**Love, Trickery and Rumor Come Together for Old School Comedy**

(At Plymouth State University, the Music, Theatre and Dance Department’s presents the classic comedy Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare. Running from October 19-22 at the Silver Center, this tale of lovers folly and tricky rumors is sure to get the best of everyone.)

It’s 1918, the men are back from war and in their absence, the women are desperate for a husband. Hero has been stricken with love for Claudio, but Villain Don John has other plans. Before the wedding, Don John sends his men to ruin the reputation of Hero. Claudio finds out that Hero has supposedly been unfaithful and calls off the wedding, publically humiliating her. Through rumor and sabotage, the two lovers fall apart, as Beatrice and Benedick fall together.

Beatrice and Benedick have sworn to be single for the rest of their lives, deeming no other to be worthy of their love. Secretly, they love each other, but will never admit to it. Their families on the other hand, know they have the hots for each other and create a plan to bring them together. Each lover is told that the other has confessed their love to the other, and they believe that it is fate, little do they know that rumor has caused their love to come to light.

As chaos ensues, the watchmen, Dogberry and Verges, faithfully obey the law, catching Don John’s henchmen in the act. They’re put on trial and the truth comes out. Everyone finds that their rumors are false, but could there be truth in any rumor?

Featuring contemporary music from artists such as Lady Gaga, Meatloaf, and Billy Idol, Much Ado about nothing brings new, and old, meaning to the phrase “Romantic Comedy” Like classic Shakespearean comedies, *Much Ado About Nothing* plays into innuendo and physical comedy, keeping the audience, and actors, on their toes.

*Much Ado About Nothing* offers collaborative experience for current students to work with Alumni from Plymouth State University who actively work in the field outside of an academic setting. Jessie Chapman, Director, is a PSU instructor of theatrical experience and theatre history. She is also the management director of Advice to the Players in Sandwich, NH. She is accompanied by fellow alumni Marni Balint (Scenic Design) and Ariel Couture (Costume Design) to complete a work of art special to Plymouth State University.

Plymouth State University and the department of Music, Theatre, and Dance presents *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare from October 19-22 in HannawayTheatre at the Silver Center of the Arts. Performances are 7PM October 19st, 20th, and 21th and 1PM on October 22nd. Tickets are on sale now. Visit the Silver Center of call (603) 535- ARTS for tickets and more information.