

# Dallas to perform Shakespeare classic

*Theater program celebrates 400th anniversary of playwright's death*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — This marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, and theater companies the world over are celebrating with productions of the bard's works.

"I wanted to participate in that," said Blair Cromwell, Dallas High School's drama teacher.

Her choice of "Much Ado About Nothing" is timely.

One of the themes in the comedy is the double standard in the behavior of men versus women, especially regarding a woman's "virtue" or perceived lack thereof, Cromwell noted.

"The play addresses all of those things," she said. "It was time to check in with those age-old questions."

In the title, the word "nothing" is a play on words, meaning "rumor" in Shakespeare's time.

Rumor and innuendo have a significant role in the play, as do miscommunication and misunderstanding, both with comedic and dramatic consequences. The play runs Thursday through Saturday at Dallas High School.

The very first scene, an addition for this production, set in Paris just before the outbreak of World War II, illustrates the havoc created by a misunderstanding between two lead characters, Beatrice and Benedick. Longtime friends, the pair are celebrating a brief engagement before Benedick is called to fight.

"He proposes to her at the very beginning," said Olivia Widmer, who plays Beatrice.

Their bliss is interrupted when Beatrice is convinced the Benedick has kissed another woman.

"Beatrice calls off the en-



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Revelers drink and dance during a scene in Dallas High School's production of "Much Ado About Nothing," running Thursday through Saturday.

gagement because she thinks he has cheated on her," Widmer said.

The next scene has the soldiers returning from war, but for the pair, another is about to begin.

"Beatrice is salty," Widmer said.

"We have this big argument in front of everybody," said Dylan Bauman, Benedick in the play.

The two are evenly matched in a Shakespearean war of words.

"It's fun for everybody because we are being witty; it's witty banter," Widmer said.

Bauman said both characters disguise their true feelings.

"I always keep this persona that I'm this cool, likable guy. In reality there's a lot of pain that I've had," he said. "He wants to be liked and it drives him crazy that

## Showtime!

**What:** Dallas High School's production of "Much Ado About Nothing."

**Where:** Bollman Auditorium, 1250 SE Holman Ave.  
**When:** Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m., and 2 p.m. on Saturday.

**Admission:** \$5 for online tickets; \$6 at the door. For online tickets: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=dhst>.

Beatrice doesn't like him." That's what Beatrice would like him to think.

"I don't like him, but I do love him," Widmer said.

That storyline coincides with another relationship complicated by rumors of infidelity, that of Beatrice's cousin, Hero, and young soldier, Claudio.

Three of the cast members attended Oregon Shakespeare Festival's summer seminar for high school juniors, which has helped

the actors interpret the language in the play, Cromwell said.

Stage manager Elizabeth Davis, in her first stint running a show, said the cast and crew have adapted well to their production of the Shakespeare classic.

"It's really interesting to work with everyone. It's a lot of responsibility," she said. "It's going amazing. I'm happy with how it's turning out. It's really been great to work on it."



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

A nightclub scene opens Dallas High School's version of "Much Ado About Nothing." Tickets are on sale online.



**capitol WEST VALLEY**  
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE

## FALL SAVINGS ARE ON NOW!

**2 Years or 24K Miles  
Complimentary Service!**

\*Must have services performed at any Capitol Auto Group location. See dealership for details.

**FULL VEHICLE SERVICE & MAINTENANCE  
ANY MAKE ANY MODEL!**

✓ **Knowledgeable Service Advisors to assist you.**  
✓ **Full service car repair and maintenance by Certified Technicians.**



STK#T378135C

**2010 TOYOTA SIENNA**  
3.5L V6 • A/C • 3RD ROW

**\$10,915**



STK#T417571A1

**2001 GMC SIERRA 1500**  
5.3L V8 • 4X4 • 4 WHEEL DISCS

**\$10,915**



STK#W1564A

**2008 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL**  
3.6L V6 • MP3 • POWER

**\$9,915**



STK#W1555A

**2015 CHEVROLET SONIC LTZ**  
214L 4CYL • A/C • POWER

**\$13,915**



STK#S419997B

**2006 PONTIAC MONTANA SV6**  
3.5L V6 • 3RD ROW • MP3

**\$4,915**



STK#W1563AB

**2013 TOYOTA CAMRY LE**  
2.5L 4CYL • MP3 • 8 WAY POWER DRIVER SEAT

**\$14,915**

**WILD CARD SPECIAL**

**20% OFF!**

**SERVICE OF YOUR CHOICE!**

Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount \$75. Exp. 11/30/16.

**AQUAPEL WINDSHIELD TREATMENT**



**\$1795**

Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 11/30/16.

\* Subject to prior sale. Prices do not include license fees, title fees and \$100 Doc fees. All financing on approved credit, with Tier 3 and above credit rating. All sale prices on in stock units only. Expires 11/30/16.

**Sales: (503) 623-6686**  
**Service: (888) 480-2074**  
812 SE. Jefferson St. Dallas

**Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9am. to 6pm.**  
**Service Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 5:30**

SEE OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY ONLINE!  
[cap-westvalley.com](http://cap-westvalley.com)