



Eric Sadler (Borachio) is a native Bay Area actor who has worked at various theaters including Marin Shakespeare Company, Ross Valley Players and Masquers Playhouse. He is excited to be working at the Curtain Theater for the first time, and he was so happy that he thought it was necessary for him to go on an Italian vacation before the performances in order to better “study” his character, as well as eat as much pasta as he could with his relatives.

Vicki Siegel (Ursula/Sexton) is the playwright of *A Hot Day in Ephesus*, based on Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, Curtain Theatre's 2009 production most recently revived at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. She has been a Curtain Theater member since 2002 and has appeared as the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*; Mistress Quickly in last year's *Merry Wives of Windsor* and Trinculo in the *Tempest*. Other roles are Miss Prism in *Importance of Being Earnest* for 16th St. Players in San Francisco and coming up Lady Boyle in Tracy Letts' *Superior Doughnuts* at Custom Made Theater. It's great to be working with this wonderful cast and crew once again

David Vega (Don Pedro) who is very pleased to be making his Curtain Theatre debut, worked most recently at the Custom Made Theatre Company, where he appeared earlier this season as Theo Maske in Steve Martin's adaptation of *The Underpants*, and as Vealtnic Husz in Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*. David grew up in Monterey, where he appeared in several shows at Monterey Peninsula College, most notably as The Peach (Ty Cobb) in *Cobb*, and spent his summers performing and directing stage combat for Grove-mont Theatre (now Pacific Rep). A commercial videographer turned transactional attorney, David holds a B.A. in Cinema from SFSU and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Michael Walraven (Verges) is pleased to be performing Shakespeare in this perfect setting with a great company of actors. He has performed throughout Marin including *Guys and Dolls* (Mt. Play), *Little Shop of Horrors* (NTC) and *Urinetown* (NTC); most recently in a drama with Paul Abbot, *A Case Of Libel* (NTC). Thanks to Michele and Diane. Special thanks to Steve for the sword play and the choreography.

A NOTE ON THE THEATRE: The Curtain Theatre company was founded by a small group of community members and theatre artists to perform As You Like It as part of Mill Valley's Centennial celebration in 2000. Since then it has mounted thirteen free Shakespeare productions on Old Mill Park's stage. The company is named after one of London's first public theatres. Built near the Curtain Close in Shoreditch, it was described in Shakespeare's Henry V as the “wooden O.” The Curtain was home to Shakespeare's company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, until they constructed the Globe in 1599. Like our own Curtain, the 1577 original featured an open-air stage and conspicuous absence of curtains.



Curtain Theatre

Summer 2012

Much Ado About Nothing

By William Shakespeare

Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.

August 18-19, 25-26,

Sept. 1-2-3, 8-9

2:00 PM

Old Mill Park, Mill Valley



PART ONE (1 hour, 10 mins) Once upon a time in sunny Messina...



Don Pedro, Spanish prince of Sicily, returns victorious from suppressing a rebellion led by his villainous brother, Don John. The wicked Don John and his confederates, Carmen and Borachio, mask their resentment and appear “reconciled” with the prince. Don Pedro’s soldiers are in high spirits on their way to visit old friends and sweethearts at the country estate of Leonato, governor of Messina.

Awaiting news of the battle, we meet Leonato’s household. They include the friar Antonio, his daughter Hero, lively niece Beatrice, and several servants including the housekeeper Ursula, the saucy Margaret and young Nell. During the household’s happy reunion with Don Pedro’s men we learn of “the right noble” Claudio’s love for Hero, and witness a skirmish of wits between the confirmed bachelors Benedick and Beatrice. The wicked Borachio flirts with a willing Margaret.

Leonato arranges a masked ball to honor Don Pedro during which we see that disguises can be used for good and evil. After some confusion, a match is arranged between Claudio and Hero. To pass the time before the wedding Don Pedro recruits his friends to join in a deception designed to bring Beatrice and Benedick into a “mountain of affection the one for the other.” In the meantime the villains, led by Don John, arrange their own deception, designed to prevent the marriage and ruin Hero. Don John arranges for the prince and Claudio to witness Borachio wooing Margaret, calling her “Hero,” and confessing their many amorous assignments.

The duping of Beatrice and Benedick is gloriously successful, but the villains’ deception is discovered by the hapless town Watch, a motley collection of village police let by the master of malaprop, Dogberry and his neighbor Verges. Carmen and Borachio are arrested after the Watch overhear them bragging of Don John’s deception, but the news does not get through to Leonato before the wedding.

INTERMISSION (15 min) PART TWO (1 hr)

Unaware of Don John’s deception, Hero nervously dresses for her marriage and happily teases the love-struck Beatrice. Shockingly, when all have gathered at the altar, Claudio and the prince reject Hero and accuse her of being a “common stale.” The innocent Hero faints and the household reacts with horror and rage. After the prince and Claudio depart, the Friar comforts Leonato and the women by suggesting that the prince and Claudio are “mightily deceived” and laying out plans for a counter-deception, putting out word that Hero has died of shock, to buy time while the truth is discovered. At this unlikely moment, Beatrice and Benedick are left to confess their love for each other. Beatrice exhorts Benedick to show his love to by challenging Claudio to a duel for dishonoring her cousin. Things look grim indeed until the unlikely heroes Dogberry and the incompetent Watch ride to the rescue with the truth that Hero has been falsely accused and that Don John has fled.

Claudio and Don Pedro are grief stricken at the news. Leonato tells Claudio that his penance can be to marry Leonato’s mysterious niece the following day. When Claudio and the prince arrive for this second wedding, the “niece” comes forward veiled and to Claudio’s amazement, reveals herself to be Hero. Benedick and Beatrice also arrange to be married, though only kissing can stop their arguing. All ends happily in a wedding dance.

Jim Jones (Friar Antonio) is in his first production with the Curtain Theatre. He has been active in the theater community for many years in the North Bay area. His experience in Shakespearean roles include a performance of scenes for the British Consulate. He appeared in eight productions for Napa Valley Shakespeare Festival including *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*. He has also performed with Solano College, Odyssey Stage Company and Yountville Players. In addition to stage acting, he has done a variety of local radio commercials, voiceovers, and movie work. He was President of the Arts Council of Napa Valley for several years and focused on bringing the arts and theater into the public schools. He is retired from years as the Chief of Psychology at a local state hospital. He is a licensed psychologist and speaks and language pathologist.

Alice Montgomery (Band) is a music teacher and performer in the Bay Area, and especially loves participating in Curtain Theatre each summer. Her most recent endeavor was performing piano with the band accompanying *A Hot Day in Ephesus* this past spring in Berkeley for Actor’s Ensemble.

Simone Olsen-Varela (Carmen) is a Bay Area native who started her theatrical career in middle school. After performing with Bishop O’Dowd’s drama department in high school, she went on to earn her Bachelor’s in Fine Arts from The Theatre School at DePaul University. She is thrilled to jump right into Curtain’s 2012 production upon her return to the Bay Area after a year long Children’s Theatre Tour (Cyrano de Bergerac). University and professional credits include: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Waiting for Lefty*, *Electricidad*, *Urinetown*, *Ghosts*, and *Loose Knit*.

Diane Pickell-Gore (Stage Manager) is happy to be back at Curtain having stage managed last season’s *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Diane earned her BA in Theatre Arts at San Francisco State, plied her trade as Producer and Stage Manager, then took a break to work for the federal government, run a business, attend seminary in Berkeley, and raise a family. Since returning to her theater roots she has also stage managed at Ross Valley Players, Stapleton Theatre Company, Novato Theatre Company, and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. On Sunday mornings she can be found “stage managing” services at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal Church in Corte Madera.

Olivia Rudd (Nell and Messenger) Olivia has been around the curtain theatre since she was five and it was her mother performing. Now she is ecstatic to be doing her second show. Olivia is 14 and going into high school, where she is hoping to pursue drama.



Laura Domingo's (Hero) heart is exceeding heavy to be making her Curtain Theatre debut alongside this amazingly talented cast! She was most recently seen as Marisol in the West Coast premiere of A. Rey Pamatmat's *Thunder Above, Deeps Below* with Bindlestiff Studio. Other credits include Laurey in *Oklahoma!* (Stapleton Theatre Company), Peep Bo in *Hot Mikado* (Masquers Playhouse), Housekeeper in *Man of La Mancha* (Altarena Playhouse) and featured dancer/dance captain in *Jerry Springer the Opera* (Ray of Light Theatre). This fall, Laura will be gracing the Ross Valley Players stage as Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor*. She sends much love to her family, her friends and her Ryan.

James Frankle (Oatcake) is very pleased to be working again with the Curtain Theatre. *Much Ado About Nothing* is so much fun and what a pleasure it was working with our fantastic cast. He would especially like to thank his wife for introducing him to acting and theatre and acknowledge his family for their encouragement. So bring your friends, children and relatives and enjoy the show!

Myron Freedman (Benedick) says Thank You to Michele for the opportunity to be a part of the Curtain Theatre this summer. In the Bay Area, Myron has recently performed with Bay One Acts Festival, Cutting Ball's *Risk Is This*, Theatre Pub, SF Olympians and understudied at Cal Shakes. In years prior he acted with companies in Chicago and St. Louis where favorites Shakespeare roles include: Iago, Richard III, Mercutio, Don John, Dromio, and Don Armado, also Butch in *Last Trial of Judas Iscariot*, Orgon in *Tartuffe*, Charles Darnay in *Tale of Two Cities*, Pardoner in *Canterbury Tales*, Malcolm in *Bedroom Farce*, Charley in *Death of a Salesman*, Gooper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*. He also directed and designed scenery for many shows, and was Artistic Director of the original Chicago Shakespeare Company.

Madeleine Hansen (Margaret) is excited to be working with Curtain Theatre in their summer production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other credits include Emilia/Mopsa in *Winter's Tale*, Corrinna Stroller in *House of Blue Leaves*, Chorus III in *Agamemnon*, and Feste in *Twelfth Night*. Madeleine is a graduate from the BLOCK theatre program at Sonoma State University and studied theatre at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland.

Daniel Helmer (Will, child in Leonato's household) This is Daniel's second summer performing with the Curtain Theatre, and he finds the experience just as fun as last year! Daniel is starting grade 4 at Neil Cummins school. He loves drawing and fantasy games and is studying Japanese.

Hal Hughes (Band) has worked with music and theater in the Bay Area since the 1970s, with Tumbleweed, Overtone Theater, Nightletter Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare, Third Rail Power Trip, North Beach Beckett, and others. He currently plays and records with Gift Horse, Smooth Toad, and Microblind Harvestmen. He's delighted to rejoin Curtain for his second production with them.

CAST



DOGBERRY, Town Constable	Johnny DeBernard
MARGERY, in the Watch	Georgie Craig
DON PEDRO, Prince Of Messina	David Vega
CLAUDIO, Soldier In Love With Hero	Steve Beecroft
BENEDICK, Soldier Known For His Wit	Myron Freedman
SOLDIER and VERGES in the Watch	Michael Walraven
SOLDIER and OATCAKE in the Watch	James Frankle
SOLDIER and SEACOLE in the Watch	flynn crosby
DON JOHN, prince's villainous brother	Jamie Dawson
CARMEN, Friend To Don John	Simone Olsen-Varela
BORACHIO, Friend To Don John	Eric Sadler
MARY, child in Leonato's household	Miranda Craig
BESS, servant in Leonato's household	Willow Dawson
WILL, child in Leonato's household	Daniel Helmer
NELL, servant in Leonato Household	Olivia Rudd
URSULA, Leonato's Housekeeper	Vicki Siegel
BEATRICE, Leonato's Witty Niece	Heather Cherry
MARGARET, Hero's Gentlewoman	Madeleine Hansen
HERO, Leonato's Daughter	Laura Domingo
LEONATO, Governor of Messina	Paul Abbott
FRIAR ANTONIO, Leonato's Friend	Jim Jones
BALTHASAR, musician	Don Clark

BAND



ACCORDIAN	Miriam Attia
GUITAR/MANDOLIN	Don Clark
FIDDLE	Hal Hughes
FLUTE	Alice Montgomery
DIRECTOR	Michele Delattre
ASST DIR/CHOREOGRAPHY	Steve Beecroft
STAGE MANAGER	Diane Pickell-Gore
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Don Clark
COSTUMER	Jo Lusk
SET DESIGNER	Steve Coleman
HOUSE MANAGER	Janette Higuera
PUBLICITY	Pat Meier Johnson
PHOTOGRAPHY	Russell Johnson
CURTAIN PRODUCER	John Leonard,
ASSISTANT PRODUCERS	Alice Montgomery, Vicki Siegel

P R O D U C T I O N





Paul Abbott (Leonato) is a Tam High and College of Marin grad who trained at ACT. His professional credits include the title roles in *King Lear* and the European premier of Eugene O'Neill's *Lazarus Laughed*. Recently he portrayed famed attorney Louis Nizer (as the fictional character Robert Sloane) in the critically acclaimed Novato Theater Company's production of *A Case of Libel*, based on the notorious Quentin Reynolds vs. Westbrook Pegler trial. In 2009 he premiered the title role in John Cur's *The Trial of Christopher Columbus*. An inveterate eclipse chaser, Paul toured the world on his 18 speed bicycle. Besides Shakespeare, his passions include "early" music, stained glass, & waterfalls.

Miriam Attia (Band) By the time Miriam Attia discovered traditional folk music and the accordion, back in '03, she'd been playing classical piano, accompanying and collaborating with other musicians, and studying music theory for seventeen years, which was helpful in that it taught her about harmony and the circle of fifths, but useless in that it's hard to play folk music with others when you don't know any tunes. Since that time, she has learned a few tunes and a little style. This is her first performance with Curtain Theatre. She also plays and sings sea chanteys with Month's Advance.

Stephen Beecroft (Assistant Director, Choreographer, Claudio) This is Steve's fourth production with the Curtain Theatre and his enthusiasm for performing amongst the red-woods has not diminished one bit. Last year he was the crazy Welch priest Sir Hugh Evans in *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Other recent theatrical endeavours include playing Nanki Poo in the Masquer's production of *The Hot Mikado*, the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance* and Sky Masterson in *Guy and Dolls* both with Novato Theatre Co. Thank you for supporting theatre in Old Mill Park. All the world's a stage...

Heather Cherry (Beatrice) This is Heather's third production with the Curtain Theater where she was seen as Jacques in *As You Like It* and Mistress Page in *Merry Wives of Windsor*. She is wildly lucky to be able to work with Michele, the actors, the band and the ever amazing crew of the Curtain Theater, here in the redwood forest. Thank you to Michele, and thank you to Myron (and thank you to Peter and Comic!)

Don Clark (Music Director/Balthasar) has taken part in twelve of the thirteen summer shows mounted by the Curtain Theatre. A journalist by day, he has long dabbled in rock and folk--often with the help of Michele Delatre, his long-suffering spouse and director of this production. He thanks Curtain regular Alice Montgomery (flute), Hal Hughes (fiddle) and new collaborator Miriam Attia (accordion) for their fine playing and great musical ideas.

Steve Coleman (Set Designer) is a longtime artist in Mill Valley known for his loving, often fantastical design of everything from small models to the elegant reborn stage at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre. He is a founding member of the Curtain Theatre.



Georgie Craig (Messenger/Margery in Watch) is very happy to be in her fourth production with the Curtain Theatre. Last year, Georgie was the Hostess of the Garter in *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Her most recent performance was as Julia Gibbs in *Our Town* at the 16th Street Players. When not on stage, Georgie is a substitute teacher, storyteller and freelance writer. She wishes to thank her daughter Miranda for sharing the stage and love of theater with her. Georgie also wishes to thank her husband Keith for supporting both she and Miranda in their theatrical pursuits.

Miranda Craig (Mary, child in Leonato's household) is so thrilled to be in her second production with the Curtain Theatre company. She loves doing plays, but she especially loves performing them outside in nature. Miranda was last seen as Rebecca Gibbs in the 16th Street Players production of *Our Town*, directed by Linda Ellinwood. Miranda attends Davidson Middle School in San Rafael. In her free time, she does dance, art, archery, tri-peace, silks, and stits.

Hymn Crosby (Seacole) is very excited to be working with Curtain Theatre for the first time. If you are interested in more information about Hymn please feel free to visit his website www.hymncrosby.com.

Jamie Dawson (Don John) is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, professional screenwriter, documentary filmmaker, part-time actor, and full-time Dad. Theatre credits include Father Flynn in *Doubt* (Ross Valley Players, 2011) as well as work in New York, San Francisco, Martha's Vineyard, and at Jeff Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre in Michigan. After 30+ years in theatre, this is his first "villain."

Willow Dawson (Bess, servant in Leonato's household) has performed in numerous shows in school, with the Dance Palace Kids Musical Theatre Group in West Marin, and most recently in an adaptation of Neil Gaiman's *Stardust* at summer camp.

Johnny DeBernard (Dogberry) is appearing in his second Curtain Theatre Production, having fallen hopelessly in love with them (and Shakespeare) in last year's *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Two down, thirty-six to go! A longtime member of the Novato Theatre Company, he's been featured here in *Guy and Dolls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Rumors* & *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. He also made his debut at Ross Valley Players in this year's *20th Century* and also starred in *The Laramie Project* for Theatre at Large. Enjoy the show!

Michele Delatre (Director) is directing her third show for Curtain Theatre after wearing many other hats on and off-stage since the theatre's founding in 2000. *Much Ado* is one of her favorite plays and watching the story take shape with this year's wonderful company has truly been a thrill. She is also currently acting in San Francisco Shakespeare Company's *Henry V* and becoming far too familiar with the view through her car windshield.