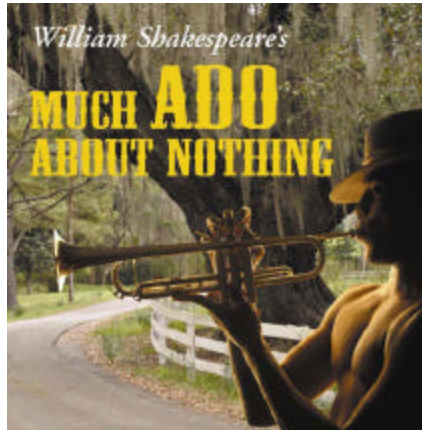


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570.268.ARTS (2787)



# Press Release

Nightlife on the Susquehanna Series Continues with Shakespeare

Keystone Theatre

October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

Tickets are \$20. Student discounts available. Call 570-268-ARTS (2787) to reserve tickets

The Bradford County Regional Arts Council's *Nightlife on the Susquehanna* live performance series continues October 14<sup>th</sup> with one of William Shakespeare's beloved comedies, *Much Ado About Nothing*. The curtain will rise on this performance at the Keystone Theatre on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Tickets to the performance are \$20. Student discounts are available for this performance. Reservations can be made by calling the arts council at 570.268.ARTS (2787).

William Shakespeare has come to be revered as one of the greatest playwrights in the history of theatre. Not only are his works continually performed all over the world, but numerous theatres exist solely to produce his plays. The National Players, out of the Washington DC area, is America's longest running touring company and has been presenting the works of Shakespeare for over 60 years.

In this staging of *Much Ado About Nothing*, the National Players delve into the deep South during the age of Dixieland Jazz. This sparkling comedy highlights the dancing wit of the "merry war" between the sexes and the endearing spectacle of intellectual self-importance outdone by the

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*more*

desire to love and be loved in return. The play is performed in the language of the Elizabethan period.

Clay Hopper, director of this season's production, offers these insights into the production: "The word 'Nothing' in the title of Shakespeare's play "Much Ado About Nothing is a play on words, a sort of pun, on the Elizabethan term 'noting,' which means eavesdropping. Deception is used in "Much Ado" to tell the truth with impunity, to delight in the chase that is courtship, and indeed to cross and vex happiness; but it is also used to help others, to bring them closer in line with their own desires. Shakespeare almost certainly believed that our goal is to change, grow and develop. "Much Ado" reminds us that no matter how completely we hide from ourselves, we can always find our way back. And that's something that should be noted."

National Players was founded in 1949 by Father Gilbert V. Hartke, O.P., a prominent arts educator and then head of the drama department at Catholic University of America. His mission – to stimulate higher order thinking skills and imaginations by presenting classical plays in surprisingly accessible ways – is as urgent and vital today as it was 60 years ago.

Olney Theatre Center is the artistic home of National Players and continues Father Hartke's vision and commitment to provide young theatre artists with their first profession opportunities. Players' alumni include actors, directors, and designers working on dozens of stages across America, and in film and television.

National Players has performed in the East Wing of the White House, in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East for American military, and throughout 40 states. Known for its talent and commitment to excellence, National Players has brought literature to life for more than 2.5 million audience members.

"Much Ado About Nothing" is the second installment in the 2009-2010 *Nightlife on the Susquehanna* live performance series. Information about the series can be found at the BCRAC website, [www.bcrac.org](http://www.bcrac.org), under Live Performances. "Much Ado About Nothing" is sponsored in Towanda by the Williams Companies.

Please see attached photos.

Photo Caption Much Ado: Phillip Reid as Verges and Michael Pettey as Dogberry in The National Players production of Much Ado About Nothing, directed by Clay Hopper. Photo by Madeleine Russell.

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