

Summer Shakespeare 2016 presents Victoria University of Wellington's

LOVE'S LABOURS LOST

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Ania Upstill



*Love is a familiar; Love is a devil:
there is no evil angel but Love.*



Summer Shakespeare Trust Board

Welcome, from the Summer Shakespeare Trust, to *Love's Labours Lost*.

It is apt that we should commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with a play that is both so celebratory of love and learning but so aware of mortality and loss. This early comedy was written by the already-successful Shakespeare for the Lord Chamberlain's Men, but predates the more oft-performed heights of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*. Those of you familiar with *Love's Labours Lost* will already know what a gem of a play it is; we hope those of you new to the play will delight in seeing the origins of ideas that will go onto be common themes and tropes when Shakespeare revisits them in later plays. We hope also that the innovations of Ania's production *Love's Labours Lost* might give you some flavour of the complicated way in which Elizabethan audiences viewed gender and the relationship between the sexes.

With its focus firmly on the debate between love and learning, never has there been a production so apt as this *Love's Labours Lost* to have a university as its principal sponsor. We remain hugely grateful and indebted to Victoria University of Wellington for their continued and generous support, not just in their eight consecutive years as our naming sponsor but for their incalculable contribution to Summer Shakespeare as an event since its inception in 1983.

We hope you enjoy the hard work of this summer's devoted cast and crew and look forward to seeing you again next year!

David Lawrence, Kim Bonnington (Co-chairs)
Graham Atkinson, David Carnegie, Jacqueline Coats,
Fiona McNamara, David O'Donnell, Bill Sheat and Sharon Wray



Welcome from the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Wellington Summer Shakespeare production of *Love's Labours Lost*.

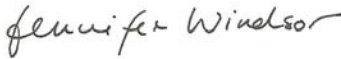
Victoria University is proud of the support we have provided Summer Shakespeare in Wellington over many seasons, which reflects the value we place on the creative arts and our commitment to Wellington as a thriving capital city.

Victoria's strong association with Summer Shakespeare began in 1983. For over 30 years, Victoria University students, graduates and staff have taken part in Summer Shakespeare productions and it continues to be a privilege to support them.

Summer Shakespeare is an institution on Wellington's theatrical calendar. It is an annual tradition for many who live in the city, it is accessible to all and plays an important role in cultivating our creative capital – our ability to imagine and innovate, to express new possibilities through creative activity.

Love's Labours Lost is one of Shakespeare's early comedies and is known for its sophisticated wordplay and unconventional ending. This year's production takes the play's plot of the war of the sexes even further by casting actors to play the female characters and actresses for the male roles.

Enjoy the performance!



Professor Jennifer Windsor

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Victoria University of Wellington





Synopsis

The King of Navarre and three companions commit to a life of study and self-improvement for three years, giving up women, sleep, and food.

Yet the King has forgotten that the Princess of France – complete with her train of ladies-in-waiting – is due to arrive on a pre-arranged visit. It isn't long before the ladies' charms begin to win over the King and his men...

The Princess senses some fun can be had. Letters are switched; the men disguise themselves as Russians; the ladies swap places; and fast-talking proves oaths to be negotiable.

In this war of the sexes, how can one prove their love when words are so malleable by a quick wit?

Director's Note

Working on *Love's Labours Lost* has been a true labour of love, uncovering a diamond where some have seen a lump of coal. One of the features of *LLL* that makes it both difficult and beautifully unique is its language. Shakespeare consciously used (and parodied) 'euphemistic' language – heightened Elizabethan prose that played on rhetorical figures of sound or vocal ornament. In that sense, the play is very much a product of its time, which influenced my decision to give the play an Elizabethan aesthetic.

I also chose to entirely cross-cast the play. Doing so challenges both the actors and our assumptions about gender, but retains the 'war of the sexes' plotline. Thematically, I find *LLL* both strikingly modern (a three-year term of study in order to gain 'fame' calls to mind the length of a University degree) and surprisingly timeless. *LLL* questions what constitutes a good life; is it through pleasure and indulgence? or dedicating oneself to study? You can decide for yourself, but I interpret the unusual ending as a way of restoring a natural balance between the two.

This has been a great opportunity for me as a Director. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who has been a part of creating this show, and thank you, the audience, for sharing it with us. I hope that you enjoy this strange, multi-faceted gem that we have uncovered, cut, and polished for your pleasure!

Ania

Cast

The Court of Navarre

King, Ferdinand of Navarre
Dumaine, a lord attending the King
Longaville, a lord attending the King
Berowne, a lord attending the King
Don Armado, a Spanish knight and braggart
Moth, Armado's page
Costard, a clown
Dull, a constable
Jaquenetta, a dairymaid
Holofernes, a schoolmistress
Nathaniel, a curate
Forester, in the King's park

India Loveday
Morgan Collins
Lydia Verschaffelt
Sarah Burton
Minnie Grace
Ameeshar-Rose Kipa
Hilary Penwarden
Phoebe Blaze Callanan
Devon Nuku
Brandon Mikel
Shirley Domb
Eden Christie

The Court of the Princess of France

Princess, of France
Katherine, a Lady attending the Princess
Maria, a Lady attending the Princess
Rosaline, a Lady attending the Princess
Boyet, a Lord attending the Princess
Mercade, a page and messenger

Jordan Schmidt
Keegan Fitzgibbon
Donald James
Hamish Boyle
Camilia Hayek
Maddie Brooks Gillespie

Crew

Director
Producer
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
2D Designer
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Design Coordinator
Marketing Manager
Front of House Manager
Wardrobe Supervisor
Head Seamstress
Music Composition

Ania Upstill
Sally Thorburn
Neal Barber
Shaneel Sidal
Cordelia Black
Elle Beeden
Lou Mustaers-Hoyte
Amelia Taverner
Aisha Atherton
Helen Mackenzie
Victoria Barton-Chapple
Lisa Taylor
Sylvia Gilbert-Potts
Jane Mackenzie
Vincent Wong



Crew Biographies

Aisha Atherton

Aisha graduated High School in 2014 and has been involved in many productions through her schooling at Whangarei Girls' High School. She is a current student at Victoria University, where she studies Theatre as one of her majors. She was Lighting Designer for *How to Catch a Grim Reaper* (Young and Hungry 2015). Though she has only designed lights for a few shows, she has an absolute passion for the design and simplicity, yet complexity of lighting.

Neal Barber

Neal moved to Wellington in 2012 to complete a MIS (Library Science) at Victoria having gained a BA (Hons - English), PGDipArts (Theatre), and BSC (Microbiology) from the University of Otago. Neal has been involved in all aspects of amateur theatre. He has previously worked with The Globe Theatre (Dunedin), Dorian Gray Productions, Allen Hall Theatre, Spectrum Theatre (University of Virginia), Dionysiac, and Fresh Dada. This is Neal's second Summer Shakespeare; he survived his trial by fire as Assistant Production Manager for *Timon of Athens* and has thoroughly enjoyed working with the great team of *Love's Labours Lost*.

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Victoria's life is a bit like one of Shakespeare's comedies, with flashes of drama and romance throughout. She also strives to enjoy the same amount of decadence, frivolity, and wit that appears in *Love's Labours Lost*. A Victoria University alumna with degrees in History and Marketing, and a Diploma in Journalism from Massey University, this is her second year as Marketing Manager with Summer Shakespeare as she figures work is the curse of the drinking classes!

Eleanor Beeden

Elle has been working as a tutor at the Victoria University School of Design for five years, and has recently completed her MDes (Digital Media). Interested in both digital and traditional methods of design, she enjoys bringing these two areas together through her work. Elle has exhibited artwork locally at Enjoy Gallery and Matchbox Studios, and internationally for the Creative Action Network and singer-songwriter Lloyd Cole. This is her first year working with Summer Shakespeare.

Cordelia Black

Cordelia is a published writer, musician, actor, improviser, cabaret artist and producer. She's an alumna of Victoria and sponsors the Touchstone academic Prize for Literary Translation. Cordelia was an ensemble member in the 2013 Summer Shakespeare season of *Antony and Cleopatra* and is now trying her hand as part of the crew.

Sylvia Gilbert-Potts

Sylvia is the season's Wardrobe Supervisor as well as a constructor on the costume team. When she's not trying to convince people how great her cat is, she spends her time hanging around theatres until somebody gives her a job and has as much experience on stage as she does behind the scenes. She has a diploma in Costume Construction from Toi Whakaari and has worked on, and been in, various shows around Wellington over the last four years.

Helen Mackenzie

An avid theatre goer, Helen is an Associate of the NZ Speech Board and graduate of Victoria with a BA (English and Theatre). Recently, she has costumed shows in New York and been both onstage and backstage in a number of Wellington productions including *Animal Farm*, *Yours Truly*, *The Tempest* and *Out Of Order*. She is delighted to be part of such a talented team for her first Summer Shakespeare.

Lou Mustaers-Hoyte

An Industrial Design graduate from Victoria, Lou is a Wellington-based designer and maker who shares his passion between design, art and music. He explores form through a strong sense of materiality and often orientates projects around digital technologies, in pursuit of the overlap where the material and digital inform one another. Lou is currently operating out of a studio in central Wellington as a freelance furniture, spatial and lighting designer for residential and commercial environments.

Shaneel Sidal

Shaneel has been acting since he was 13. After graduating from Wellington Performing Arts Centre in 2002 and Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School in 2007, he made his directing debut in 2015 in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. He has loved Stage Managing Summer Shakespeare and working with the great cast and crew.

Amelia Taverner

Amelia graduated with a BFA Honours in Theatre Production and Design from York University in 2013 and is currently completing her Master of Design at Massey University, focusing on costume design and sustainability. Recent credits include *Asylum* (The Performance Arcade 2016), *Cast Away* (Deep Anatomy, Bahamas), and *Sleep/Wake* (The Playground NZ, NYC). This is her first time working with Summer Shakespeare and has enjoyed working with this fabulous cast and crew.

Lisa Taylor

Lisa moved to Wellington in June 2009 to begin her studies at Victoria. She is currently in her third year heading for a BA in English and Religious Studies. Outside of her studies, Lisa is learning to be an actor, she is currently improvised theatre, as well as teaching ESOL. She also volunteers as an Usher/Fire Warden at BATS theatre. This is her second year volunteering at Summer Shakespeare, and her first as the FOH Manager.

Sally Thorburn

This is Sally's fifth year carrying out the labour of love of Producing Summer Shakespeare. Sally has found great synchronicity between her roles as Producer and Manager of the Emerging Artists Trust, as Summer Shakespeare is an excellent training ground for emerging theatre practitioners. At around the time that the action of *Love's Labours Lost* is set, Sally graduated from Victoria University with her first degree (History/Art History) and it is to this fact that she attributes her serfdom as Producer.

Ania Upstill

Ania is a Wellington-based theatre practitioner and Artistic Director of The Lord Lackbeards Touring Company. She was nominated for Most Promising New Director at the 2015 Wellington Theatre Awards (previously the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards). She has trained with Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe in London, and Shakespeare Through Performance at the University of Texas, Austin. Ania has enjoyed Shakespeare since playing the Lion in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the age of six.



Cast Biographies

Phoebe Blaze Callahan

Phoebe has been acting since the age of 12, participated in the State Trumbauer competition in Alabama at 16 and studied Theatre at Otago University. Currently she is also filming a web series produced by PVC Productions and can be found in the studio recording voice-over work in addition to her work in Human Resources.

Hamish Boyle

After failing to persuade *Timon of Athens* to help last year, Hamish stepped away from the senate, as he was Young and Hungry for more action. Using group co-ordination while learning *How To Catch A Grim Reaper* soon helped him lead Munster to victory, for while an All Black stands to win with others, *Alone It Stands* to lose. Also, Hamish can't think of puns for his other acting *Encounters*.

Maddie Brooks Gillespie

Maddie discovered Shakespeare when she was nine and has been in love with his works ever since. Now twelve, she has played Prince Edward in *Richard III* (2015) with The Bacchanals at BATS Theatre, performed as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2014) and Ariel in *The Tempest* (2015) as part of the SGCNZ Primarily Playing with Shakespeare programmes. She most recently played Fabian in *Twelfth Night* with the Wellington Young Actors. Maddie is ecstatic to be part of Summer Shakespeare.

Sarah Burton

In her previous life, Sarah likes to think she was a mathematician; hence why now she has no interest in that field. After diving head first into a Theatre and English degree two years prior, Sarah decided it was time to step away from the comfort of backstage, pushing herself to act in the big wide world of Wellington theatre.

Eden Christie

Since leaving secondary school, Eden studied Theatre, Film, and Italian at Victoria University before moving to Sydney to undertake a nine week on-camera course at Darlo Drama. Since then she has travelled in Asia, Europe, Central, and South America. During June and July last year she lived in New York City, taking acting classes at The Actors Connection and The Network. This year Eden plans on returning to university to resume her studies.

Morgan Collins

Hailing from the UK, fourth-year biology student Morgan has loved theatre since her first foray into acting as the rejected Christmas bauble in *The Christmas Fairy*. Despite 12 years away from her roots, she retains a love of all things Shakespeare. This is her first Summer Shakespeare, but she hopes to continue with this passion for many years to come.

Shirley Domb

A couple of years ago, Shirley felt she was missing some creativity in her life. So she thought about what she really loved doing as a child: making up stories and dressing her brunette Barbie. Since she's not so good with creative writing, she gave acting a go. So far, this is her fourth theatre role and her first Shakespeare and outdoor production. The best part is getting to know a great group of talented people – it's been a fabulous journey and learning experience altogether for her.

Minnie Finlayson

Minnie Grace thinks acting and Shakespeare and being involved in this production are the bee's knees. However, she is best known for her involvement in the webseries adaptations of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Love's Labour's Lost* with The Candle Wasters. These can be found on YouTube by searching for *Nothing Much To Do* or *Lovely Little Losers*. She also hopes you have a pleasant evening.

Keegan Fitzgibbon

After Hogwarts misplaced his acceptance letter and Gandalf never returned his calls, Keegan was forced to live the life of a simple boy. He gave up the Jedi Academy to begin acting and writing. Currently residing in Wellington, majoring in Theatre and Film at Victoria University, and writing frequently, Keegan dreams of one day shipping off to London to make his career. Or becoming Batman, whichever comes first.

Camilia Hayek

Camilia is an effervescent French woman – sometimes lawyer – who recently arrived in Wellington. A time and space traveller, she took off on board the Shakespeare train with this Summer Shakespeare, dedicating herself to her wonderful Princess. Indeed, Boyet is a role that suits Camilia perfectly: echoing her lawyerly communication skills and her desire to act. Before Wellington, Camilia worked in Paris and London as a French and Arabic speaking lawyer. Wild and passionate, she wanted to express herself as an artist so started modelling and acting. She is now glad to live the Shakespearean experience with a great team!

Donald James

Donald is a deviser, performer, musician, and sound designer who has dived into the theatre community since moving to Wellington two years ago. This year he performed in *Two Day Plays*, *A Stage of One's Own*, and *The Crucible*. He also composed a score of songs for *Snowbright and the Frozen Wastes*. This is his first time being a part of Summer Shakespeare and he is excited to be transformed into a Princess's lady-in-waiting.

Ameeshar Kipa

Ameeshar's passion for drama started at an early age. When Ameeshar was just four, Ameeshar refused to speak on stage in a small holiday programme show so became the lion who would roar a mighty "Raaaaw". Since then not only has Ameeshar's acting skills improved but acting has given Ameeshar the courage to face life head on... just like the lion: no fear, courageous.

India Loveday

India began performing at the age of three and now, aged 18, is in her first year of a Bachelor's in Musical Theatre. Her recent note-worthy performances include ensemble work in Circa Theatre's *Edwin Drood*, the understudy for Debbi in Whitireia Performance Centre's *Serial Killer Barbie* and Mayor Peter Stockman in a production of *Enemy of the People*, however this is India's first Shakespearean lead role. India dreams of one day performing on Broadway.

Brandon Mikel

Brandon Mikels are strange sorts of creatures. They lurk under road bridges and between cracks in pavement, and eat all manner of root vegetables. Never trust a Brandon Mikel, as they are consistently coming up with tricks and rude games. A Brandon Mikel can be trapped quite easily with a keenly placed carrot or potato. If necessary, thump a Brandon Mikel on its forehead in order to escape its clutches. They may be domesticated, but not without much effort.

Devon Nuku

In his second year at Victoria University studying theatre, Devon would like to one day call himself an actor. Having successfully been in a bunch of things you haven't heard of, he is tentatively on his way there. He has enjoyed working on *Love's Labours Lost*, his first Summer Shakespeare, and is looking forward to the show.

Hilary Penwarden

Hilary is a graduate of Victoria University's Theatre Programme. She is a long time member of Wellington's multi-award winning theatre company, The Bacchanals. The first Shakespeare character she ever played was Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* when she was seven years old. Ever since then she's enjoyed the challenge of working out what all the beautiful words that Shakespeare wrote mean, and relishes in the pure joy of bringing them to life.

Jordan Schmidt

Jordan began his ascension into theatre with his breath-taking performance as a phantom in his primary school's amalgamation of *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera* (the director couldn't choose just one now, could he?). Since then, Jordan has improved his skills (fingers crossed) under the tutelage of his energetic and eccentric high school drama teachers. Jordan enjoys activities such as 'script-writing procrastination' and babbling into microphones with a range of abnormal voices.

Lydia Verschaffelt

Lydia is currently studying a Bachelor of Arts at Victoria University with a major in English Literature and Classical Studies, and a cheeky minor in Art History. She would like to extend a heartfelt apology to any Russians in the audience. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with such a fun and incredibly talented cast and crew, and hopes no love is lost as you watch the fruits of their labours.



Special Thanks

Stephanie Cairns – Musical Director

Kimberly Upstill – Gladstone season Wardrobe Mistress and Caterer

Shannon Friday – Voice Coach

Julia Campbell – Viewpoints Coach

Carmel McGlone and Lora Parry – Advisors for Male Characters

Scott Little – Advisor for Female Characters

Theo Wijnsma – Design Concept and Set Design Mentor

Jennifer Giller – Tent Design Consultation

Graham Hoyte – Workshop Hand

Pam Hindmarsh – Stage and Production Management Mentor

Stella Lu, Anna Lowe, Keith Mackenzie, Kate Haley, Joy Hellyer,
Nalynee Tuhi, Jeanine Ward, Aroon Sidal – Sewers and Props Assistants

Recorders and Early Music Union – Pre-show Music

NITROmedia – Production Stills

Cathy McCulloch – School of English, Film, Theatre and Media Studies, VUW

Sophie Prebble, Keith Brazendale – VUW staff

Neil Christiansen, Pauline Bradshaw, Michelle Campbell – Wellington City Council

Picnic Cafe
Royal Wolf
Paper Bag Princess
Flagmakers, Petone
Hireace, Abel Smith St
NZ Deerstalkers Association

And all of our fabulous, friendly, Front-of-House Assistants

Extra special thanks to our families, friends, partners, employers and pets for putting up with us these last months!

With thanks to our sponsors
- we couldn't do it without you!



