

Jeremy Johnson

Reflection on *Much Ado About Nothing*

Hilarious, entertaining and mischievous are some of the many words that are on the table to describe this show and some of my responses to it. It is not everyday when you get to see a show at the Haymarket theatre, so when I found out we would be attending a performance there, I just knew it would have to be great. Sure enough *Much Ado* stood up to all of the buzz surrounding the show. Just like *The Rover*, this was my first time ever seeing this Shakespeare play performed. I was quite new to the story as well. From the first minute onward, I was laughing at a rate of about a joke or act every three to five minutes. It was clear that the actors had a relationship with each other off stage, because the energy they brought with them, could easily be felt all the way up in the second balcony level (where we were sitting.)

Just like some of the other shows and productions we saw, the technical aspect left the greatest impact on me. At the end of the first scene/act I was left nearly starstruck with the transition that happened, as well as all of the set changes moving forward. Seeing the platform deck retract all the way upstage and out of sight was incredible, as well as the set pieces track in from left and right. The smoothness and timeliness of the changes were beautiful, and no time was lost from the play as well! The attention to detail that went into the design, in particular the platforms, matches the efforts that I make when I go into designing a show too!