

Much Ado about nothing

Rehearsal Notes 1 – dated 09 Jan 98

SM

1. Possible table and one garden canvas chair.
2. Dogberry and Verges and 1st Watch may require truncheons.

LX

3. Act 1 to be in the garden.

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

4. Rehearsal skirts for women requested asap.
5. Parasols for Ursula, Beatrice and Hero requested. (We have sticks in rehearsal at the moment).

General

6. Play to be set around end of 19th century, in and around a country house in the south of England.
7. General feel is pre-suffragette but Oscar Wilde wit permissible

Mike Draper

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Rehearsal Notes 2 – dated 13 Jan 98

SM

1. Tea set required for Act 1 garden party. Tea-pot, milk jug, sugar bowl, strainer, spoons, tray, a dozen small cups and saucers.
2. There may be sandwiches at the garden party.
3. Page 13, ducat for Don John to give to Borachio

LX

4. The ball is likely to take place off SL with side light from SL

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

5. Mr Beazley will play a waiter in Act II masked dance.

General

Text Changes

6. Bottom page 5, Cut
Leonato Please it your grace lead on?
Don Pedro Your hand, Leonato; we will go together.
Exeunt all except Benedick and Claudio
7. Top page 7, Don Pedro's first line, cut
...that you followed not to Leonato's.
8. Bottom page 8, Don Pedro's last speech, cut
From ...repair to Leonato's... to ...made great preparation.
9. Top page 9, cut all down to Benedick's second speech which now reads:
Benedick Examine your conscience; and so I leave you.
10. Page 11, Ursula's second speech, cut
... walking in a thick pleached alley in mine orchard...
11. Page 13, Borachio's first speech, cut
I came yonder from a great supper
12. Page 13, Borachio's fifth speech, cut
Being entertained for a perfumer, as I was smoking a musty room.
13. Page 13, Don John's last speech, cut 'both' so that last sentence now reads:
You are sure, and will assist me?

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Rehearsal Notes 3 – dated 14 Jan 98

SM

1. Champagne corks popping may be required part way through the ball for the announcement of the engagement of Claudio and Hero.
2. Drinks will also be served by a waiter (Mr Beazley)

LX

Sound/Music

3. A long intro will be required for the 1st Ball dance (Gay Gordons) to enable the cast to find their partners.

Wardrobe

4. Page 14, Ursula, Margaret and Beatrice are getting Hero and her ball gown ready.

General

5. The whole of Act II scene 1 will be preparation for and then enacting the ball which takes place through the night. Pages 14 – 16 will take place downstage of a large banner which will then fly out for the entry of the men on page 16 when there will be a dance of four couples - Don Pedro/Hero, Balthazar/Margaret, Ursula/Leonato, Beatrice/Benedick -with the dialog taking place during the dance. The dancing will then move to SL wing but spilling onto the stage. All subsequent conversations take place on stage with the participants observing the dance occurring offstage

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Rehearsal Notes 4 – dated 15 Jan 98

SM

Dir. requested : One session with Patsy Rodenburg on voice.
One session with Joan Washington on accent.

Champagne flutes for drinks are definitely needed at the ball, Act II scenes 1 & 2.

Trays will be needed for the tea set & teacups in Act I and for the drinks in Act II.

LX

Sound/Music

The order of dances at the ball is

1 st	Gay Gordons
2 nd	Two step
3 rd	Reel

Either the end of the Two step or the start of the Reel will be interrupted for the announcement of the engagement. The dancing will resume with the Reel. All the dances need a long lead-in to enable the new combinations of partners to be found.

Wardrobe

General

Act II scene 2 will be a continuation of Act II scene 1 and therefore takes place at the ball.

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Rehearsal Notes 5 – dated 16 Jan 98

SM

1. About 30 glasses will be needed for the ball; and a jug SR wing for refills.
2. Act III scene 3, two chairs, one table and a low bench needed.
3. A guitar will be needed for Act II scene 3.
4. Act II scene 3 and Act III scene 1 require a bench, table and two chairs. There will be either coffee or lemonade on the table.

LX

5. See General note 7.

Sound/Music

6. A short flourish is needed for the announcement of the engagement

Wardrobe

General

7. The dance area is now in UL wings with the dialogue on-stage occurring on the diagonal DSR/USL.
8. Mr Goodwin elected Equity Dep.

Text changes

9. Page 16, Leonato's last line; change *brother* to *sister*.
10. Page 55, Don Pedro's speech, change *stale* to *whore*.
11. Page 69, Ursula's first speech, delete *Nay, as I am a gentleman, I will*.

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Rehearsal Notes 6 – dated 17 Jan 98

SM

The table needed in Act II scene 3 is the same table as in Act I in the garden. The bench is not the same as in Act III scene 3 (Dogberry/Verges).

There is an extra banner USL running US/DS.

Act II scene 3, coffee cups and coffee-pot on tray (definitely no longer lemonade) will be brought on from SL by Mr Beazley.

Mr Beazley may have a dinner gong at the end of Act II scene 3.

LX

Act II scene 3 is now early morning in a sheltered arbour.

Sound/Music

Simon Baker at RNT is available and ready to work and should be able to go to Cheltenham on Monday evening and stay for Tuesday. He recommends touring our own system comprising:- 2 speakers, 2 MD players, 1 Mixer and 1 amp.

A guitar will be needed for Act II scene 3 for Balthazar.

Wardrobe

Mr Hutchinson is in Act II scene 3 (playing a violin).

Mr Beazley will be in Act II scene 3 as the waiter – taking the lines of 'Boy'.

General

Text changes

Page 30, Benedick's last speech, change:

... the white-bearded fellow... to ... Signor Leonato

delete:

...knavery cannot, sure, hide himself in such reverence.

Bottom of page 24, after Hero's speech, add:

Don Pedro Benedick shall fall in love with Beatrice. If we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer; his glory shall be ours, for we are the only love-gods.

Page 28, Claudio's first speech, Change *evening* to *morning*.

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Rehearsal Notes 7 – dated 19 Jan 98

SM

1. Act III scene 3, Dogberry – small notebook to fit in pocket, a document, a stamp.
2nd Watch – small notebook to fit in pocket.
1st Watch – a hip flask.
Dogberry and Verges – a cup of tea each.
1st and 2nd Watch – each need handcuffs.
Borachio – Wad of notes (1000 ducats)
2. In the tea-set, sugar lumps in the sugar bowl. Likewise with the coffee set.
3. Research when Alka Seltza was introduced.
4. Act III scene 3, possibly two narrow banners with a gap between, CS or DSC, for the watch to hide behind when overhearing Conrade and Borachio.
5. Act III scene 1, there may be a 'hedge' banner DSR. Designer to confirm with Dir. and PM.

LX

6. Act ~~II~~^{III} scene 3, page 45 onwards, it is meant to be late at night and very dark.
7. As with Act II scene 3, Act III scene 1 takes place early morning in the harbour.

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

8. See Stage Management note 1.

General

Text changes

9. Page 43, First Watchman's 1st speech, change *they* to *he*...
10. Page 43, Dogberry's 2nd speech, change *lantern* to *truncheon*...
11. Page 45, First Watchman, change *Well, masters* to *Well, Master Seacoal*.
12. Page 46, Borachio's last speech, change *she leans me out* to *Margaret leans me out*.
13. Page 35, Ursula's speech, add the following fourth line:
Fear you not my part of the dialogue.

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Rehearsal Notes 8 – dated 22 Jan 98

SM

1. Rehearsal wardrobe – corset for Bohdan.
2. Act III scene 2, 4 brandy glasses and may be cigars needed.
3. The gong in Act II scene 3 is now definite and should be as large as possible for Mr Beazley to carry.

LX

4. Act III scene 2 (like II 3 and II 1) takes place in the arbour but it is evening.
5. Correction to Reh Notes 7. LX note 6 should have read Act III scene 3 not Act II scene 3.

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

General

Text changes

6. Page 11, Act I scene 2, cut:
Leonato *Hath the fellow any wit that told you this?*
Ursula *A good sharp fellow; I will send for him, and question him yourself.*
7. Page 48, Act III scene 4, cut start of scene down to: Ursula Well.
Scene now begins:
Margaret *Troth, I think...*
8. Page 50, Ursula's speech, delete *Madam*, insert *Niece*.
9. Page 50, Hero's last speech, now reads:
Help me to dress, good coz, good Ursula, good Meg.

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Rehearsal Notes 9 – dated 23 Jan 98

SM

1. Act III scene 4, wedding morning, small tray with 3 champagne glasses and some chocolates.
2. Act III scene 1, women's gulling scene, a small piece of paper with some writing on it for Ursula to read from.

LX

Sound/Music

3. Gallop music to cease on page 26 after Don John *Be cunning in the working of this.*
4. Music (tbd) will restart with the scene change into Act II scene 3 which now occurs 5 lines into Benedick's speech, after *and such a man is Claudio*
5. The introductory march will have a snap finish followed by the sound of shellfire which will then fade away to allow Act I scene 1 to start.

Wardrobe

6. Rehearsal wardrobe for Act III scene 5
For Leonato, Shirt, collar, studs, waistcoat and jacket.

General

Text changes

7. Page 27, cut first seven lines. Text now begins:
Benedick I do much wonder that one man...
8. Page 48, Hero's speech, change last word from *this* to *that*.
9. Page 52, last Dogberry speech, change *non-come* to *non compos mentis*.
10. Page 55, Don Pedro's speech, change *stale* to *whore*.
11. Page 59, After Leonato *....shall well hear of it*
Insert Friar *Your daughter here the princes left for dead*
Let her awhile be secretly be kept in
And publish it that she who is dead indeed
And then resume Leonato's speech.
12. Page 60, Friar's speech, After *And wish he had not so accused her*
Insert *No, though he thought his accusation true*

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Rehearsal Notes 10 – dated 26 Jan 98

1. Act IV scene 1, 10 small prayer books.
2. Act IV scene 1, a small bouquet of flowers for Hero to carry into church.
3. Act IV scene 1, a stool (set SL wing) to be brought on when Hero swoons.
4. Act V scene 4, a sonnet on a piece of paper each for Hero and Claudio.
5. Act IV scene 2, small ledger and fountain pen for Sexton
6. Act IV scene 2 will use the police table and one chair with a cushion. Table on casters?
7. Act IV scene 2, a bible; this may also be used in the wedding scene.
8. Act V scene 1, a glove may be needed by Benedick for the challenge. Leonato may also need one.
9. Act V scene 1, page 77, a small notebook and pencil for Benedick.

10. Short snatches of music will be needed throughout Act V for underscoring and scene changes.
DSM to speak to MD.

11. See SM note 2.

12. The whole company will be on stage for Act V acting as a sort of chorus.

13. Act V scene 4, page 82, Leonato's first speech change *brother's* to *sister's*.
14. Act V scene 1, page 72, cut the whole of Claudio's last speech. (*Rightly reasoned...*)
15. Act V scene 1, page 73, Dogberry's speech, change *plaintiffs* to *plaintiff*.
16. Act V scene 2, page 77, After *Benedick* *And so, I pray thee, call Beatrice,*
Insert *Margaret* *Well, I will call Beatrice to you, who I think*
hath legs
Benedick/Margaret *And therefore will come.*
Exit Margaret
17. Act V scene 1, page 72, Don Pedro's fourth speech, change *Borachio* to *Conrade*.
18. Act V scene 2, page 79, Benedick's third speech, delete *There will I leave you too, for*

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Rehearsal Notes 11 – dated 28 Jan 98

SM

1. Act I garden party now want slices of lemon on plate / dish and a pair of tongs. This is instead of milk and sugar, but the designer wishes to keep milk and sugar on the tray which will anyway be needed for the coffee in the garden.
2. Act IV scene 2, the sexton examination scene, the sexton needs a folder, tied with red legal ribbon, containing several documents and some blank sheets.
3. Mr Price has requested the guitar be fitted with a strap.
4. When the garden furniture is set for Act II scene 3, It will need the coffee set (7 cups). In addition we will need an ashtray, matches and small cigars on the table.
5. An open bottle of champagne will be collected from SR wing by Mr Beazley (bottom page 21).
6. Act II scene 4, page 48 a tape measure for Ursula.
7. A handkerchief for Beatrice. This may replace the tray of chocs and drinks.
8. Act II scene 1, requires a cigar, matches and an ashtray for Beatrice to be set on the garden table. These will need to come on with the garden furniture in the scene change into the garden on page 27 after the ball is over.

LX

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

9. Wig for sexton is cut.

General

10. DSM to produce Legal docs, ducats and wording for notes – Ursula, sonnets, authorisation.

Text Changes

11. Act V scene 1, page 73, Cut Verges speech.
12. Act IV scene 2, page 65, Dogberry's second speech, change *Masters* to *Master Oatcake*.
13. Text change not 7. from rehearsal notes 8. no longer applies. The start of this scene is now:-
Hero Wake my cousin Beatrice and desire her to rise.
Ursula I will go.
...and then as original.

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Rehearsal Notes 12 – dated 31 Jan 98

SM

Act V scene 1, page 67, Bottle of whiskey for Leonato.

Act V scene 1, page 76, coin for Leonato to give Dogberry.

LX

Sound/Music

See separate Sound and Music requirement

Wardrobe

General

Changes to contact sheet:-

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Text Changes

There has been a rewrite of the end of Act II scene 2.

Delete all on page 25 after *Don John* *I remember.*

Insert new page 26.

Page 69, Act V scene 1, Ursula's first speech:-

Delete *Come, follow me, boy; come, sir boy, come, follow me;*

Act I scene 2, page 11, Leonato's last speech, change *No, no; we will hold it as a dream*

To *Let us hold it as a dream.*

Act I scene 3, page 13, Borachio's first speech, Delete *The Prince your brother is royally entertained by your Leonato; and*

Act V scene 3, page 81, Cut last three speeches of the scene.

Act V scene 1, page 69, Ursula's first speech, cut *Nay, as I am a gentleman, I will.*

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Rehearsal Notes 13 – dated 03 Feb 98

SM

- 1 Dress stand probably cut.
- 2 For the garden party of Act I, most of the tea cups will be taken on using trays. Likewise sandwiches will be distributed on a platter. I think we will be able to get away with the trays we already have and the platter for the sandwiches. The only additional requirement is another plate (not platter) of sandwiches which will be on the table.
- 3 The small wooden tray will need a white cloth on it for the ball of Act II, this is to stabilise the glasses on the tray which is being held by Mr Beazley.
- 4 Act II scene 1, page 14, may need an ashtray and small cigar and matches.

LX

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

General

Text changes

- 5 Act I scene 1, page 8, cut Claudio's line :
If this should ever happen, thou wouldst be horn-mad.
- 6 Act I scene 3, page 13, After *Conrade* *To the death my lord,*
Add *Don John* *Let us go to the great supper.*
- 7 Act II scene 1, page 16, Beatrice's first speech, ... *bad legs...* becomes ... *mad legs...*
- 8 Act II scene 1, page 20, Don Pedro's third speech and Benedick's third speech now read:
Don Pedro *Wilt thou make a trust a sin? The sin is in the stealer.*
Benedick *Yet you, as I take it, have stolen his bird's nest.*

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Rehearsal Notes 14 – dated 04 Feb 98

SM

1. Correction to Rehearsal notes 13;
Dress stand not cut.
2. Another ashtray required for use in Garden Party.
Two ashtrays also required for props tables.
3. Reh Notes 12, SM note referred to a bottle of whiskey. The Designer prefers a whiskey tumbler but both options need to be catered for.
4. A tray of champagnes glasses to be brought on at the end of Act V Sc 4, page 84.
5. The Friar now wears glasses. They have already been found by Wardrobe but will need a place on SR props table.
6. Watch 1 now has a pipe and hip flask. Both already found.

LX

7. LX cues are being faxed to Reh Rm on Saturday.

Sound/Music

8. Revised music and sound requirement to be issued on Saturday 07 February. DSM already spoken with MD.

Wardrobe

9. Look at possibility of Leonato having spectacles.

General

10. Latest timings:-
Part 1 1hr 07min
Part 2 1hr 13min
11. There will be a run of the whole play on Saturday morning at 10.00.
12. There will be a run of Part 2 on Friday afternoon, after the break, at approx 16.15.

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Rehearsal Notes 15 – dated 05 Feb 98

SM

1. Act III Sc 3, policeman's whistle for Watchman 2.
2. Act III Sc 4, Beatrice will have a handkerchief. Therefore the chocolates and champagne on tray are not required.
3. Act IV Sc1, page 56, glass of water fetched by Friar from SL wing.
4. Act IV Sc1, page 56 Ursula needs small smelling salts bottle.
5. See Reh Notes 10, SM note 2.
6. Act III Sc 3, page 45, one bank note, already obtained, for Conrade to give Borachio.
7. Act IV Sc 1, A small white ladies reticule to be attached to belt of Ursula's wedding dress. It must be big enough for the smelling salts bottle (see SM note 4 above).

LX

8. Act IV Sc 1, wedding; the whole scene has moved DS about 2m. First line of pews is about half way down forestage (Cheltenham).
9. See General note 12.

Sound/Music

Wardrobe

10. Is the corset used in Act II Sc 4 actually worn under the wedding dress? Pretending to tighten the corset without actually doing so is proving difficult. Whatever, the strings (or fake strings) need to be about 2-3 ft long.
11. Ursula, Beatrice and Margaret start Act III Sc4 (wedding morning), in their wedding costumes. Hero begins in corset with wedding dress on stand. This must be very quickly and easily removeable as the quick change into the wedding dress is now very short. Approx 1 min. See General note 12.

General

12. Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, Don John and Friar now enter on page 50 (Act III Sc 4) during Ursula's last speech and stay on until the wedding. They stand US of the the Prosc. All the women stay on during Act III Sc 5. Beatrice, Ursula, and Margaret are CS on the forestage, Hero is SR next to the dress stand. Act II Sc 5 now takes place amongst the tableau of figures described above. At the end of this scene the moved line:- HERO Help me to dress, good coz, goood Meg, good Ursula, Is inserted and is followed by the wedding music which frees all on stage to enter for the wedding but only gives Hero a very short time for her quick change into wedding dress.

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