



Character Breakdown:

For a detailed description of all characters in Much Ado About Nothing you may be interested in viewing the following website:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/muchado/characters/>

Beatrice – (female, early 20s to early 30s) Leonato's niece and Hero's cousin, Beatrice is "a pleasant-spirited lady" with a very sharp tongue. She is generous and loving, but, like Benedick, continually mocks other people with elaborately tooled jokes and puns. She wages a war of wits against Benedick and often wins the battles.

Benedick – (male, 30s) An aristocratic soldier and a friend of Don Pedro and Claudio. Benedick is very witty, always making jokes and puns. He carries on a "merry war" of wits with Beatrice, but at the beginning of the play he swears he will never fall in love or marry.

Claudio – (male, age 18 to mid-20s) A young soldier who has won great acclaim fighting under Don Pedro during the recent wars. Claudio falls in love with Hero upon his return to Messina.

Hero – (female, age 18 to early 20s) The beautiful young daughter of Leonato and the cousin of Beatrice. Hero is lovely, gentle, and kind. She falls in love with Claudio when he falls for her, but when Don John slanders her and Claudio rashly takes revenge, she suffers terribly.

Don Pedro – (male, late 30s or 40s) An important nobleman from Aragon, sometimes referred to as "Prince." Don Pedro is a longtime friend of Leonato, Hero's father, and is also close to the soldiers who have been fighting under him—the younger Benedick and the very young Claudio.

Leonato – (male or female, 50s or 60s) A respected, well-to-do, elderly noble at whose home, in Messina, Italy, the action is set. Leonato is the father of Hero and the uncle of Beatrice.

Don John – (male, age 18 to 30) The illegitimate brother of Don Pedro; sometimes called "the Bastard." Don John is melancholy and sullen by nature, and he creates a dark scheme to ruin the happiness of Hero and Claudio. He is the villain of the play.

Dogberry (male or female, age undecided) – The constable in charge of the Watch, or chief policeman of Messina. Dogberry is very sincere and takes his job seriously, but he has a habit of using exactly the wrong words to convey his meaning.

We will be casting a chorus which will be sing and form the background characters and from which we will be casting the supporting roles.