

# MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING SHAKESPEARE IN CLARK PARK

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## A WEST PHILLY COMEDY OF MANNERS

### SHAKESPEARE IN CLARK PARK PRESENTS MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

PHILADELPHIA, PA – **Shakespeare in Clark Park** (SCP) returns to University City for a sixth summer with **Much Ado About Nothing**, running July 20-July 24 at 7:00 pm and helmed by *The Comedy of Errors* director Alex Torra. A comedy of love and wit, **Much Ado About Nothing** centers around that classic sparring duo of Beatrice and Benedick. Bring a picnic blanket, a picnic dinner, the whole family (including the dog) --- and enjoy an evening of free theatre underneath the stars.

In post-war Messina, a town celebrates life, gossip, and love, while a small war boils between two staunch rivals: Beatrice and Benedick. It's painfully obvious to everyone around them—including the audience—that they were meant for one another. But it takes some tricks and some teasing before this prickly pair can own up to their hearts' desires.

*"This one's about love,"* says director Alex Torra. *"About being scared of it, about indulging it, about feeling the sting of its loss. It's also about eavesdropping, high-stakes pretend, villains, dumb cops, and an awesome game of 'who's smarter'. But, mostly, the play's about a group of people, a community, playing together. It's the perfect piece for a summer night in Clark Park."*

Local favorite **Allen Radway** makes his SCP debut as the wise-cracking Benedick, while **Victoria Frings** (Titania in last year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) returns to the park to play the equally wise-cracking Beatrice. **John Jarboe** and **Marla Burkholder** play the young lovers Claudio and Hero, with **Johnny Smith** providing comic relief as the bumbling Dogberry. The production also features performances by **Langston Darby**, **David Blatt**, **Jenna Horton**, **Jess Conda**, **Liam Castellan** and **Nate Holt**.

The design team that created last year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* returns for **Much Ado About Nothing**, with sets and lights by designer **Stephen Hungerford** and costumes by **Erica Hoelscher**. **Andrew Nelson** once again composes the original live music that is a hallmark of SCP productions.

*Shakespeare in Clark Park is committed to producing free, outdoor summer theatre in Clark Park, a vibrant green space that is the cornerstone of a diverse community. While engaging the community and expanding Philadelphia’s summertime cultural scene, Shakespeare in Clark Park re-imagines the world of the park through the works of Shakespeare.*

**Performance Summary:** Show Title: *Much Ado About Nothing*  
Company: Shakespeare in Clark Park  
Location: “The Bowl”, Clark Park  
43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Baltimore Avenue  
Dates: Wednesday, 7/20 – Sunday, 7/24  
7pm  
Tickets: Free  
Bring chairs and blankets  
Information: 215-462-2115  
[www.shakespeareinclarkpark.org](http://www.shakespeareinclarkpark.org)

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