

A Visual Story
To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

**SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE**

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



Contents



Visual Story

This document will give you a detailed description of what to expect from Much Ado About Nothing at Shakespeare's Globe.

Included:

- Pictures of the cast in and out of costume
- Show notes and helpful information
- Synopsis
- Contact details

The Cast

This shows the cast in and out of character. Some of the characters appear in multiple costumes throughout.



Geraldine Alexander



Sister



Matilda Baines



Margaret



Marlowe Chan-Reeves



Borachio



Fia Hadeed



Ensemble / Cover



Joshua John



Claudio



Assa Kanouté



Hero



Richard Katz



Dogberry



Kaffe Keating



Seacoal / Messenger /
Cover



Os Leanse



Verges



Adam Long



Don Pedro



Jonathan McGuinness



Leonato



Pippa Nixon



Beatrice



Ken Nwosu



Benedick



Joseph Potter



Don John

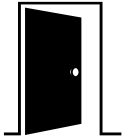
Show Notes



Relaxed Performance

A relaxed performance will take place on:

Wednesday 2 September 2026 at 7.30 pm
and
Saturday 17 October 2026 at 2.00 pm



This will mean:



- An open-door policy: you can come and go as much as you want or need to.
- A culture of acceptance and respect for however you want to experience the show.
- Movement and noise are welcome should you need or want to.
- Pre-show information packs are available online and at the welcome desk.
- A Quiet Space in the Upper Foyer.

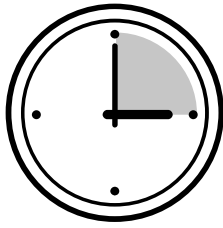
The content of the show is exactly the same.

Content Notes

This play includes:

- Scenes of a sexual nature
- Drug use

Show Notes



Times

The show is roughly 2 hours and 30 minutes long.

This includes a 20 minute interval.



Music and Sound

The sonic story gives details on the music and sound throughout the show.

You are welcome to wear your own audio mufflers or borrow some from us.

Lighting

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is an open-air theatre. During the daytime the theatre is lit by daylight. At night the stage will be illuminated so you can see the performers clearly.

The lighting therefore remains the same throughout the whole show.

Set and props

You can see many of the costumes used throughout the performance in the pictures throughout the synopsis.

The set looks like this:



Some of the actors move around the audience during the show. There is also a party scene where all the actors wear large animal masks.

If you don't want to know the plot of the show, you can skip to page 17.

Much Ado About Nothing - Synopsis

Don Pedro, Claudio, and Benedick arrive at Leonato's house in Messina. Beatrice and Benedick, who have known each other for a long time, instantly resume their witty war of words. Meanwhile, Claudio confesses to Don Pedro about his love for Leonato's daughter, Hero, prompting Don Pedro to promise he will disguise himself at that night's party to woo Hero on Claudio's behalf.

Margaret informs Leonato that she overheard Claudio declaring his love for Hero and planning to acknowledge it during the dance. Leonato decides to let his daughter know the news in advance so she can prepare her answer.

The melancholy Don John is frustrated and shouts at Margaret. He wants to be a villain to make life harder for his brother, Don Pedro. Borachio then enters and informs him of the intended marriage between Claudio and Hero, providing Don John with a perfect opportunity to cause trouble. Don John is very happy with this plan; he takes some drugs and kisses Borachio!



Much Ado About Nothing - Synopsis

There is a large party where everyone wears huge animal masks on their heads. Beatrice wittily mocks Benedick to his face pretending not to realise it is him. Don John maliciously convinces Claudio that Don Pedro is wooing Hero for himself. The misunderstanding is cleared up when Don Pedro reveals he has successfully won Hero for Claudio. Don Pedro, Leonato, Claudio, Hero, and Margaret all agree together to trick Beatrice and Benedick into falling in love with each other.

Don John remains eager to ruin Claudio's upcoming wedding, so Borachio proposes a covert plan to deceive Don Pedro and Claudio. Borachio intends to meet Margaret at Hero's bedroom window on the night before the wedding, creating the illusion that Hero is disloyal.

While hiding in the orchard, Benedick overhears Don Pedro, Claudio, and Leonato staging a conversation about how Beatrice is desperately in love with him. Believing that Leonato speaks the truth, Benedick resolves to cast off his pride and be horribly in love with Beatrice.



Much Ado About Nothing - Synopsis

Hero and Margaret deliberately let Beatrice overhear them praising Benedick and lamenting that Beatrice is too proud and disdainful to accept his love. Stricken by what she hears, Beatrice vows to commit herself to Benedick.

Don Pedro and Claudio tease a newly transformed and lovesick Benedick, who asks to speak with Leonato in private. Don John then approaches the Prince and Claudio, falsely claiming that Hero is disloyal and inviting them to witness her chamber window being entered at midnight. They see Margaret and Borachio in the room being romantic together, and think it is Hero instead of Margaret.

INTERVAL



ACT 2

Dogberry and Verges give the watchmen comically confusing instructions to keep the peace during the busy night. Soon after, Seacoal and The Watch overhear Borachio boasting about how he successfully fooled Claudio and the Prince into thinking Margaret was Hero, and they promptly arrest him.

On the morning of her wedding, Hero gets dressed with the help of Margaret. Beatrice arrives claiming she is sick and out of tune, prompting Margaret to wittily tease her about being in love with Benedick.

Dogberry and Verges try to inform Leonato about catching Borachio the night before, but the way they tell him what happened is very confusing and Leonato is too busy to understand.

At the altar, Claudio publicly denounces Hero as disloyal, causing her to be heartbroken as Don Pedro and Don John back his accusations before they all storm out. Led by Sister Frances's advice, the family decides to pretend Hero has died of grief to turn slander into remorse. Benedick and Beatrice confess their mutual love, and Beatrice demands that Benedick kill Claudio in revenge.



Much Ado About Nothing - Synopsis

Dogberry conducts a comically disorganised interrogation of Borachio, where he reveals the plot to wrongfully accuse Hero. Upon learning that Hero has died and Don John has fled, Dogberry orders the prisoner to be bound and taken to Leonato.

A grieving Leonato rejects comfort and fiercely challenges Claudio to a duel for slandering his daughter to death. After Benedick also arrives to challenge Claudio, Dogberry brings in Borachio, who fully confesses the deception to a devastated Claudio and Don Pedro. Margaret is devastated to learn she was part of the deception and screams in sadness.

Benedick playfully trades wits with Margaret and Beatrice while waiting to hear if Claudio will accept his challenge. Margaret then arrives to break the news that Hero has been proven innocent and that Don John was responsible for everything.



Mother Courage and Her Children - Synopsis

Claudio fulfills his penance by visiting Hero's family tomb at night to read a mournful epitaph and sing a solemn hymn. The tomb opens up on the stage and fire comes up. As dawn breaks, he and Don Pedro leave to change their clothes and head to Leonato's house.

At the assembly, Claudio vows to marry Leonato's masked "niece" who unveils herself to reveal she is actually the living and innocent Hero. Benedick and Beatrice discover they were tricked into loving each other, but they happily agree to marry anyway just as news arrives that Don John has been captured.

END



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

SONIC STORY

Below is some information about the **music** and **sounds** in Much Ado About Nothing.



The show is a **comedy**, so there is **laughter** throughout.



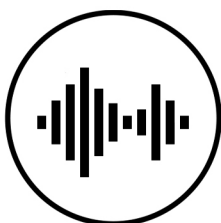
There is **live music**. Instruments include **cello**, **percussion** and **guitar**.



Sometime characters **enter through the audience**, shouting and talking.



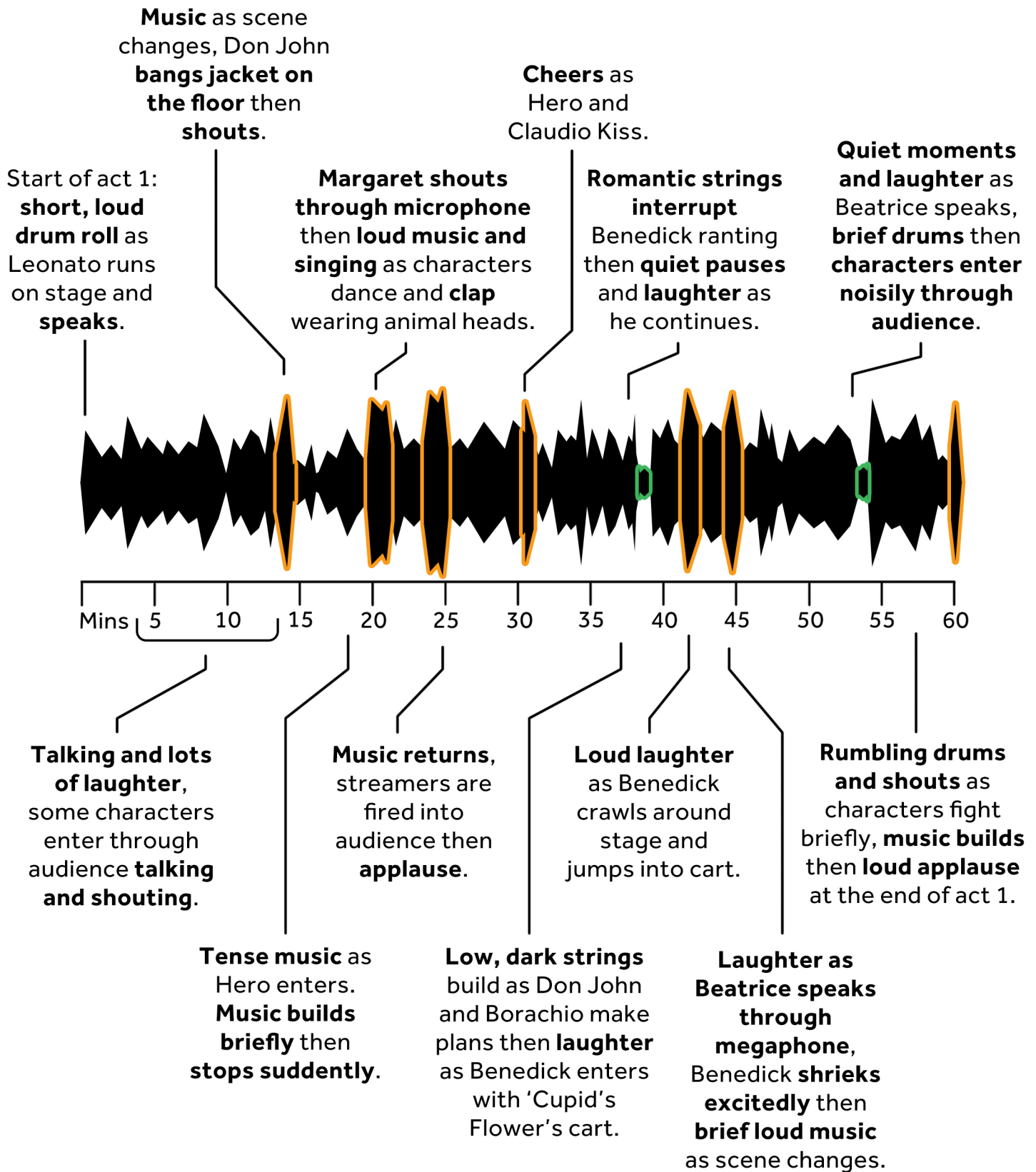
There are **long sections with just talking** (no music or other sounds).



The next two pages show the '**Sonic Story**' of Much Ado About Nothing. This highlights **loud and quiet moments** from the performance, and moments where the **sound changes suddenly**.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

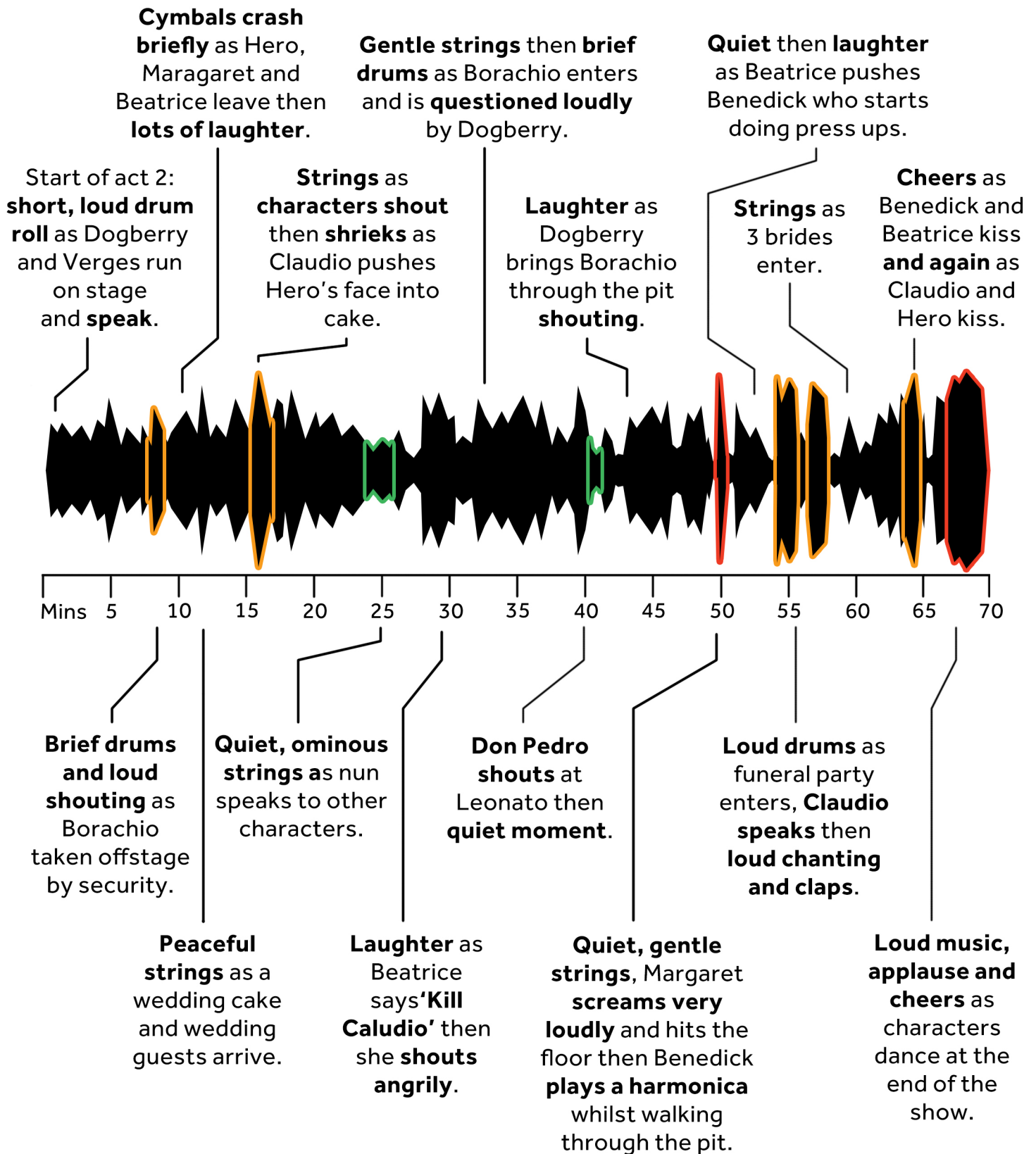
SONIC STORY - ACT 1



● VERY LOUD
● LOUD
● QUIET

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

SONIC STORY - ACT 2



● **VERY LOUD**
 ● **LOUD**
 ● **QUIET**

Further information



Contact Details

Should you require more information or wish to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access team on access@shakespearesglobe.com or 020 7401 9919.



We welcome feedback about your Relaxed Performance experience at Shakespeare's Globe. Please contact us on the above details.