

Much Ado About Nothing

written by William Shakespeare
re-written by pirateutopia.org

Leave Your Phone Switched On At The Theatre

When Beatrice and Benedict blind-date their mates on live tv, they prepare for everything... except one dispossessed bastard and his grasp of special effects.

Shakespeare plugged-in and re-booted; video, R n B, text messages and tonk bouncers. It's the Bard but not as you know it... accessible, interactive and high energy.

In their latest production *Much Ado About Nothing*, pirateutopia invite the audience to directly interact with the performers on-stage. Using mobile phone text messages, roving mics and projection, YOU can question the characters during the show and affect the performance.

In the studio of *Pedro Productions*, Beatrice and Benedict prepare to host their weekly debate show *Down With Love*. In the dressing rooms, the guests wait to find out what will happen to them while backstage, evil revenge is planned. As romance turns to tragedy, the two sparring partners are forced together to expose the villains and discover that love wasn't what they expected.

The production is a joint project between Norwich Arts Centre, pirateutopia.org and two Norwich Schools and is the launch event of a major education initiative to engage young people in theatre through new technology. But it's not just for the kids. Despite the modern setting and the multi-media gimmicks, the show retains the heart and soul of Shakespeare's classic battle-of-the-sexes comedy. Fans of the play will still enjoy the verbal jousting, the misunderstandings, the practical jokes and the genuine drama when two confirmed singles realise they are in love.

There will be two performances at Norwich Arts Centre on 4th May 2006, at 6pm and 8pm. Tickets £6 and £4 (cons) from NAC box office on 01603 660352.

At a pirateutopia production, you leave your phone switched on.

PRESS INFORMATION

Since its formation in 2002, pirateutopia.org has attracted regional attention through imaginative use of new technology in live performance. *Makb3th* used text messages to reveal the secret motives of characters while *Antigone* gave the audience the chance to text vote how the play would end. *Bluebeard* used live projected images and virtual actors to create the mind of a man gone mad. This show recently toured nationally including shows at the ICA, London. The company is funded by Arts Council England (East) and is a member of the ACE Escalator Scheme for promising regional arts companies.

This educational initiative was devised after meetings between artistic director Panda Monium and English teachers local High Schools. Teachers wanted a resource that met the specific needs of the SATs examinations as well as being an entertaining and engaging show in its own right. *Much Ado About Nothing* was selected as it is a prescribed text for Key Stage 3 and a popular show to theatre-goers.

**“It's such a great idea”
English Teacher
Notre Dame High School, Norwich**

The show will be performed at Clifton Park High School, Gorleston, and Norwich schools Notre Dame and Earlham High during April and at Norwich Arts Centre on 4th May 2006.

For press tickets, photo opportunities at the participating schools or further information, please contact artistic director Panda Monium on 0778 099 5151 or panda@pirateutopia.org