FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
William Shakespeare

Directed by Mark Rylance

Starring James Earl Jones and Vanessa Redgrave

Previews from 7 September 2013
Press night: 19 September 2013

Mark Rylance directs James Earl Jones and Vanessa Redgrave in Shakespeare’s timeless comedy Much Ado About Nothing opening on 19 September 2013 with previews from 7 September. Further cast includes Tim Barlow, Penelope Beaumont, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Katherine Carlton, Beth Cooke, Alan David, Michael Elwyn, Lloyd Everitt, James Garnon, Melody Grove, Trevor Laird, Leroy Osei-Bonsu, Mark Ross, Peter Wight and Danny Lee Wynter.

While young lovers Claudio and Hero threaten to have their imminent nuptials thwarted by the resentful scheming of a Prince, marriage seems inconceivable for reluctant lovers Beatrice (Vanessa Redgrave) and Benedick (James Earl Jones). Vanessa Redgrave and James Earl Jones take on these roles for the first time.

James Earl Jones and Vanessa Redgrave recently starred in Alfred Uhry’s Driving Miss Daisy both in the West End and on Broadway.

James Earl Jones plays Benedick. His voice is known by people of all ages and walks of life from the Star Wars fans who know him as the voice of ‘Darth Vader’ to children who know him as ‘Mufasa’ from Disney’s The Lion King. Jones made his Broadway debut in 1957 and had his first breakthrough role in 1960 when Joseph Papp cast him in Shakespeare’s Henry V, marking the beginning of Jones’s long affiliation with the New York Shakespeare Festival, eventually counting the title roles of Othello, Macbeth, and King Lear among his many distinguished performances for the company. Jones has won Tony Awards for the Broadway productions of The Great White Hope and Fences; a Tony nomination for On Golden Pond; Drama Desk Awards for Othello, Les Blancs, Hamlet, The Cherry Orchard and Fences; Obie Awards for Clandestine on the Morning Line, The Apple, Moon on a Rainbow Shawl and Baal; a Theatre World Award for Moon on a Rainbow Shawl; and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for
Vanessa Redgrave plays Beatrice. Vanessa was most recently seen in the comedic-drama *Song for Marion*, written and directed by Paul Andrew Williams for which she has been nominated for a 2012 BIFA award for Best Supporting Actress. In 2011 she starred in Ralph Fiennes' directorial debut *Coriolanus*, for which she received the BIFA Best Supporting Actress Award. She recently completed filming *Foxcatcher* directed by Bennett Miller; *The Butler* directed by Lee Daniels and *The Last Will and Testament of Rosalind Leigh*. Her many film credits include *Morgan: A Suitable Case for Treatment; A Man For All Seasons; Blow-Up; Camelot; Isadora; Mary, Queen of Scots; Julia; The Bostonians; Wetherby; Prick Up Your Ears; Howard’s End; A Month By The Lake; Mrs. Dalloway; Candle Will Rock; Atonement; Evening; Cars 2; Miral; Letters to Juliet; The Whistleblower and Anonymous. Her television credits include *If These Walls Could Talk 2; The Fever; The Day of the Triffids; Playing for Time, Nip/Tuck, Call The Midwife, Political Animals and The Call Out.*

Vanessa recently starred in *The Revisionist* alongside the author Jesse Eisenberg at the Cherry Lane Theatre, New York. In 2012 she was Guest Artistic Director at the Brighton Festival. Previously, Vanessa starred opposite James Earl Jones and Boyd Gaines in *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Wyndham’s Theatre. For her performance she won Best Actress at the 2012 Whats On Stage Awards. The play previously enjoyed a record breaking sell-out run on Broadway and Vanessa received a Tony Award nomination.

Vanessa’s Broadway credits include the landmark 2003 production of *Long Day’s Journey Into Night* and acclaimed revivals of Tennessee Williams’ *Orpheus Descending* and Ibsen’s *The Lady From the Sea*. In her native England, her scores of major roles on the stage most recently include recreating *The Year of Magical Thinking* at the National Theatre; *Lady Windermere’s Fan* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket; *The Tempest* for the RSC at Shakespeare’s Globe and *The Cherry Orchard* at the National Theatre.

Redgrave has worked with UNICEF-UK as a Special Representative from 1993-1995, and has been a UNICEF Goodwill ambassador since 1995. Her continued work with UNICEF led to her involvement with UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) in many countries, and with UNRWA (United Nations Relief Works Agency). She is a member and supporter of Memorial and Za Prava Cheloveka, the two principal Russian human rights foundations, and is also a supporter of Amnesty International and Liberty, which together comprise the leading human rights organisations in Britain.

Mark Rylance most recently appeared on stage in *Nice Fish* at the Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, which he co-authored with Louis Jenkins and which he also co-directed with Claire van Kampen, and in *Richard III* and *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare’s Globe and West End). Prior to that he appeared as Johnny ‘Rooster’ Byron in the critically-acclaimed production of *Jerusalem*, a role he played at the Royal Court, in the West End and on Broadway. In 2007, he wrote his first play, *I Am Shakespeare*, which premiered at the Chichester Festival Theatre, directed by Matthew Warchus, published in 2012 by Nick Hern
Books. His other theatre credits include Valere in La Bête, Hamm in Samuel Beckett’s Endgame, Robert in Boeing-Boeing and many productions for the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Glasgow Citizens. During his time as Artistic Director of Shakespeare’s Globe his work as an actor included the title roles in Henry V and Hamlet as well as Cleopatra in Antony and Cleopatra and Olivia in Twelfth Night. His film and television work includes Anonymous, Intimacy, The Other Boleyn Girl, Prospero’s Books, Angels and Insects, Leonardo and David Kelly in C4’s The Government Inspector for which he won the BAFTA Best Actor Award.

Full casting includes: Tim Barlow as Verges (King Lear at the Sheffield Crucible, Death of a Salesman at Leeds Playhouse, Hot Fuzz); Penelope Beaumont as Ursula (The Only True History Of Lizzie Finn at the Southwark Playhouse, Alphabetical Order at the Hampstead Theatre); Kingsley Ben-Adir as Borachio (God’s Property at the Soho Theatre, A Midsummer Night’s Dream at Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre, Vera for ITV); Katherine Carlton as Beryl (Much Ado About Nothing and numerous other productions at LAMDA); Beth Cooke as Hero (King Lear at The Abbey Theatre, Scorched Earth at the Southwark Playhouse/Soho Theatre); Alan David as Antonio (The Captain of Kopenick at the National, Jerusalem at the Royal Court and on Broadway); Michael Elwyn as Leonato (The Audience at The Gielgud, Rope at the Almeida Theatre, The Iron Lady); Lloyd Everitt as Claudio (Chariots of Fire at the Hampstead Theatre and in the West End; King Lear at the West Yorkshire Playhouse); James Garnon as Don Pedro (The Tempest, Gabriel and Richard III at the Globe and for film, The Real American: Joe McCarthy); Melody Grove as Margaret (The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart at the Royal Court and National Theatre of Scotland World Tour, The Importance of Being Earnest at the Lyric, Belfast); Trevor Laird as Conrade (Waking the Dead for the BBC, One Man, Two Guvnors and England People Very Nice both at the National); Leroy Osei-Bonsu as Messenger (Moby Dick at the Arcola, World War Z); Mark Ross as Sexton (Michael’s Story for the Circles Theatre Company, Henry V at the Inner Room Theatre); Peter Wight as Dogberry and Friar Francis (Trelawny of The Wells at the Donmar Warehouse, In Basildon at the Royal Court and in the West End and The Paradise for the BBC) and Danny Lee Wynter as Don John (Henry IV Parts 1 and 2 at the Globe, Luther for the BBC, Hot Fuzz).

Much Ado About Nothing is produced in association with Shakespeare Road & Nicolas Kent.
BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Box Office: 0844 871 7628
www.oldvictheatre.com
The Old Vic, The Cut, London SE1 8NB

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Sat 7 September – Sat 30 November 2013

Previews: 7-18 September; Press Performance: Thu 19 September at 7pm
Mon–Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm
[Please note there are no matinee performances on Sat 7 Sept, Wed 11 Sept or Wed 18 Sept.]
Captioned Performance: Thu 24 October 7.30pm
Audio Described Performance: Thu 31 October 7.30pm

Post Show Discussion: Thu 3 Oct

TICKETS: £11, £16, £21, £28, £42, £52

For more information regarding Premium Seats please call the box office.

CONCESSIONS

PwC tickets for Under 25s: 100 £12 tickets for all performances. Bookable in advance for the under 25s but tickets must be collected in person from the Box Office with proof of age.

Senior Citizens: Best available seats for £26 for all matinee performances only.

Groups 10+: £10 off top 3 prices for Mon - Wed eves & Wed matinees.

School Groups 10+: £12 for Mon - Wed eves & Wed matinees.

Disabled Patrons: Top 3 prices reduced to £21 for all performances

Previews: £5 off top 3 prices (Old Vic Friends £7.50 off)

All concessions are limited and subject to availability. All 2013 ticket prices (apart from the PwC tickets for Under 25s, local residents & schools tickets) include a £1 restoration levy.
NOTES TO EDITORS

About Bank of America Merrill Lynch and the Arts

Developing substantive solutions for social and environmental challenges is at the core of Bank of America Merrill Lynch’s mission, and the arts and culture platform is a key component of the company’s integrated corporate responsibility strategy.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch helps a broad spectrum of arts programmes thrive, encompassing sponsorships, community grants and loans to museums from the company’s own art collection. The Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Project provides grants for the restoration of paintings, sculptures, archaeological or architectural pieces that are significant to the cultural heritage of a country or region or important to the history of art in order to preserve them for future generations. 2013 Art Conservation Project selections are to be announced in June this year – and will support over 25 recipients globally.

Recent and upcoming sponsorships include, Americans in Florence: Sargent and the American Impressionists at the Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (March – July 2012), Jeff Koons: The Painter & The Sculptor at Schirn Kunsthalle and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung, Frankfurt (June – September 2012), Roy Lichtenstein at Tate Modern, London (February – May 2013) and at the Centre Pompidou in Paris from July – November 2013. We are also the major sponsor of Song for Sekoto 1913 – 2013 on show at the Wits Arts Museum in Johannesburg (26 April – 2 June 2013). The company is Season Sponsor of The Old Vic theatre in London, as well as Global Sponsor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which travelled to Russia and Italy in 2012.

Through the company’s Art in Our Communities® programme, the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Collection has been converted into a unique community resource. The collection has grown in size and scope in recent decades with artworks from numerous legacy institutions, and offers museums and non-profit galleries the opportunity to borrow complete or customised exhibitions at no cost. This helps to secure vital revenue for those institutions that may lack sufficient resources to fully curate and manage exhibitions on their own, and also guarantees that the collection is shared with as wide an audience as possible. Since its launch in late 2008, more than 50 exhibitions have been loaned to museums around the world. Shows in 2012 included Conversations at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin, Shared Space, part of PhotoEspaña 2012, at the Real Jardín Botánico in Madrid (June – July 2012), Andy Warhol: The Portfolios at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (June – September 2012) which is currently showing at the Museo del Novecento in Milan (April – September 2013), and Gaze: The Changing Face of Portrait Photography, at Istanbul Modern Museum (October 2012 – January 2013). Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community.

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The Old Vic gratefully acknowledges an award of £5 million in 2012 from the Catalyst Arts Endowment Fund, conditional on our raising £15 million match funding by 2015.