



Much adoe about Nothing.

*As it hath been sundrie times publikely
acted by the right honourable, the Lord
Chamberlaine his servants.*

Written by William Shakspeare.



LONDON
Printed by V.S. for Andrew Wise, and
William Aspley.
1600.

Much Ado About Nothing

Actor Packet

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CONTENTS OF THE ACTOR PACKET

Peter Hall, *Shakespeare's Advice to the Players*, pp. 24-61.

Peter Hall offers a succinct, useful introduction to many key components of speaking Shakespearian text. Verse, scansion, monosyllables, pauses, rhyme structures, rhetorical devices, and pronunciation are all covered. Hall's insights are based on years of directing Shakespeare's plays rather than on dense scholarship. One final note on using Hall's tips: remember that they are not gospel. In rehearsal, we may complicate or refute Hall's assertions and instructions. If ever in doubt, privilege what we explore in rehearsal over this text.

Stephen Greenblatt, *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*, pp. 118-147, 288-299.

Greenblatt's biography of Shakespeare does an outstanding job of melding the information we know about the author's life with the themes, characters, and language of the plays themselves. I have included two short chapters from the larger work that are of particular interest for our production: "Wooing, Wedding, and Repenting," which directly compares Shakespeare's own courtship with the plot of *Much Ado About Nothing*, and "Speaking With the Dead," which covers the approximate time range in which he wrote the play (1597-1599).

Marjorie Garber, *Shakespeare After All*, pp. 371-390.

Garber's essays on each of the plays, culled from her Harvard lectures, are a great place to start for accessible scholarly analysis and close reading of Shakespeare's work. Her exploration of the characters and her discussion of the strong links between *Much Ado About Nothing* and the acting style of Restoration comedies are particularly useful to actors.

Annotated Table of Contents, FSU Production Casebook.

This annotated resource describes the various articles, clippings, visual images, and playlists from the larger production casebook. If something on this list interests you, please ask me for a .pdf copy! The entire casebook can also be accessed over the file-sharing site Dropbox, which I'm happy to share with you by request. If you're looking for a resource that isn't here, or have a research question that you'd like help answering, please don't hesitate to ask.