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The Montclair Foundation & Studio Players Announce an Immersive Production of *Much Ado About Nothing* Set for a July 2026 Debut

Get ready for a Shakespearean takeover! The [Montclair Foundation/Van Vleck House & Gardens](#) and [Studio Players](#) are delighted to present William Shakespeare's classic comedy of romance and intrigue, "**Much Ado About Nothing**," opening **July 10** at the [Van Vleck House & Gardens](#) in Montclair, New Jersey. This is no ordinary stage production; it's an **immersive theatrical experience**. The grounds of the former private Van Vleck residence, a stunning 5.8-acre botanical oasis, will be completely transformed into the site of a comedy of errors. Audience members will find themselves in the heart of the action as Shakespearean actors bring the story to life throughout the gardens

"Following on the heels of our wildly popular *A Night at the Theatre*, we are incredibly excited to produce a classic in an entirely new way and in an entirely new space!" said [E. Dale Smith-Gallo](#), Director and Studio Players Board President.

"We're thrilled to partner with the Studio Players to present an immersive production of '*Much Ado About Nothing*,' said Kay Sarlin Wright, Executive Director of The Montclair Foundation. "We invite everyone to experience Shakespeare's timeless charm in a fresh and engaging way in our beautiful Van Vleck Home and Gardens."

Much Ado About Nothing 360°

The play, originally set in and around a castle in 16th Century Messina, Italy, is structurally ideal for the Van Vleck location as it moves from lush interiors to cultivated exteriors, and the staging will create an immersive opportunity for attendees to explore the beauty of the Van Vleck estate while simultaneously enjoying one of the Bard's most beloved comedies. Studio Players will begin casting the production in mid-March.

About the Play

Originally penned in 1598-1599, *Much Ado About Nothing* is a rollicking comedy centered around two romantic couples, the naive and wistful Claudio and Hero, and the more worldly-wise Benedick and Beatrice. Situated in and around a medieval castle in Messina, Sicily, the story unfolds as members of Don Pedro's army descend on Leonato's castle for a few weeks of rest and relaxation after claiming victory in battle. What follows is a witty examination of the nature of love involving trickery, mistaken identity, vengeful propositions, an exuberant masquerade ball, and a wedding gone horribly wrong.



Performances will be held on July 10th - 11th and July 17th- 18th from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, with rain dates to be announced. Join us for a VIP Opening Night celebration on Friday, July 10th at 5:30 PM, featuring a lively pre-show reception with champagne and hors d'oeuvres to kick off the production in style. Opening Night tickets are \$75, while general admission tickets for all other performances are \$50. Tickets are available [online](#) or by contacting the box office at (973) 744-9752.

About Studio Players

Studio Players (14 Alvin Place, Montclair, NJ) is the oldest continually-operating community theatre in Northern New Jersey—offering numerous opportunities for volunteers to participate at all levels (producing, directing, designing, performing, and technical support) in productions of exciting new plays and beloved classics. Founded in 1937 on the site of an old clock factory, our non-profit organization is now a staple of Montclair's ever-growing arts scene, and we pride ourselves in presenting quality productions featuring groups of artists that reflect the diversity of Montclair and the surrounding communities. For more information, please visit [**StudioPlayers.org**](http://StudioPlayers.org)

About The Montclair Foundation/Van Vleck House & Gardens

The Montclair Foundation is a beloved cultural hub in the heart of Montclair, New Jersey. A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that awards grants to charitable organizations in the greater Montclair area. In its 47 years of grantmaking, The Montclair Foundation has granted over \$3.8 million to nonprofit programs that strengthen the quality of life for all who live, work, and enjoy Montclair and its environs. Equally important to the Foundation is its commitment to the historic preservation and beauty of Van Vleck House & Gardens, which it acquired in 1993, and the role it plays in the educational enrichment and cultural enjoyment of the community. TMF invites the community to enjoy the gardens free of charge daily and take part in our year-round programming. For more information, please visit [**montclairfoundation.org**](http://montclairfoundation.org).