

Dacha Theatre
presents



MUCH ADO about
Nothing

Directed By ↙
Nick O'Leary ↘

Dec 11th and Dec 15th-19th

In-person at ↘
Base: Experimental Arts+Space
and live-streamed



Much Ado About Nothing

Directed by Nick O'Leary
By William Shakespeare
Additional text by Nansi Dwendi

Dacha Theatre is a Seattle-based theatre company specializing in devised, playful, and immersive work, and founded in 2016. A "dacha" is a Russian cottage, a retreat and a time apart, a place for family where the generations mingle. We tell stories full of movement, laughter, and audience interaction. Our shows and events are always ticketed on a sliding scale with a pay-what-you-can option, to eliminate any financial barrier to seeing our shows.

Dacha is thrilled to return to Shakespeare for the first time in two years with **Much Ado About Nothing**, set behind the scenes of a scrappy TV studio. We're delighted to invite a limited "studio audience" to join us at the venue each night—where we'll be live streaming the show for "viewers like you" at home! In this production of **Much Ado About Nothing**, the streets of Messina look very much like your favorite public access TV station. You'll find quarreling lovers in front of the camera, scheming villains in the control booth, and inept heads of security trying to warm up the crowd. Enjoy a rollicking good time as you listen to the house band, settle into your seats, and get ready for hijinks on set as we cue "audience applause" for **Much Ado About Nothing!**

CAST

Antonio — Kristina Roy*
Beatrice — Emily Huntingford^
Benedick — Casey Bowen^
Borachio — Ella Ruth Francis
Claudio — Samuel Edgren
Dogberry — Sara Jo Geiger
Don John — Ben Swenson-Klatt

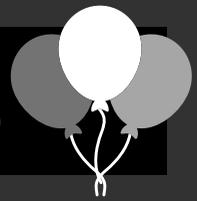
Don Pedro — Benjamin Symons*
Hero — Beth Pollack^
Leonato — Michelle Conklin
Margaret — Stephanie Roman
Verges — Mimi Santos* / Olivia Kridle^
DJ / Balthazar — Nansi Dwendi

Nick O'Leary* – Director

Nick (he/him) is a New York based director, theatermaker and game designer. A Dacha company member, Nick has directed 4 previous shows with the company including :robot_face: and Pride and PrejuDICE. He has developed new work with companies like Guerilla Opera, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and The Museum of the Moving Image. Nick is also a board game player, a craft beer drinker, and an obsessive podcast listener.

More at: www.nickoleary.com

CREATIVE/PRODUCTION TEAM



Directed by: Nick O'Leary*
Stage Manager: Nathan Olson
Associate Director: Donovan Olsen*
Scenic and Props Designer: Devin Petersen
Cinematography Designer: Mike Lion^
Sound Designer: Jerik Fernandez*
Projections / Graphics Designer: Evelyn Robertson Symons*
Costume Designer: Briana Schwartz
Lighting Designer / Master Electrician: Ryan Long*
D.J. / Sound Operator: Nansi Dwendi
Props Assistant: Olivia Kridle^
Sound Consultant: Kyle Levien*
Text Coach & Intimacy Director: Kate Drummond^
Production Manager: Claire Stark^

Assistant Stage Manager / House Manager: Haley Thomas^
Camera Operators: Emma Cady* and Patrick Hogan*
Projections Operator: Kevin Tanner*
Electrician: Bailey Ellis^
Carpenter: Konstantin Lazarov*
Stitchers: Beth Pollack^, Orianna O'Neill^, Olivia Kridle^, Alex Kronz*,
Minki Bai*, August Luna*



CAST AND CREW BIOS

Nathan Olson - Stage Manager

Nathan (he/him) is excited to be a part of his first show with Dacha as Stage Manager! On those rare occasions where he is able to sneak away from the theater, he enjoys audio books and a warm cup of coffee or tea.

Donovan Olsen* - Associate Director

Donovan (they/them) is a director, writer, costume designer, and believer in accessible, community-oriented theatre. In their non-theatre life, they enjoy baking, watching sunsets, and keeping up with their chaotic cat, Starling.

Devin Petersen - Scenic/Props Designer

Local: WET, Annex, On-the-Boards, SMT, The 5th Ave, Broadway Bound Children's Theatre & Whitman College. Upcoming: Intiman's The Mystery of Irma Vep & The Little Mermaid at BBCT. BA: Whitman. MFA: NYU Tisch.
devinpetersen.com

Mike Lion^ - Cinematography Designer

Mike (he/him) is a director, actor, translator, and clown. He is the Co-Artistic Director and co-founder of Dacha Theatre, and the program associate at Youth Theatre Northwest.



CAST AND CREW BIOS



Emily Huntingford[^] - Beatrice

Emily (she/her) is an actor and producer throughout Seattle and loves classical works and new means of storytelling. When not working on theatre she enjoys chocolate, board games, and yelling at old episodes of Survivor.

Casey Bowen[^] - Benedick

Casey (he/him) is a theatre artist and an associate producer with Dacha Theatre. He enjoys collaborative storytelling, ill-advised art projects, and automating spreadsheets. This is Casey's first appearance on television.

Samuel Edgren - Claudio

Samuel (he/him) is a dog-petter, tea-drinker, and hyphen-fancier who makes his living as an actor and carpenter. He loves rain, poetry, strawberries, and long walks on the beach. Please tell your dog he says "hi."

Beth Pollack[^] - Hero

Beth (she/her) is a Seattle-based actor, teaching artist, and arts administrator. You may have seen or heard her work with Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-It, or a variety of Dacha shows since 2017. More at beth-pollack.com.

Michelle Lynn Conklin - Leonato

Michelle (she/her) is a theatre maker based in Seattle and is thrilled to be performing live again with Dacha. When not creating theatrical mischief, oh who are we kidding she is always creating theatrical mischief!

Stephanie Roman - Margaret

Stephanie (they/them) is an actor, singer and occasional salsa dancer. When not spreading the hot gossip as Margaret, they enjoy watching "Friends," and caring for their large collection of plants.

Kristina Roy* - Antonio

Kristina (she/her) has been a long-time lover of Shakespeare since taking on the Nurse (R&J) in 1st grade. She was also with Dacha in Ghost Party and Sorry I Missed You. Kristina enjoys baking for loved ones and meeting people's pets.

Ella Ruth Francis - Borachio

Ella Ruth (she/her) is an actor, singer and dog connoisseur originally from San Francisco. She is thrilled to make her Dacha debut with this incredible group of humans. See more at ellaruthfrancis.com. YHT the takeover is now.

Ben Swenson-Klatt - Don John

Ben (they/them) is an actor, dancer, singer, choreographer and works full time in the arts supporting Seattle Rep and Washington Ensemble Theatre. They are thrilled to be back for their second show with Dacha!

Benjamin Symons* - Don Pedro

Benjamin (he/him) is an Actor, Sound Designer, and IT professional. He loves board games, reading books, and playing the guitar poorly. He'd like to thank his wife for going along with all the nonsense.

SaraJo Geiger - Dogberry

Sara Jo (she/they) is a Seattle-based actor, singer, improviser, and writer. You might have seen her in Jet City Improv's "Wretched Events". Sara is thrilled to make her debut with Dacha Theater, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Mimi Santos* - Verges

Mimi (she/her) is an educator, an actor and an avid reader who loves learning new things! If you ever want to talk about anything Shakespeare, Mimi would love to chat!

Nansi Dwendi - DJ / Balthazar

Nansi Dwendi (he/him) is a director, actor, and poet interested in truth as told from the margins. He is a member of the Young Hot Thespian theatre collective. He frequently publishes his poetry at reflectivesight.substack.com.

* denotes company member

[^] denotes producing board member



CAST AND CREW BIOS



Jerik Fernandez* - Sound Designer

Jerik (he/him) is an actor, DJ, and Twitch streamer. He was last seen in Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet with Seattle Shakespeare. He is part of the Young Hot Thespian (YHT) collective.

Evelyn Robertson Symons* - Projections/Graphics Designer

Evelyn (she/her) is an artist, illustrator, graphic designer, and multimedia jack-of-all-trades. When she isn't creating illustrations of retro TVs, she loves knitting and curling up with a good book.

Ryan Long* - Lighting Designer / Master Electrician

Ryan (they/them) is a playwright, dramaturg, and jack-of-all-trades theatremaker. You can find them researching Shakespeare, purchasing absurd mugs, or perched on an A-frame ladder communing with the ghosts.

Briana Schwartz - Costume Designer

Briana (she/her) is a costumer, milliner, book lover, and accountant. She hopes you enjoy the cheery and colorful chaos of Much Ado!

Olivia Kridle^ - Props Assistant / Verges Swing

This is Olivia (she/they)'s first time props assisting & second time acting with Dacha; she's thrilled to be part of her first Shakespeare show. Olivia is an actor, writer, director, pal, music/movie enthusiast, & just happy to be here!

Kyle Levien* - Assistant Sound Designer

Kyle (he/him) is a composer, sound designer, and musician. He is thrilled as always to be working with Dacha again. Off-camera he enjoys tabletop games and forming new habits.

Kate Drummond^ - Text Coach / Intimacy Director

Kate (she/her) is a director, intimacy director, and co-Artistic Director of Dacha Theatre. She is a member of Pacific Northwest Theatrical Intimacy, and is passionate about good jokes, consent-based rehearsal rooms, and pep talks.

Claire Stark^ - Production Manager

Claire (she/her) is a Production Manager and AEA Stage Manager who has recently worked with Santa Cruz Shakespeare, 5th Ave, SCT, Indiana Rep, and Dacha. She loves coffee, Shakespeare, and a well organized tech schedule.

Haley Thomas^ - Assistant Stage Manager

Haley (she/her) is a floral buyer, stage manager, and coffee enthusiast! When she's away from the studio she is exploring the PNW with her partner Adam and their dog Dahlia and buying more plants.

Emma Gady* - Camera Operator

Emma (they/he) is an actor, dancer, clown, contemporary circus artist, and multimedia creator. He delights in creativity that is seriously fun, rebelliously playful, and wide open. To see a sample of their work, visit emmacady.com

Patrick Hogan* - Camera Operator

With Dacha, Patrick (he/him) has been on stage in Dears in Headlights, :robot-face:, Ghost Party and more. Now, Patrick explores territory behind the scenes as a camera operator, moving in space with minimum waste and maximum joy.

Kevin Tanner* - Projections Operator

Kevin (he/him) is a company member with Dacha and performer all around Seattle. This is Kevin's technical debut. Kevin enjoys hitting the spacebar.



Special Thanks



Base: Experimental Arts Space
 Russian Community Center
 Phinney Neighborhood Association
 Polish Home Association
 Billings Middle School
 Theater Puget Sound
 Richard Schaefer
 Laura Brakus
 Paulina Phung
 Shann Thomas
 Georgette Semroc
 Julia Sloane
 David Proscia
 Laine Rettmer
 Aaron C. Thomas
 An-Lin Dauber

Broadway Bound Children's Theatre,
 Helsa Petersen & Kim Kreidler
 Youth Theatre Northwest
 Patrick Robertson
 Adam LaPine
 Royce Morrison
 Mike Drippé
 Danielle Mohlman
 Audrey Herold
 AnnaClaire Laush
 Steph Couturier
 Valerie Ryan Miller
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Showrunners	Susan Murie	Anonymous	
Bob Drummond & Lori Miller	Christie Olsen	Network Pages	Thank you!
Adrian Padilla	Phillip Winsor	Sam Levatich	
Louise Huntingford	Djamilia Nazyrova	Christine Lange	
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