

Mediated Performance

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The title of the play that I watched was *Much Ado About Nothing*. The type of entertainment seen was a recorded live performance Broadway show. I watched it on Monday, March 15, 2021, at around midnight where I accessed the show on PBS, a free streaming service, where I watched it on my computer at my aunt's house. *Much Ado About Nothing* is available streaming online until Friday, March 19, 2021.

Much Ado About Nothing, a William Shakespeare's comedy Broadway show where it takes place at Aragon, Georgia, combines comedy with a mixture of romance and drama. The location of the Broadway show is at the Delacorte Theater Stage in Central Park, New York City, New York where the audience finds the show at the *Free Shakespeare*, it was recorded during the weekends between June 22-23, 2019. The play premiered on November 22, 2019, at the *Great Performances* on PBS where the play aired at 9 PM EST.

Many cast members from the *Much Ado About Nothing* are considered as African-Americans. The main characters of the play are Benedict and Beatrice. Danielle Brooks from *Orange is the New Black* who played as Beatrice, Grantham Coleman from *Buzzer* who played as Benedict.

Additionally, the cast members of the play included Jamar Brathwaite (Ensemble), Chuck Cooper (Leonato), Javen K. Crosby (Ensemble), Denzel DeAngelo Fields (Ensemble), Jeremie Harris (Claudio), Tayler Harris (Ensemble), Erik Laray Harvey (Antonio/Verges), Kai Heath (Messenger), Daniel Croix Henderson (Balthasar), Tyrone Mitchell Henderson (Friar Francis/Sexton), Tiffany Denise Hobbs (Ursula), Lateefah Holder (Dogberry), LaWanda Hopkins (Dancer), Billy Eugene Jones (Don Pedro), Margaret Odette

(Hero), Hubert Point-Du Jour (Don John), William Roberson (Ensemble), Jaime Lincoln Smith (Borachio), Jazmine Stewart (Ensemble), Khiry Walker (Conrade/Ensemble), Olivia Washington (Margaret) and Latra A. Wilson (Dancer).

Kenny Leon directed *Much Ado About Nothing* where he aired it on PBS. Mitch Owgang became responsible as a producer of the play. Since the play was recorded, it has a very high-quality sound where it made easy for the audiences to listen. The overall production where the year was 2020. There was a house throughout the play where it was written *Stacy Adams 2020*, the house was designed with brick walls, milgrated windows, and the window glass door. There were a stairs that was also made with brick walls. There were a patio and a garden where characters sat on the outdoor chair. The style of makeup and costumes were very modern and contemporary. The lighting design was very good and bright throughout the play except for one scene. There was a scene during the night time in which the characters participated in a party where they wore a nightgown dress and a fancy tuxedo outfit. The characters danced and enjoyed the music where the light was darker. Additionally, at end of the scene, there was a part where the characters sang and the spotlight focused on the main character of *Much Ado About Nothing* where she sang Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On*. There was another part where the light was also darker, where I watched a scene where characters involved and participated in the funeral. At the end of the play, the background music was an African-Inspiring drumming sound where it involves a lot of drums. Additionally, there was a piano sound, where two characters were looking forward to getting married. The quality of play is the vocal quality of the characters instead of lip-syncing. There was also another part of the play that characters sung in an acoustic song where one of them sung while playing an acoustic guitar. The beginning of the play showed

that the two characters sang *What's Going On* and *American The Beautiful* in an acapella style. The music background was in four instruments: African drumming, acoustic guitar, piano, and vocal.

The overall quality of the production of the *Much Ado About Nothing* is a very contemporary, modern, and simple Broadway show. Kenny Leon wanted to create a play to inspire the African-American culture, therefore, he created a form of play to understand how the audiences learn the lesson and what it taught them to be who they are today.

Sources

Much Ado About Nothing ~ About. (2020, April 21). Retrieved from

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