

**MUCH ADO ABOUT  
NOTHING: A COMEDY  
IN SIX ACTS BY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649363124

Much Ado about Nothing: A Comedy in Six Acts by by William Shakespeare & Henry Irving

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE & HENRY IRVING**

**MUCH ADO ABOUT  
NOTHING: A COMEDY  
IN SIX ACTS BY**





MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.



MUCH ADO ABOUT  
NOTHING,

A COMEDY IN FIVE ACTS,

BY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,

AS ARRANGED FOR THE STAGE

BY

HENRY IRVING,

AND PRESENTED AT

THE LYCEUM THEATRE,

ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 1882.

REPRODUCED MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 1891.

LONDON :

PRINTED AT THE CHISWICK PRESS.

1891.

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

	1882.	1891.	
DON PEDRO, Prince of Arragon . . . . .	MR. W. TERRISS . . . . .	MR. MACKLIN.	
DON JOHN, his bastard brother . . . . .	MR. GLENNY . . . . .	MR. HAVILAND.	
CLAUDIO, a young lord of Florence	MR. FORBES-ROBERTSON.	MR. W. TERRISS.	
BENEDICK, a young lord of Padua . . . . .	MR. IRVING . . . . .	MR. IRVING.	
LEONATO, governor of Messina . . . . .	MR. FERNANDEZ . . . . .	MR. WENMAN.	
ANTONIO, his brother . . . . .	MR. H. HOWE . . . . .	MR. H. HOWE.	
BALTHAZAR, attendant on Don Pedro . . . . .	} MR. J. ROBERTSON.	MR. J. ROBERTSON.	
BORACHIO, } followers of Don		MR. TYARS . . . . .	MR. TYARS.
CONRADE, } John . . . . .	MR. HUDSON . . . . .	MR. MARTIN-HARVEY.	
FRIAR FRANCIS . . . . .	MR. MEAD . . . . .	MR. ALFRED BISHOP.	
DOGBERRY, } two city officers . . . . .	MR. S. JOHNSON . . . . .	MR. MACKINTOSH.	
VERGES, } . . . . .	MR. S. CALHAEM . . . . .	MR. DAVIS.	
SHACOAL, } watchmen . . . . .	MR. ARCHER . . . . .	MR. ARCHER.	
OATCAKE, } . . . . .	MR. HARBURY . . . . .	MR. LORRIS.	
A Sexton . . . . .	MR. CARTER . . . . .	MR. REYNOLDS.	
A Messenger . . . . .	MR. HAVILAND . . . . .	MR. GORDON CRAIG.	
A Boy . . . . .	MISS K. BROWNE . . . . .	MASTER HARWOOD.	
HERO, daughter to Leonato . . . . .	MISS MILLWARD . . . . .	MISS ANNIE IRISH.	
BEATRICE, niece to Leonato . . . . .	MISS ELLEN TERRY . . . . .	MISS ELLEN TERRY.	
MARGARET, } gentlewomen at-	MISS HARWOOD . . . . .	MISS KATE PHILLIPS.	
URSULA, } tending on Hero . . . . .	MISS L. PAYNE . . . . .	MISS COLERIDGE.	

*Ladies, Gentlemen, Maskers, Pages, Attendants, Musicians, Guards,  
Watchmen, Soldiers, Servants, &c., &c.*

SCENE: *Messina.*

(RECAP)

3925  
366  
112

793630

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY.

### ACT I.

- SCENE 1. LEONATO'S HOUSE.
- SCENE 2. BEFORE LEONATO'S HOUSE.
- SCENE 3. HALL IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.

### ACT II.

- SCENE 1. THE CEDAR WALK.
- SCENE 2. LEONATO'S GARDEN--EVENING.

### ACT III.

- SCENE 1. LEONATO'S GARDEN--MORNING.
- SCENE 2. A STREET.

### ACT IV.

INSIDE OF A CHURCH.

### ACT V.

- SCENE 1. A PRISON.
- SCENE 2. LEONATO'S GARDEN.
- SCENE 3. THE MONUMENT OF LEONATO.
- SCENE 4. HALL IN LEONATO'S HOUSE.







## MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

### ACT I.

#### SCENE I. *Leonato's House.*

*Enter LEONATO with a Messenger and others.*

*Leonato.*



LEARN in this letter, that Don Pedro of Arragon comes this night to Messina.

*Mess.* He is very near by this; he was not three leagues off when I left him.

*Leon.* How many gentlemen have you lost in this action?

*Mess.* But few of any sort, and none of name.

*Leon.* A victory is twice itself, when the achiever brings home full numbers.

*Enter BEATRICE, HERO, MARGARET, and Ladies.*

I find here, that Don Pedro hath bestowed much honour on a young Florentine, called Claudio.

*Mess.* Much deserved on his part, and equally remembered by Don Pedro: He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age; doing, in the figure of a lamb, the feats of a lion.

*Beat.* I pray you is signior Montanto returned from the wars, or no?

*Mess.* I know none of that name, lady; there was none such in the army of any sort.

*Leon.* What is he that you ask for, niece?

*Hero.* My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua.

*Mess.* O, he is returned; and as pleasant as ever he was.

*Beat.* I pray you, how many hath he killed and eaten in these wars? But how many hath he killed? for, indeed, I promised to eat all of his killing.

*Leon.* Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too much; but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not.

*Mess.* He hath done good service, lady, in these wars.

*Beat.* You had musty victual, and he hath help to eat it: he is a very valiant trencher-man, he hath an excellent stomach.

*Mess.* And a good soldier too, lady.

*Beat.* And a good soldier to a lady;—But what is he to a lord?

*Mess.* A lord to a lord, a man to a man; stuffed with all honourable virtues.

*Beat.* It is so, indeed; he is no less than a stuffed man: but for the stuffing,—Well, we are all mortal.

*Leon.* You must not, sir, mistake my niece: there is a kind of merry war betwixt Signior Benedick and her: they never meet, but there is a skirmish of wit between them.

*Beat.* Alas! he gets nothing by that. In our last conflict, four of his five wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with one: Who is his companion now? He hath every month a new sworn brother.

*Mess.* Is it possible?

*Beat.* Very easily possible: he wears his faith but as the fashion of his hat, it ever changes with the next block.

*Mess.* I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your books.

*Beat.* No: an he were, I would burn my study.