

The World of Love's Labour's Lost



In a world stricken with plague and climate change, self-isolation and virtual meetings are the norm. The King of Austeria and his most trusted lords make a vow to study for three years with no distractions and no women. Their oaths are threatened however when the Princess of Librios and her ladies-in-waiting come to broker a land deal.



Samson

In this dying earth, people find inspiration in the Nine Worthies of myth and history. Each country aligns itself with different patron worthies: Austeria favors the willpower of Samson, Librios favors the bravery of Hercules, and Corsain favors the perseverance of Judas Maccabaeus. But will the love of Cupid win out in the end?



Hercules



Judas Maccabaeus



Cupid

Dramaturg's Note

It is thought that Love's Labour's Lost was originally written for a "private venue" around Christmas time in 1593; This is when the regular theaters were closed because of the plague!

These circumstances resonate with our current climate, as humans continue to navigate dealing with the global crisis of COVID-19. We have molded, reshaped, and interpreted Shakespeare's text to embrace this context. Billy Shakes and HSF both know that the "Show Must Go On," even if that means the "Show Must Go ON-line."

Summary of Scenes

Act 1, Scene 1: In Austeria, King Ferdinand and his lords, Berowne and Longaville, vow three years of study and isolation, though they'll have entertainment from Corsian knight Armado and his page, Moth. Armado has sent a communication that he caught Costard breaking the King's decree by getting canoodly with Jaqnetta, who Armado now also loves.

Act 1, Scene 2: Armado pines for Jaqnetta, too beneath him in status and not permissible for him to be with in light of Ferdinand's decree. He is to supervise Costard during his punishment, and Constable Dull is to supervise Jaqnetta.

Act 2, Scene 1: Princess of Librios, her ladies Rosaline and Maria, and her attending lord Berowne, await a meeting with Ferdinand about a land deal between their nations, and troubled to hear about his vow for isolation. The royals do meet (with the King's men attempting separation by turning off cameras at first), and sparks fly between the three young lords and ladies.

Act 3, Scene 1: Armado, still pining for Jaqnetta, gives Costard his freedom in exchange for Costard delivering a secret love message to Jaqnetta. Berowne gives a clandestine message of his own for Costard to deliver to Rosaline.

Act 4, Scene 1: Costard "accidentally" mixes up the love messages, sharing Armado's with Rosaline and the Princess (playing video games with Moth sent by King Ferdinand to entertain them) . . .

Act 4, Scene 2: . . . and sharing Berowne's message with Jaqnetta, which causes much confusion.

Act 4, Scene 3: Meanwhile, the King's lords, all pretending to not be in love, discover they have all been sending secret love messages and fess up, vowing to go out and woo.

Act 5, Scene 1: Armado seeks assistance to plan some entertainment for the King, and Costard suggests a pageant of the Nine Worthies.

Act 5, Scene 2: The King's lords, disguised as Muscovites, come to woo the ladies – but having been forewarned of this plot, the ladies devise a plan to humiliate them. Shamed and downtrodden, the lords must confess their trickery and swear their love. Armado and his troupe then present their pageant to the lovers – but their revelry is interrupted by tragic news of the Librian King's death. Stricken with grief, the Librians must depart at once and leave the lords with a challenge: if the lords can commit to their given tasks for a whole year, then the lovers will reunite. For now, they part ways as friends.

Ferdinand, King of Austeria



The Austerians,



Berowne, a Lord attending the King



who have sworn off women

Longaville, a Lord attending the King



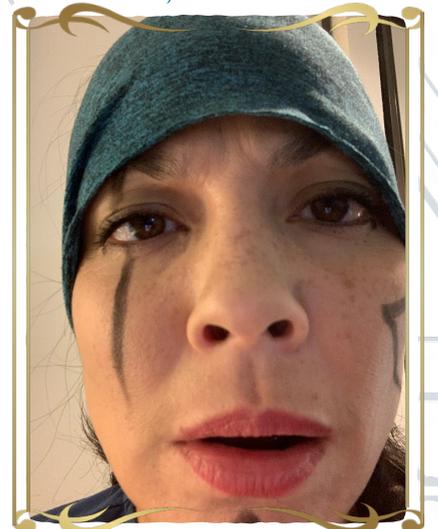
Costard, a servant



Jaquetta, a country maid



Dull, a constable



...and the lower class citizens in service of the King

The Corsians,

who have come to entertain the King

Don Adriano de Armado, a knight

Moth, his page



The Librians,



who seek an alliance with Austeria

Princess of Librios

Rosaline, a Lady attending the Princess



Maria, a Lady attending the Princess

Boyet, a Lord attending the Princess

