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Alabama Shakespeare Festival
The State Theatre of Alabama

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

ASF Touring Company Returns to the Octagon Stage

February 1, 2017

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, on the Octagon Stage **February 22-25**. There will be a special outdoor performance in the Shakespeare Garden on **April 25**. It will also be presented in repertory **April 28-May 6**, with Shakespeare's *TWELFTH NIGHT* and William Gibson's *THE MIRACLE WORKER*.

Tickets are available by calling (334) 271-5353, online at www.asf.net or by visiting the ASF Box Office at One Festival Drive, Montgomery, AL. **Groups of ten or more can receive discounted tickets** by calling Stan Thomas at (334) 271-5330. The performance runs approximately 80 minutes.

"Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, men were deceivers ever..." The delightfully antagonistic relationship of Beatrice and Benedick is at the heart of this Shakespearean comedy. They skewer each other with witty repartee until they must join forces to save their friends, the innocent young lovers Claudio and Hero, threatened by a common enemy, Don John.

The actors in the production are members the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's resident touring company, who auditioned in New York to receive coveted year-long apprenticeship positions with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. They have come from all over the country to spend a year living in Montgomery and most recently appeared in ASF's *SNOW QUEEN* and *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*. This production of Shakespeare's *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* toured schools and theatres across the state of Alabama this past fall and will continue to tour this spring.

Woodrow Proctor plays the sworn bachelor Senor Benedick. Proctor is a New York actor (graduate of Skidmore College) who has appeared with the Saratoga Shakespeare Company, Hubbard Theater and the Match: Lit Theater Company. **Colin Wulff**, who plays Bendick's lovelorn friend Claudio, is an Oberlin College graduate who has appeared with Commonwealth

Shakespeare Company, Southern Shakespeare Festival and Oberlin Summer Theater Festival. **Katie Fanning**, the marriage-averse Beatrice, recently played the title role in ASF's **SNOW QUEEN**. Fanning is an NYU Tisch graduate who has worked with Adirondack Shakespeare Company, Pigeonholed Theatre Company and Underling Productions. **Lara Treacy** plays Hero, the love interest of Claudio. Treacy is a graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory with a BFA in musical theatre who has appeared as Wednesday in *The Addams Family* and Eponine in *Les Miserables* and at ASF as Catherine in **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** and Gerda in **SNOW QUEEN**.

Josh Cahn is the villainous Don John and has appeared off-Broadway (*Paradiso*), regionally (*Shear Madness*, *The Matchmaker*, 1776) and in television and film on Comedy Central and various film pilots. Rutgers graduate **Ithamar Francois** plays the noble Don Pedro, and has appeared with Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey; Next Stage Ensemble and McCarter Theater. **Colin Purcell** plays Hero's father, Leonato, and is Hamilton College graduate who also studied at the London Dramatic Academy. **Brian Ott**, who plays the leader of the watch Dogberry, recently appeared at Saratoga Shakespeare Company, Metropolitan Playhouse and Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, M.A.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING is directed by **Greta Lambert**, the Director of Training/Artistic Associate for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Lambert, who is also a critically-acclaimed actress, has directed many Shakespearean productions at ASF. She also spearheaded the Bring the Bard to Life school tour program (currently in its eighth season) which tours an ASF production to more than thirty schools across the state. Lambert will direct **TWELFTH NIGHT** on the Festival Stage later this spring. The artistic team also includes Assistant Director **Cory Lawson**, Scenic Designer **Robert F. Wolin**, Costume Designer **Jeffrey Todhunter**, Lighting Designer **Thomas Rodman**, Sound Designer **William Burns**, Dramaturg **Susan Willis**, Dance Captain **Lara Treacy**, Tour Manager **Diana D. Cooper**, Production Assistant **Lonnell Lomax** and Stage Manager **Wyatt Silman**.

**THE ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL, THE STATE THEATRE OF ALABAMA
– WORLD-CLASS THEATRE IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH**

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. This program has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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