

## CRITICAL PRAISE FOR *LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST*

### 2013 Wilde Award Winner: Best of the Bard

(*Love's Labour's Lost*, Michigan Shakespeare Festival; Robert Kauzlaric, director)

**"If you only ever see this play once, make it this one. It is a well-constructed beauty and not to be missed..."**

Not a moment of labor is lost in the Michigan Shakespeare Festival's production of what is often called one of Shakespeare's problem comedies.

**Under the skillful direction of Robert Kauzlaric** and his highly talented cast, "Love's Labour's Lost" is a comedic romp filled with the unfettered joy of immature youth.

It is a romp filled with slapstick, juvenile antics, boyish tussles all made even sillier when faced with the more sophisticated beauty of the fairer sex whose greater maturity looks upon the antics with affectionate contempt.



**Kauzlaric, however, doesn't overlook the more serious undertones of this play. He teases them out with the most light and subtle of hands, ensuring they will have the maximum impact when the time is right...**

There is a melancholy amongst the clowns, a melancholy that is the echo of loves not just forbidden but unspoken and unacknowledged. It creates a bittersweet flavor that tempers the more sugary moments of the play...

*Love's Labour's Lost* infrequently makes it to the stage because the humor is in a wittiness that is sometimes difficult for modern audiences to follow. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival has managed to overcome all of these challenges and create a highly physical comedy replete with a spectrum of emotions."

-Bridgette M. Redman, *Encore Michigan*



"The Michigan Shakespeare Festival in Jackson seems to be going from strength to strength, at last becoming the sort of summer destination event it was surely meant to be... **Director Robert Kauzlaric's charming production of the seldom-produced *Love's Labour's Lost* is an absolute delight...** [It] should be of special interest to Shakespeare lovers if for no other reason than it is not often performed. But this production needn't depend on rarity, as it is such a delight that it should please any theatergoer."

-Robert Delaney, *Encore Michigan*



"Think Shakespeare is not for you? Think it's too high-brow? Don't tell that to the audience that attended the preview of *Love's Labour's Lost* on July 13. After an evening of laughter, they rewarded the performance with a standing ovation. Director Robert Kauzlaric has succeeded in creating a rowdy world, patterned on the Three Stooges, and the audience loved it!...

Shakespeare purists should be warned that this is the director's adaptation and he sets the story in 1919, a happier time between the world wars. Once you accept his vision, you'll see that every element of the show supports it...

With such a physical production, even if a few words are missed here and there, the audience easily follows the plot and is never left out of the joke. The play moves quickly, but the pacing becomes absolutely frantic during the hilarious hunting scene and continues pretty much unabated until the end of the play, when word arrives of the death of the father of the Princess. It is then that the reality of the world intrudes and the play ends on an unexpected note.

**After seeing *Love's Labour's Lost* you will wonder why this timeless and truly funny play isn't done more often."**

*-Ann Holt, Jackson Citizen-Patriot*



