Much Ado About Nothing - Character Descriptions

**Beatrice** - Female (25-45) The niece of Leonato and cousin and confidant of Hero. In the play’s skirmish of wits with Benedick, Beatrice shows liveliness, humor and a keen intelligence as she wages a war of wits with Benedick, and often wins the battle. Prefer an actress who can sing.

**Benedick** - Male (30-45) A soldier recently returned from the war, Benedick is charming, has a sparkling wit, and is quick to act on belief and feeling. He carries on a “merry war of words” with Beatrice as they verbally spar throughout the play.

**Don Pedro** - Male (35-65) The soldier-prince of Aragon and longtime friend of Leonato, also returned from war. Don Pedro is a resourceful man who likes action and entertainment.

**Claudio** - Male (18-25) A young soldier who has recently returned from war who falls in love with Hero upon his return to Messina. He is a dear friend of Don Pedro and Benedick. He is easily manipulated.

**Hero** - Female (18-25) - The only daughter of Leonato, and cousin and constant companion of Beatrice, Hero quickly wins Claudio’s heart. Should be able to sing.

**Don John** - Male/ Female (25-40) The illegitimate half-brother of Don Pedro. He is a malcontent and a villain.

**Leonato** - Male/ Female (50-70) The governor of Messina, father of Hero, and uncle of Beatrice. He plays host to Don Pedro and his comrades-in-arms.

**Antonio** - Male/ Female (50-70) The helpful and trusting brother of Leonato and the loving uncle of Hero and Beatrice.

**Balthasar** - Male/ Female (18-40) A musician employed by Don Pedro, Balthasar attends faithfully to his prince. The ability to play guitar is preferred.

**Borachio** - Male (25-45) A drunken and unscrupulous follower of Don John, Borachio almost outdoes his master in villainy. He will do almost anything for money.

**Conrade** – Male/ Female (25-45) Another of Don John’s henchmen, Conrade is an underling to Borachio and helps him in his treacherous plots.

**Friar Francis** – Male/ Female (any age) The priest who performs the marriage ceremony of Claudio and Hero, he believes in Hero’s innocence and is the driving force behind clearing her name.
**Dogberry** – Male (35-60) A comic character, Dogberry is the constable who unwittingly uncovers the villainous plot against Claudio and Hero. Coarse, ignorant, dunderheaded, and likable, his blundering efforts contribute much humor to the play.

**Verges** – Male/ Female (26-40) The headborough of the region, Verges is as equally simple and comic as his companion, Dogberry.

**Margaret** - Female (18-50) Hero’s lady-in-waiting, integral to the plot.

**Ursula** - Female (18-70) Another of Hero’s ladies-in-waiting.

**Town people of Messina:** Various ages and types - the people who populate the town. They dance!