

**MEL GIEDROYC STARS IN MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING, A CO-PRODUCTION WITH ROSE
THEATRE KINGSTON, GRANVILLE & PARHAM
PRODUCTIONS AND ANTIC | FACE
THE PRODUCTION WILL MARK ROSE THEATRE
KINGSTON'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

Rose Theatre Kingston, Granville & Parham and antic | face present

Much Ado About Nothing

By **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Simon Dormandy**

Fri 13 Apr – Sun 6 May 2018

Press Night: **Wed 18 Apr, 7pm**

Rose Theatre Kingston today announces the centre piece of their ten year anniversary will be Shakespeare's ***Much Ado About Nothing***, a Rose co-production with Granville & Parham Productions and antic | face. **Mel Giedroyc** stars as Beatrice, reuniting with director **Simon Dormandy** following *Luce* at Southwark Playhouse in 2016. The production opens on Wed 18 Apr, with previews from Fri 13 Apr, and runs until Sun 6 May.

Don Pedro is victorious. Having won a turf war down in the city, the Mafia overlord and his entourage take over the luxury spa hotel Messina in order to hide-out, party and recover deep in the Sicilian hills. As hotel owner Leonato fawns over his clan boss, his beautiful daughter Hero wins the heart of Claudio, the Don's young protégé. Meanwhile the no-nonsense, customer experience manager Beatrice has unfinished business to attend to with Benedick, Pedro's commitment-phobic consigliere. But when Hero is disgraced, the party is over, love turns to hatred and new battle lines are drawn.

Beneath its witty surface, ***Much Ado About Nothing*** is a powerful exploration of the struggle for love, identity and self-knowledge in a male-dominated world – as relevant today as ever before. Our production will use Shakespeare's original language in a sharp contemporary setting that not only offers glorious opportunities for physical comedy amid the furnishings of a spa hotel but also provides a social context that enhances the darker themes in Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece.

Executive Producer of Rose Theatre Kingston, **Jerry Gunn** said today, "*We are delighted to be producing Shakespeare's most popular comedy Much Ado about Nothing for the first time, and in our tenth anniversary year, with the superb Mel Giedroyc. I'm very excited to see Mel put her stamp on*

the role, and it is entirely fitting to have such a popular actress and performer playing Beatrice, something our Founding Artistic Director Sir Peter Hall would have been enchanted by."

Director, **Simon Dormandy** commented, "A contemporary Sicilian setting offers the perfect social context for the play: an inflexibly patriarchal world, where daughters still marry as their fathers decree; a world brittle with honour and the law of vendetta; a south-Mediterranean world where a wedding is a major community event, and a shrine is still a place where magical things might just happen. *Much Ado About Nothing* is more than just funny: it is full of joy, a joy that springs as much from the overcoming of darkness by light - of brutal codes of behaviour by wit, imagination and love – as from wonderful jokes and sublime clowning."

He added, "Not only a household name for her television presenting and comedy work, Mel is an outstandingly subtle, powerful actor, as well as a very funny one and we're sure, an unforgettable Beatrice."

Mel Giedroyc plays Beatrice. Her theatre credits include *Luce* (Southwark Playhouse), *Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour* (UK tour), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Playhouse Theatre), *Eurobeat* (Novello Theatre) and *New Boy* (Trafalgar Studios). Television credits include *The Sound of Music Live*, *Miranda*, *Sadie J*, *Sorry, I've Got No Head* and *The Vicar of Dibley*. Presenting work includes *Letterbox*, *The Great British Bake Off*, *Let It Shine*, *Horrible Histories*, *Eurovision Song Contest*, *Relatively Clever*, *Mel and Sue Show*, *The Gift*, *Now You See It*, *Collectaholics*, *Late Lunch* and *Light Lunch*. Radio credits include *The 4 O'Clock Show*, *Count Arthur Strong Series* and *The Mel & Sue Thing*. Giedroyc has also appeared in many comedy television shows including *Would I Lie To You?*, *Big Fat Quiz of The Year*, *8 Out of Ten Cats* and Richard Ayoade's *Travel Man*.

Simon Dormandy directs. His recent work includes an award-winning production of *The Hudsucker Proxy*, his own adaptation of the Coen Brothers movie, in association with Complicite for the Nuffield, Southampton and Liverpool Playhouse; the UK première of *Luce* by JC Lee; *Julius Caesar* for Bristol Old Vic; collaborating with Simon McBurney on *The Encounter*, recently on Broadway; and two main-house shows at the Arcola - a reimagined *Waiting for Godot* with a young comic double-act in the leading roles, and the UK première of *Eldorado* by Marius von Mayenburg, starring Amanda Hale and Sian Thomas, in 2014. He will co-direct his own adaptation of *A Passage to India* for the Royal and Derngate, Northampton in 2018. His children's version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for orchestra and six actors was recently performed by the LPO and Globe Ed at the Royal Festival Hall. As an actor, Dormandy played leading roles with *Cheek by Jowl*, the RSC, the Donmar, the Old Vic, at many other theatres, as well as on film and TV. Between 1997 and 2012 he taught Drama and English at Eton College.

Much Ado About Nothing

Listings

Rose Theatre Kingston

24-26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL

Fri 13 Apr – Sun 6 May 2018

Press Night: **Wed 18 Apr, 7pm**

www.rosetheatrekingston.org

Twitter: [@Rosetheatre](https://twitter.com/Rosetheatre)

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- On sale dates: Rose Circle members – booking now open
Loyalty Card Holders - booking opens Tue 24 Oct, 10am
General public - booking opens Thu 26 Oct, 10am
- Box Office: 020 8174 0090
Monday – Saturday: 10am – 8pm (6pm non-performance days)
Sun: one hour before the performance
- Concessions: Only one discount per ticket, subject to availability
Terms and conditions apply - no discounts on Pit Cushion prices.
Over 60, unwaged, entertainment union, children under 16 and Students: £5
off.
- Access: Patrons with disabilities enjoy half price tickets.
The Rose is a fully accessible organisation and we welcome everyone.
There is Blue Badge parking in High Street and Rose car park.
- Sensory Access: A digital hearing system is available for patrons with a hearing aid, and
Sennheiser headsets for patrons without a hearing aid. Guide and hearing
dogs are welcome. Please let us know in advance so we can provide a dog-
sitter and water bowl.
- Learning Disabilities: Please contact us in advance to discuss how we can help make your visit as
comfortable as possible, on 0208 174 0090 or email
access@rosetheatrekingston.org.

For further information please contact:

Rosie Foster on 020 8939 4051 / rosief@rosetheatrekingston.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

Rose Theatre Kingston

Founded by Sir Peter Hall, and modelled on the original Elizabethan Rose Theatre on London's Bankside, Rose Theatre Kingston is the largest producing theatre in South West London.

Since opening in 2008, the Rose has collaborated with a range of directors, playwrights and producing partners to create vibrant, engaging and inspiring productions. Recent works include the first stage adaptation and world premiere of Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend* directed by Melly Still, Zach Helm's *Good Canary* directed by John Malkovich, Shakespeare's trilogy *The Wars of the Roses* directed by Trevor Nunn, David Hare's *The Absence of War* directed by Jeremy Herrin and Jacqueline Wilson's *Hetty Feather* (West End transfer and Olivier Award nominee) directed by Sally Cookson.

With over 150,000 visitors a year, the Rose enjoys artistic and critical acclaim from its own productions and co-productions as well as from hosting the work of renowned theatre companies including Royal Shakespeare Company, English Touring Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Propeller and Northern Broadsides. With an auditorium that lends itself to both intimate and epic scale productions, the Rose has established itself as one of the most exciting theatres in the UK.

antic | face

Antic Face was founded by Co-Artistic Directors Emma Hall and Charlie Parham. The company was formed with twin aims: to redress a gender imbalance that persists in all fields of theatre; and to provide a collaborative platform for young people seeking to enter the profession in any capacity. With a strong focus on the text, the company is committed both to revisiting the classics and bringing them to a young audience, and to promoting new writing. *Hippolytos* (for which Emma Hall received an Ian Charleson Award nomination) was the company's sell-out debut production, launched and performed deep in the underbelly of the Victoria & Albert Museum. Its production of *For Those Who Cry When They Hear The Foxes Scream* (OFFIE Nominee, Most Promising Playwright) played at the Tristan Bates Theatre in Covent Garden to critical acclaim. This was paired with the company's highly popular festival of new talent, *Second Half*, which brought queer and experimental film, music, comedy, readings and discussions to new audiences giving a platform to over 50 emerging creatives. Most recently, the company staged the world première of *School Play* (OFFIE Nominee, Most Promising Playwright) by debut playwright Alex MacKeith – supported by Arts Council England and published by Oberon Books. An urgent drama about what it means to be a teacher in contemporary Britain, the play was lauded by critics and audiences alike for its vital and honest portrayal of the education system. The company recently launched its fourth production, the UK première of Jen Silverman's *Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties*, which will play at Southwark Playhouse in January-February 2018.

Granville & Parham Productions

Granville & Parham Productions, formed in 2013 by Roger Granville and Frankie Parham, produces theatre, comedy, music and film. 2017 marked the first year of The New Generation Festival, an unprecedented 'Glyndebourne meets Glastonbury' annual event that showcases up-and-coming musical talents held in the gardens of the Palazzo Corsini al Prato in Florence. The pair has also produced DENIM (Soho Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Le Crazy Coqs, VAULT Festival, Port Eliot Festival, Bethnal Green Working Men's Club and Mario Testino's 60th birthday party, 2014-2018), Oliver Dench's *One-Man Hamlet* (Théâtre National de Nice, 2016), and *Waiting for Godot* (Arcola Theatre, 2014). Other credits include Helen Duff's *When the Going Gets Duff* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2017) and *Vanity Bites Back* (Melbourne International Comedy Festival, 2015), the UK première of *Luce* by JC Lee (Southwark Playhouse, 2016), sketch comedy double-act *Scene Selection* (Leicester Square Theatre, 2013-2017), *Twelfth Night* (UK tour, 2013), *Spring Awakening* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2012), *The Comedy of Errors* (performed in Dari Persian as part of the Globe to Globe season at Shakespeare's Globe / international tour, 2012), *Hamlet* (UK tour, 2011), *Henry V* (OUDS/Thelma Holt international tour to the Rustaveli Theatre in Tbilisi, Georgia, 2009) and *Предложение* (Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal* performed in Russian, 2007). Between them, Frankie Parham and Roger Granville have worked for the RSC (Revolutions season), Shakespeare's Globe (Globe to Globe season), the Young Vic Theatre, the Royal Opera House, Moscow's Sovremennik Theatre, Cheek by Jowl, Theatre Royal Plymouth, Sputnik Theatre Company, Whispering Beasts, Sovereign Arts, DEM Productions, Mingled Yarn, Joyous Gard and the critically-acclaimed Oneohone Theatre Company.