

# Tribune Chronicle

August 21, 2018 | Today's Paper | Submit News | Subscribe Today

## Kent-Trumbull's 'Ado' finds physical and verbal humor

TICKET

MAR 22, 2018

ANDY GRAY

Entertainment Editor

agray@tribtoday.com



CHAMPION — William Shakespeare's work is known for its wordplay — the memorable quotes, the expressions we use centuries later without realizing their origin.

"*Much Ado About Nothing*," one of his most popular comedies, certainly has that. But one thing that stands out about Kent State University at Trumbull Theater's staging of the work is the opportunity for physical humor that director Eric Kildow finds in the script.

### MOST READ

German case offers example on open bo...

Tue. 8:20 a.m.: Divers, rescuers hunt for ...

Bringing community together

On the record – Maplewood Schools

Cortland to buy three new police vehicles

Agenda

### NEWSLETTER

Today's breaking news and more in your inbox

EMAIL ADDRESS

I'm interested in (please check all that apply)

As Dogberry and Verges, Sierra Boyle and Jenna Cintavey are so in sync in their movements, the result is part ballet, part Two Stooges routine. It's too bad they don't show up until the second act. They enlivened every scene that featured them.

When Don Pedro (Joe Toto) and Claudio (Jacob Glosser) carry on a conversation while pretending not to know that Benedick (Peter Byrne) is listening to every word, Byrne's actions gave the scene a comedic jolt as he darted back and forth and reacted broadly to what was being said.

In an interview last week, Kildow talked about how Shakespeare "*wrote for the Joe Sixpack of his day,*" and there are elements of his staging that emphasize the slapstick possibilities in the Bard's plays.

Kildow also effectively switches the gender for several of the characters. I'm guessing this was borne out of necessity — the audition pool in college and community theater usually features more women than men — but the director and the performers make it work.

The costumes by Frances Harrison are more contemporary than 1600, when "*Ado*" debuted, but they work in establishing the military backgrounds of several characters and help in blurring the gender distinctions of the male roles played by women.

The multi-level set by Tony Kovacic provides the entryways and alcoves needed for the action while serving as a largely blank canvas upon which

Daily Newsletter  Breaking News

SUBSCRIBE

the story can play out.

The plot revolves around a couple of difficult romances. Claudio falls in love with Hero (Sarah Heavner) at first sight. Don Pedro agrees to help Claudio woo her, but Don Pedro's brother (Camilla Keener) conspires to separate the couple.

Meanwhile, Don Pedro and Claudio work to bring together Benedick and Beatrice (Kim Akins), two sharp-tongued personalities who never would admit their affection for one another without a little help from outside forces.

Kildow has to juggle a cast of actors with far different experience levels. Byrne is a Shakespeare scholar who's appeared in many productions and Akins manages the Mahoning Valley Players, which stages free performances of Shakespeare plays every summer at Mill Creek Park. Others are doing their first Shakespeare play. The director generally makes those different parts mesh together, but there was a noticeable unevenness to Sunday's matinee performance.

Byrne and Akins deftly banter and bicker with one another in the first act, but they didn't have the same spark at all times in the second act. In general, there were times the energy level seemed to ebb, but then the production would find its rhythm in the next scene.

# COMMENTS

0 Comments

Sort by **Oldest** ▾

Add a comment...

 Facebook Comments Plugin

## TICKET

### WaterFire Sharon celebrates heroes

“Everyday Heroes” is the theme of the second 2018 WaterFire Sharon free event, which runs from 2 to 11 p.m. ...

### Rust Belt stages drama

The Rust Belt Theater Company, which normally focuses on new and original works, will turn to a seldom-staged play ...

### Playhouse adds ‘Mamma Mia!’ to 2018-19 season

Youngstown Playhouse will stage the local premiere of the popular musical “Mamma Mia!” The musical built ...

## Works sought for new exhibition

The Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County seeks submissions for “Comedy and Art on Park.”  
The one-day ...

## ‘Crazy Rich Asians’ is a delightful new fairy tale

There are two glittering parades running in tandem through Jon M. Chu’s “Crazy Rich Asians,” a glitzy and ...

## Ticket window

• ON SALE THIS WEEK • Carrie Underwood’s Cry Pretty Tour 360 will include shows in Cleveland and Pittsburgh ...

### NEWS

Local News  
Community News  
Obituaries  
Business

### SPORTS

Local Sports  
Sport columns  
High School Sports  
Ohio Sports

### OPINION

Editorials  
Community Columnists  
Letters to the Editor

### LIFE

Lifestyles  
Society  
Ticket

### CONTACT

Submit News  
Subscribe  
Advertise  
Contact Us

Copyright © Tribune Chronicle | <http://www.tribtoday.com> | 240 Franklin Street SE, Warren, OH 44483 | 330-841-1600 | Ogden Newspapers | The Nutting Company