professor at the University of Winnipeg where he is Chair of the Department of Theatre and Film. And, of course, this and everything is for the wonderful Erin and Oliver.

PRODUCTION



Steven Vande Vyvere Production Manager & Running Crew

Steven Vande Vyvere is overjoyed to be back at the Ruins for another year, and happy to welcome back a live audience. *Much Ado about Nothing* marks his 19th production with the company since 2012, and this is sure to be one for the books. When not working on shows in the beauty of Trappist Monastery Park Reserve,

Steven can be found in the Carpentry Shop at Prairie Theatre Exchange. Steven would like to acknowledge the constant support of his wife, Robin, and the spark that SIR has ignited in his daughter, Charlotte who committed much of Hamlet's most famous soliloquy to memory before her 10th birthday. This past year, Charlotte has begun her formal acting education, and Steven dreams of the day when they will work on the same project together.



Agnezia Dufoto.
Sophia Loren
all'aeroporto di Ciampino
di ritorno dagli Stati Uniti,
14 novembre 1961.

SOURCE: www.widewalls.ch/magazine/paparazzi-photography-exhibition-vicenza



Cari Simpson

Technical Director & Running Crew

Cari Simpson is so glad to be back with SIR for yet another production, and even gladder that you, a live audience, is back to join us! When not at the Ruins with SIR, Cari is Head of Lights and Sound at Prairie Theatre Exchange, and a Venue Technician for the Fringe Festival. She spends her spare time reading, playing board games,

and hanging out with her cats, Nyota and Jasper. Cari hopes the snow is melted by the time you read this, and that you enjoy the show!



Katie Hoppa Stage Manager

Katie Hoppa is a Winnipeg based stage manager and alumna of the University of Winnipeg's theatre production program. Last seen serving as Assistant Stage Manager for *MTYP's Midwinter Mosey* - another outdoor promenade show this past December - she is thrilled to be returning to the Ruins' for her fourth season as the

Stage Manager for *Much Ado about Nothing*. Additional Stage Management credits include: *The Paper Bag Princess* (PTE), *Timon of Athens*, *Hamlet*, *Stripped Down Romeo and Juliet*, (SIR) *Macbeth Muet* (SIR & La Fille du Laitier) *Intimate Apparel*, *After Jerusalem*, *Bar Mitzvah Boy* (WJT) and *Cinderella* (Rainbow Stage).



Samantha Sage Apprentice Stage Manager

Samantha Sage is making her debut at the Ruins as the apprentice stage manager and is very excited and proud to be a part of such an amazing team. As a University of Winnipeg graduate of 2019, she began her professional career stage managing for *La Liste* (Théâtre Cercle Molière 2020) and continued with *Plé* (MTYP, 2021) and *Inédit*

(Théâtre Cercle Molière, 2021).

"I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to work on such an amazing show with even more amazing people. I would like to thank all my university professors, my parents and my partner Jeremy for all their support. Break a leg!"

THANKS TO ALL

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We apologize for any errors or omissions in our program.



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This prize is valued at \$2000



The draw will take place on July 2nd, 2022 during the intermission of *Much Ado About Nothing* at Trappist Monastery Provincial Heritage Park. Winner does not have to be present at the draw. Cottage rental excludes Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day weekends and must be booked by July 15th.



Buy your ticket
in the tent at intermission

More info:
shakespeareintheruins.com/2022raffle

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