

Much Ado About Nothing Acting Group Project- Due 5/13 25 Points 5 Extra Credit Points Possible

*You will be assigned to a group and each group member will choose a part. Your group will practice and perform your assigned scene for the class. You will be graded on your diction (speech), expression and performance quality.

*Costumes or props are optional

*5 extra credit points for a memorized performance

Names of group

members: _____

Scene Assigned: Act ____ Scene ____

ACT 1 SCENE 1 (Prince, Leonato, Benedick, Beatrice) * *They arrive at Leonato's house.*

PRINCE

Good Signior Leonato, are you come to meet your trouble?
The fashion of the world is to avoid cost, and you encounter it.

LEONATO

Never came trouble to my house in the likeness of your Grace,
for trouble being gone, comfort should remain, but when you depart from
me, sorrow abides and happiness takes his leave.

PRINCE

You embrace your charge too willingly. *Turning to Hero.*
I think this is your daughter.

LEONATO

Her mother hath many times told me so.

BENEDICK

Were you in doubt, sir, that you asked her?

LEONATO

Signior Benedick, no, for then were you a Child.

PRINCE

You have it full, Benedick. We may guess by
this what you are, being a man. Truly the lady
fathers herself.—Be happy, lady, for you are like an honorable father.

Leonato and the Prince move aside.

BENEDICK

If Signior Leonato be her father, she would not have his head on her shoulders for all Messina,
as like him as she is.

BEATRICE

I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior Benedick, nobody marks you.

ACT 1 SCENE 1 (Benedick, Beatrice) * *Beatrice and Benedick exchange insults*

BENEDICK

What, my dear Lady Disdain! Are you yet living?

BEATRICE

Is it possible disdain should die while she

hath such meet food to feed it as Signior Benedick?
 Courtesy itself must convert to disdain if you come in her presence.

BENEDICK

Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain
 I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted; and
 I would I could find in my heart that I had not a
 hard heart, for truly I love none.

BEATRICE

A dear happiness to women. They would
 else have been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I
 thank God and my cold blood I am of your humor
 for that. I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow
 than a man swear he loves me.

BENEDICK God keep your Ladyship still in that mind,
 so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate scratched face.

BEATRICE Scratching could not make it worse an 'twere such a face as yours were.

BENEDICK Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.

BEATRICE A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.

BENEDICK

I would my horse had the speed of your tongue and so good a continuer,
 but keep your way, i' God's name, I have done.

BEATRICE

You always end with a jade's trick. I know you of old.

ACT 1 SCENE 1 (Claudio, Benedick) * Claudio confides in Benedick that he loves Hero

CLAUDIO Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signior Leonato?

BENEDICK I noted her not, but I looked on her.

CLAUDIO Is she not a modest young lady?

BENEDICK

Do you question me as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgment?

CLAUDIO No, I pray thee, speak in sober judgment.

BENEDICK

Why, i' faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise. Only this commendation I can afford her, that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome, and being no other but as she is, I do not like her.

CLAUDIO Thou thinkest I am in sport. I pray thee tell me truly how thou lik'st her.

BENEDICK Would you buy her that you enquire after her?

CLAUDIO Can the world buy such a jewel?

BENEDICK

Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you this with a sad brow?

CLAUDIO

In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.

BENEDICK

I can see yet without spectacles, and I see no such matter.
But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?

CLAUDIO

I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.

BENEDICK

Is 't come to this? In faith, hath not the world one man but he will wear his cap with suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of threescore again?

ACT 2 SCENE 1 (Don John, Claudio, Borachio) **Don John lies to Claudio about Don Pedro & Hero*

DON JOHN ,^r to Claudio⁷ Are not you Signior Benedick?

CLAUDIO You know me well. I am he.

DON JOHN Signior, you are very near my brother in his love. He is enamored on Hero. I pray you dissuade

him from her. She is no equal for his birth. You may do the part of an honest man in it.

CLAUDIO How know you he loves her?

DON JOHN I heard him swear his affection.

BORACHIO So did I too, and he swore he would marry her tonight.

DON JOHN Come, let us to the banquet.

CLAUDIO 「*unmasking*」

Thus answer I in name of Benedick, But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio.

'Tis certain so. The Prince woos for himself.

Friendship is constant in all other things. Save in the office and affairs of love.

Therefore all hearts in love use their own tongues. Let every eye negotiate for itself

And trust no agent, for beauty is a witch. Against whose charms faith melteth into blood.

This is an accident of hourly proof, Which I mistrusted not. Farewell therefore, Hero.

ACT 2 SCENE 3 (Prince, Leonato, Claudio) **Staged conversation about Beatrice loving Benedick*

PRINCE Hath she made her affection known to Benedick?

LEONATO No, and swears she never will. That's her torment.

CLAUDIO 'Tis true indeed, so your daughter says. "Shall I," says she, "that have so oft encountered him with scorn, write to him that I love him?"

LEONATO This says she now when she is beginning to write to him, for she'll be up twenty times a night, and there will she sit in her smock till she have writ a sheet of paper. My daughter tells us all.

CLAUDIO Now you talk of a sheet of paper, I remember a pretty jest your daughter told 「us of.」

LEONATO O, when she had writ it and was reading it over, she found "Benedick" and "Beatrice" between the sheet?

CLAUDIO That.

LEONATO O, she tore the letter into a thousand halfpence,

CLAUDIO Then down upon her knees she falls, weeps, sobs, beats her heart, tears her hair, prays, curses: "O sweet Benedick, God give me patience!"

LEONATO She doth indeed, my daughter says so, and the ecstasy hath so much overborne her that my daughter is sometimes afear'd she will do a desperate outrage to herself. It is very true.

PRINCE It were good that Benedick knew of it by some other, if she will not discover it.

CLAUDIO To what end? He would make but a sport of it and torment the poor lady worse.

PRINCE She's an excellent sweet lady, and, out of all suspicion, she is virtuous.

CLAUDIO And she is exceeding wise.

PRINCE In everything but in loving Benedick.

LEONATO O, my lord, wisdom and blood combating in so tender a body, we have ten proofs to one that blood hath the victory. I am sorry for her, as I have just cause, being her uncle and her guardian.

CLAUDIO Hero thinks surely she will die, for she says she will die if he love her not, and she will die ere she make her love known, and she will die if he woo her rather than she will bate one breath of her accustomed crossness.

PRINCE She doth well. If she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorn it, for the man, as you know all, hath a contemptible spirit.

CLAUDIO He is a very proper man.

PRINCE He hath indeed a good outward happiness.

CLAUDIO Before God, and in my mind, very wise.

PRINCE He doth indeed show some sparks that are like wit.

CLAUDIO And I take him to be valiant.

PRINCE Well, I am sorry for your niece. Shall we go seek Benedick and tell him of her love?

CLAUDIO Never tell him, my lord, let her wear it out with good counsel.

LEONATO Nay, that's impossible; she may wear her heart out first.

PRINCE Well, we will hear further of it by your daughter.

ACT 3 SCENE 1 (Hero, Ursula) **Staged conversation about Benedick loving Beatrice*

URSULA But are you sure

That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?

HERO So says the Prince and my new-trothèd lord.

URSULA And did they bid you tell her of it, madam?

HERO They did entreat me to acquaint her of it, But I persuaded them, if they loved Benedick,
To wish him wrestle with affection And never to let Beatrice know of it.

URSULA Why did you so?

HERO O god of love! I know he doth deserve
As much as may be yielded to a man, But Nature never framed a woman's heart
Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice.
Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes, Misprizing what they look on, and her wit
Values itself so highly that to her
She cannot love Nor take no shape nor project of affection, She is so self-endearèd.

URSULA Sure, I think so, therefore certainly it were not good.
She knew his love, lest she'll make sport at it.

HERO Why, you speak truth. I never yet saw man,
How wise, how noble, young, how rarely featured,
But she would spell him backward.

URSULA Sure, sure, such carping is not commendable.

HERO No, not to be so odd and from all fashions
As Beatrice is cannot be commendable. But who dare tell her so? If I should speak,
She would mock me into air. O, she would laugh me Out of myself, press me to death with wit.
Therefore let Benedick, like covered fire, Consume away in sighs, waste inwardly.

URSULA Yet tell her of it. Hear what she will say.

HERO No, rather I will go to Benedick
And counsel him to fight against his passion;

URSULA O, do not do your cousin such a wrong!
She cannot be so much without true judgment,
Having so swift and excellent a wit As she is prized to have, as to refuse
So rare a gentleman as Signior Benedick.

HERO Indeed, he hath an excellent good name.

URSULA His excellence did earn it ere he had it. When are you married, madam?

HERO Why, every day, tomorrow. Come, go in.

ACT 3 SCENE 2 (Prince, Don John, Claudio) **Don John casting doubt on Hero's faithfulness*

PRINCE Why, what's the matter?

DON JOHN

I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances

shortened, for she has been too long a-talking of, the lady is disloyal.

CLAUDIO Who, Hero?

DON JOHN Even she: Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every man's Hero.

CLAUDIO Disloyal?

DON JOHN The word is too good to paint out her wickedness. I could say she were worse.

Think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. Wonder not till further warrant.

Go but with me tonight, you shall see her chamber window entered, even the night before her wedding day. If you love her then, tomorrow wed her.

But it would better fit your honor to change your mind.

CLAUDIO , 「to Prince」 May this be so?

PRINCE I will not think it.

DON JOHN

If you dare not trust that you see, confess
not that you know. If you will follow me, I will
show you enough, and when you have seen more
and heard more, proceed accordingly.

CLAUDIO

If I see anything tonight why I should not marry her, tomorrow in the congregation, where I
should wed, there will I shame her.

PRINCE

And as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee to disgrace her.

DON JOHN

I will disparage her no farther till you are
my witnesses. Bear it coldly but till midnight, and
let the issue show itself.

「They exit.

ACT 4 SCENE 1 (Claudio, Leonato, Prince, Hero, Don John) **Claudio accuses Hero at wedding*

CLAUDIO Leonato, stand I here?

Is this the Prince? Is this the Prince's brother?

Is this face Hero's? Are our eyes our own?

LEONATO All this is so, but what of this, my lord?

CLAUDIO Let me but move one question to your daughter,
And by that fatherly and kindly power
That you have in her, bid her answer truly.

LEONATO

I charge thee do so, as thou art my child.

HERO O, God defend me, how am I beset!—
What kind of catechizing call you this?

CLAUDIO To make you answer truly to your name.

HERO Is it not Hero? Who can blot that name With any just reproach?

CLAUDIO

Marry, that can Hero! Hero itself can blot out Hero's virtue.

What man was he talked with you yesternight
Out at your window betwixt twelve and one?
Now, if you are a maid, answer to this.

HERO I talked with no man at that hour, my lord.

PRINCE

Upon mine honor, Myself, my brother, and this grievèd count
Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night
Talk with a ruffian at her chamber window.

DON JOHN

Fie, fie, they are not to be named, my lord,
Not to be spoke of!
There is not chastity enough in language,
Without offense, to utter them.—Thus, pretty lady,
I am sorry for thy much misgovernment.

CLAUDIO

O Hero, what a Hero hadst thou been
If half thy outward graces had been placed
About thy thoughts and counsels of thy heart!
But fare thee well, most foul, most fair. Farewell,
Thou pure impiety and impious purity.

LEONATO

Hath no man's dagger here a point for me?

「 Hero falls. 」

ACT 4 SCENE 1 (Beatrice and Benedick) **Beatrice asking Benedick to punish Claudio*

BENEDICK Come, bid me do anything for thee.

BEATRICE Kill Claudio.

BENEDICK Ha! Not for the wide world.

BEATRICE You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

「*She begins to exit.*」

BENEDICK Beatrice—

BEATRICE In faith, I will go.

BENEDICK We'll be friends first.

BEATRICE You dare easier be friends with me than fight with mine enemy.

BENEDICK Is Claudio thine enemy?

BEATRICE

Is he not approved in the height a villain
that hath slandered, scorned, dishonored my kinswoman?

O, that I were a man! What, bear her in
hand until they come to take hands, and then, with
public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated
rancor—O God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the marketplace.

BENEDICK Hear me, Beatrice—

BEATRICE Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying.

BENEDICK Nay, but Beatrice—

BEATRICE O, that I were a man for his sake! Or
that I had any friend would be a man for my sake!
But manhood is melted into curtsies, valor into
compliment, and men are only turned into tongue,
and trim ones, too. I cannot be a man
with wishing; therefore I will die a woman with grieving.

BENEDICK

Tarry, good Beatrice. By this hand, I love thee.

BEATRICE Use it for my love some other way than
swearing by it.

BENEDICK Think you in your soul the Count Claudio
hath wronged Hero?

BEATRICE

Yea, as sure as I have a thought or a soul.

BENEDICK Enough, I am engaged. I will challenge
him. I will kiss your hand, and so I leave you.

「*They exit.*」

ACT 4 SCENE 2 (1st Watchman, Dogberry, Borachio, Sexton, Seacoal, Verges)

** Police investigation of Don John and conspiracy revealed*

FIRST WATCHMAN This man said, sir, that Don John, the
Prince's brother, was a villain.

「DOGBERRY」 Write down Prince John a villain. Why,

this is flat perjury, to call a prince's brother villain!

BORACHIO Master constable—

「DOGBERRY」 Pray thee, fellow, peace. I do not like thy look, I promise thee.

SEXTON, 「to Watch」 What heard you him say else?

「SEACOAL」 Marry, that he had received a thousand ducats of Don John for accusing the Lady Hero wrongfully.

「DOGBERRY」 Flat burglary as ever was committed.

「VERGES」 Yea, by Mass, that it is.

SEXTON What else, fellow?

FIRST WATCHMAN

And that Count Claudio did mean,
upon his words, to disgrace Hero before the whole
assembly, and not marry her.

「DOGBERRY, to Borachio」 O, villain! Thou wilt be condemned
into everlasting redemption for this!

SEXTON What else?

「SEACOAL」 This is all.

SEXTON And this is more, masters, than you can deny.

Prince John is this morning secretly stolen away.

Hero was in this manner accused, in this very
manner refused, and upon the grief of this suddenly
died.—Master constable, let these men be bound
and brought to Leonato's. I will go before and show
him their examination.

ACT 5 SCENE 4 (Claudio, Leonato, Hero, Beatrice, Prince, Friar, Benedick)

** The Wedding and happy ending for the couples*

*Enter 「Leonato's」 brother, Hero, Beatrice, Margaret,
Ursula, 「the ladies masked.」*

CLAUDIO Which is the lady I must seize upon?

LEONATO This same is she, and I do give you her.

CLAUDIO Why, then, she's mine.—Sweet, let me see your face.

LEONATO No, that you shall not till you take her hand

Before this friar and swear to marry her.

CLAUDIO 「 *to Hero* 」

Give me your hand before this holy friar.

「 *They take hands.* 」

I am your husband, if you like of me.

HERO And when I lived, I was your other wife,

And when you loved, you were my other husband.

「 *She unmask.* 」

CLAUDIO Another Hero!

HERO Nothing certainer.

One Hero died defiled, but I do live,

And surely as I live, I am a maid.

PRINCE The former Hero! Hero that is dead!

LEONATO She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived.

FRIAR All this amazement can I qualify,

When after that the holy rites are ended,

I'll tell you largely of fair Hero's death.

BENEDICK Soft and fair, friar.—Which is Beatrice?

BEATRICE

, 「 *unmasking* 」 I answer to that name. What is your will?

BENEDICK

Do not you love me?

BEATRICE

Why no, no more than reason.

BENEDICK

Why then, your uncle and the Prince and Claudio

Have been deceived. They swore you did.

BEATRICE Do not you love me?

BENEDICK Troth, no, no more than reason.

BEATRICE Why then, my cousin, Margaret, and Ursula

Are much deceived, for they did swear you did.

BENEDICK They swore that you were almost sick for me.

BEATRICE They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me.

BENEDICK 'Tis no such matter. Then you do not love me?

BEATRICE No, truly, but in friendly recompense.

LEONATO Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.

CLAUDIO And I'll be sworn upon 't that he loves her,
For here's a paper written in his hand,
A halting sonnet of his own pure brain,
Fashioned to Beatrice.

「 *He shows a paper.* 」

HERO And here's another,
Writ in my cousin's hand, stol'n from her pocket,
Containing her affection unto Benedick.

「 *She shows a paper.* 」

BENEDICK

A miracle! Here's our own hands against
our hearts. Come, I will have thee, but by this light
I take thee for pity.

BEATRICE

I would not deny you, but by this good day, I
yield upon great persuasion, and partly to save your
life, for I was told you were in a consumption.

「BENEDICK」 Peace! I will stop your mouth.

「 *They kiss.* 」