

LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST

By William Shakespeare
Directed by John Caird

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Suitable for Grade 5 and up.

STUDENT MATINÉE DATES

September 4, 6.

ABOUT THE PLAY

There are no obvious sources for the plot.

The male characters are loosely based on historical figures: Henry of Navarre, who later became Henry IV of France (Navarre); Charles de Gontaut, duc de Biron (Berowne); Charles, duc de Mayenne (Dumain); and Henri I d'Orléans, duc de Longueville (Longaville).

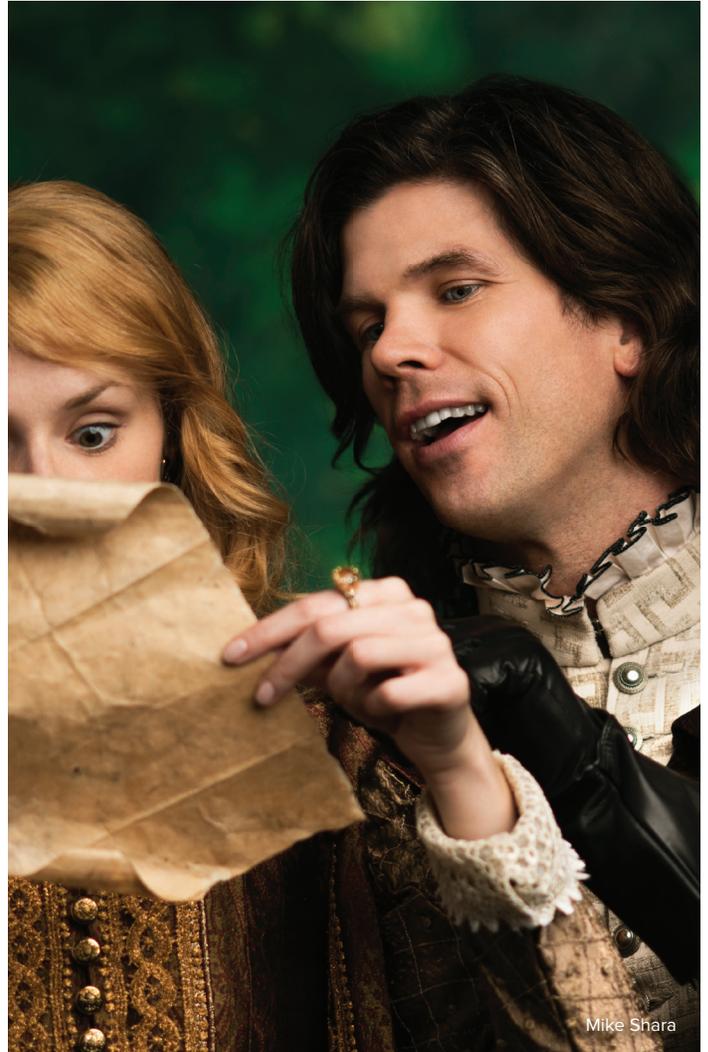
It was likely written in 1595 or 1596 and was published in quarto in 1598 with a cover notation saying "Newly corrected and augmented by W. Shakespere."

SYNOPSIS

Ferdinand, the King of Navarre, has persuaded his courtiers Dumain, Longaville and Berowne to vow to join him in renouncing the company of women for three years, in order to devote themselves to study. Their oath is immediately put to an unexpected test when the Princess of France – attended by her equally attractive ladies-in-waiting, Katharine, Maria and Rosaline – arrives on a diplomatic mission from her father.

Meanwhile, the eccentric Spanish nobleman Don Armado has conceived an unrequited passion for a country wench, Jaquenetta. He dictates a love letter to her, but his messenger, Costard, accidentally exchanges it for a sonnet that Berowne has written to Rosaline. Don Armado's effusions cause great amusement when received by Rosaline, while Jaquenetta takes Berowne's sonnet to the pedantic schoolmaster Holofernes, who advises her to take it to Ferdinand.

In a series of comic revelations, it transpires that



Mike Shara

Berowne is not the only one to fall short of his vow: Dumain, Longaville and Ferdinand himself are all in love with their visitors from France. They decide to woo the ladies by disguising themselves as Muscovites and presenting a "Russian entertainment." The women, alerted to this ploy, respond with a deception of their own.

Another entertainment is arranged: a "masque of the Nine Worthies," presented by Don Armado and Holofernes. But the merriment is interrupted when a French lord arrives with news of the death of the Princess's father. The ladies return to France, promising their lovers that they will marry them – provided that the men first undergo a year's penance for having broken their vows.

CONTENT ADVISORY FOR STUDENTS

Contains some sexual innuendo.

THEMES

- Love & Sex
- Education
- Cunning & Cleverness
- Behaviour: Natural & Unnatural
- Time
- Man & Natural World
- Literature & Writing
- Men/Women & Masculinity/Femininity
- Principles

MOTIFS

- Heroes
- Eyes
- Nature
- Play within a Play

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- All Grades: Language/English (Listening to Understand, Speaking to Communicate, Reading for Meaning & Critical Literacy)
- All Grades: Drama, Music, Visual Art
- Gr. 5 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Bullying/Violence; Growth and Development: Stress & Pressure)
- Gr. 6 Health & PE (Safe & Positive Social Interaction & Conflict Management)
- Gr. 7 Health and PE (Bullying/Harassment, Healthy Sexuality)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Interdisciplinary Studies (Introduction to Information Studies / Studies in Education / Utopian Societies: Visions & Realities)
- Gr. 11 – 12 Social Sciences and Humanities (Gender Studies / Equity, Diversity & Social Justice / Dynamics of Human Relationships / Challenge & Change in Society / Philosophy)

ENRICHMENT

Study Guide available at stratfordfestival.ca/studyguides.

Private workshops and post-show chats may be arranged by calling the Education Department at 519.271.4040, ext. 2354.

Festival Theatre and Costume Warehouse tours may be arranged by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600.

Additional classroom activities and ideas for engagement with the text can be found at stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials.

LET US TAKE CARE OF LUNCH!

Picnic lunches are available anytime (must be ordered two weeks in advance) and Student Deli Lunch Buffets are another option (subject to availability). For more information, see page 11 of the Schools Guide (available online) or ask the Groups and Schools Department when placing your ticket order.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Respect the actors and your fellow patrons. When the lights dim, it is time to be quiet and engage with the actors on stage. Be sure to turn off cell phones and refrain from texting, talking or eating, as this is disrespectful to the actors who are telling the story.

Respond to what you see through laughter, tears, smiles, giggles or captivated silence. The actors feed off your presence and response to their work on stage. Don't respond by talking to your neighbour; please wait until after the performance to discuss your thoughts.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Online

Order at any time and select your seats! Visit stratfordfestival.ca/festivaltrip.

Phone

1.800.567.1600 or 519.273.1600

Fax

519.273.3731

Email

groups@stratfordfestival.ca

Download an order form at

stratfordfestival.ca/orderform

Mail

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