



## Audition Packet for *Xanadu JR* and *Much Ado About Nothing*

### **XANADU JR Director: Robert Lee**

Robert is the Artistic Director of The Underground Theatre. Originally from Louisiana, Robert has worked in many spots around the country as a Theatre artist. He is beyond ecstatic to be working on the hilarious *Xanadu*, it's been on his bucket list for years. His Duluth directing credits include *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*, *Clown Bar*, *Cabaret*, *1984*, *Death of a Salesman* (The Underground), *Peter Pan*, *It Runs in the Family* (The Playhouse), *Cat in the Hat*, *Willy Wonka*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, and *Some Sneaky Sheep* (The Playhouse Family Theatre), *Rx* (Renegade Theater Company). He also regularly appears on the Renegade stage as an improviser.

### **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Director: Christina Stroup**

Christina Stroup was hired to perform in *The Full Monty* this past summer and she fell so in love with Duluth, she moved here from Houston, TX! Recently she appeared on the NorShor stage in *Don't Dress For Dinner* and *Rags to Ritzes*. Christina has been a professional actress for over 10 years and is a proud Actor's Equity member. She's worked regionally all over the U.S. Christina graduated with a BFA in musical theater and opera from Sam Houston State University. In the past few years, Christina started directing and found a new passion for theater. She's directed many variety shows and musicals. A personal favorite is *Once On This Island Jr.* Christina performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Lone Star Festival in London. This is where her love of Shakespeare began. She had the opportunity to work with Sir Derek Jacobi at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. She's also performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland to rave reviews. Christina loves educating and inspiring young talent to love theater as much as she does. She is thrilled to make her directing debut in Duluth this summer!

### **Casting Ages 13-18**

- Each Cast of approximately 30-40 actors to play a variety of roles.
- Students cast in *Xanadu* will crew for *Much Ado*/ Students cast in *Much Ado* will crew for *Xanadu*.
- Students must be 13 years old on July 1, 2019. Students cannot participate if they are 19 years old by July 1, 2019.

### **Audition Information**

<b>General Auditions</b>	Saturday, March 30 from 3:00-5:00pm and Sunday, March 31 from 1:00-3:00pm
<b>CALLBACKS</b>	Sunday, March 31 from 3:00-6:00pm DANCE CALL: Students called back for the dance audition will need to be prepared to learn a jazz dance.
<b>Location</b>	<b>The NorShor Rehearsal Spaces – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the NorShor building</b> Take the skywalk from the Sheraton Ramp or take the elevator in the NorShor to N3 211 E. Superior St. Duluth, MN, 55802
<b>Audition Preparation</b>	<b>Audition Expectations:</b> All actors must sing. Please prepare 16-32 bars of an appropriate song, preferably from musical theater, and bring your sheet music; an

	<p>accompanist will be provided. Actors will also be asked to read sides (scenes from the script) which will be provided at auditions.</p> <p><b>Audition Documents:</b> We request actors provide a resume and a current photo or headshot along with their completed audition form.</p> <p><b>Script perusal:</b> All are encouraged to read the play before auditioning. Scripts are available in the <b>NorShor office</b> for a \$5 refundable deposit, <b>maximum of 3 day check out.</b></p>
<b>Audition Sign Up Options</b>	<p><b>Students will sign up for a 5-minute time slot for auditions. Please sign up the following ways:</b></p> <p>A. Fill out the Audition Sign Up Form on the Duluth Playhouse website at <a href="http://duluthplayhouse.org/auditions">duluthplayhouse.org/auditions</a></p> <p>B. Email Amber Burns at <a href="mailto:aburns@duluthplayhouse.org">aburns@duluthplayhouse.org</a> to sign up for auditions.</p> <p>C. Sign up at auditions. You may show up 15 minutes before an audition slot to register for that audition time.</p>

### Rehearsal and Performance Information

<b>Rehearsal Dates &amp; Times:</b>	<p>July 8 - 26, Rehearsals 9-3pm, Monday-Friday          July 29 - August 9, Rehearsals 9-4pm, Monday-Friday</p> <p><b>Added Tech Rehearsals:</b>          Saturday, July 27, 9am-3pm          Saturday, August 3, 9am-3pm          Sunday, August 4, 9am-3pm</p>
<b>Where:</b>	<p><b>The NorShor Rehearsal Spaces – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the NorShor building</b>          Take the skywalk from the Sheraton Ramp or take the elevator in the NorShor to N3          211 E. Superior St. Duluth, MN, 55802</p> <p><b>Tech Rehearsals &amp; Performances will be located at:</b>          The Duluth Playhouse Family Theatre Stage (Depot Stage)          506 W. Michigan Street</p>

### Performance Dates & Times:

All Students are required to be at all performances.

- **Xanadu:** August 9, 11, 16 & 18, 2019 • Showtimes Fridays @ 7pm | Sundays @ 2pm
- **Much Ado About Nothing:** August 8, 10, 15 & 17, 2019 • Showtimes Thursdays & Saturdays @ 7pm

<b>Teen Intensive Cost</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
After casting, registration will become available	

Any questions about the summer intensives can be directed to Amber Burns:

[aburns@duluthplayhouse.org](mailto:aburns@duluthplayhouse.org)

## **Xanadu Character Breakdown**

**Sonny Malone** - Sonny Malone is the young male lead from the beaches of California. He is wide-eyed, full of dreams and can be a bit sensitive; after all, he is an artist! While Sonny may not be the brightest, he is very sincere and earnest.

**Kira** - Kira is the Greek heroine and loveable, young ingénue. She begins the play as Clio, the youngest and the most idealistic of the Muses. With the addition of leg warmers and an Australian accent, she quickly becomes Kira to help Sonny realize his dreams. She is ambitious, smart and like Sonny, pure of heart.

**Danny Maguire** - Danny Maguire is a real estate magnate and owner of the Xanadu theater. Danny can evolve from being guarded about protecting the theater to becoming partners with Sonny and then betraying him.

**The Andrews Sisters** - The Andrews Sisters (Maxene, Patty and Laverne) are an exact duplicate of the Andrews Sisters that were famous in the 1940s.

**The Tubes** - The Tubes is an iconic, hard-rockin' new-wave band of the 80s.

**Melpomene** - Melpomene, Muse of Tragedy, is the eldest of the Muses and is most responsible for plotting against Kira.

**Calliope** - Calliope, Muse of Epics, is Melpomene's "Wing-Muse." She is equally devious and listens closely to her sister's direction.

**Other Muses** - Erato, Euterpe, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia and Urania.

**Zeus** - King of the Gods.

**Hera** - Hera is Zeus' wife and is known for her comparable status to her husband.

**Hermes** - Hermes is a hilarious cameo role for a performer with excellent comedic

**Thetis** - Thetis is the Goddess of the Sea who tells the pivotal story of Achilles and his vulnerable heel, which in turn, changes Kira's perspective about really loving Sonny.

**Aphrodite** - Is the Goddess of Love.

**Sirens** - Melpomene's nine alluring daughters.

**Ensemble** - Eros, Cyclops, Centaur, and Medusa. And of course, there is the Greek Chorus, which is the foundation for the world of the play.

## **Much Ado About Nothing Character Breakdown**

**Beatrice:** The niece of Leonato and cousin of Hero. Beatrice is very quick witted and verbally skilled, frequently amusing friends and family with elaborate stories and jokes. Most often at her own expense. Generally, she is kind hearted and generous, however she has a tendency to mock and tease other people, Benedick usually being her focus. She has sworn she will never marry. Beatrice is strong and knows who she is, but it is important to allow her vulnerability to shine through when she allows it to.

**Benedick:** A soldier who has recently been fighting under Don Pedro and is a close friend of Don Pedro and Claudio. Much like Beatrice, Benedick is very quick witted and fond of telling elaborate jokes, stories, and puns at the expense of others. He swears he will never marry. He tends to distrust women. Benedick is a lot of bark with no bite. Despite his sharp tongue, he has a generous heart. Not your typical leading man, there is more to him.

**Claudio:** A young soldier who won great acclaim fighting under Don Pedro during the recent wars. Claudio falls in love with Hero upon his return to Messina. Though he is valiant, charming, and loving, he is unfortunately gullible and distrusting. He has a tendency to believe rumors and is quick to assume those close to him have betrayed him. He is very emotionally driven.

**Hero:** The beautiful young daughter of Leonato and cousin of Beatrice. She is lovely, gentle, and innocent. She falls in love with Claudio. She is of pure heart.

**Don Pedro:** An important nobleman from Aragon, sometimes referred to as “Prince.” Don Pedro is a longtime friend of Leonato, Hero’s father, and is also close to the soldiers who have been fighting under him—the younger Benedick and the very young Claudio. Don Pedro is generous, courteous, intelligent, and loving to his friends, but he is also quick to believe evil of others and hasty to take revenge. He is the most politically and socially powerful character in the play. He is the center of every room he walks into.

**Leonato:** The father of Hero and uncle of Beatrice. Leonato is the governor of Messina and a respected, elderly nobleman. He is second in status to Don Pedro. A stand-up man who is trying to do what’s best for his family.

**Don John:** The illegitimate half-brother of Don Pedro. Don John is melancholy and sullen by nature, and he creates a dark scheme to ruin the happiness of Hero and Claudio. He is the villain of the play; his evil actions are motivated by his envy of his brother’s social authority. (Very Kylo Ren from *Star Wars*.)

**Margaret:** Hero's serving woman, who unknowingly helps Borachio and Don John deceive Claudio into thinking that Hero is unfaithful. Unlike Ursula, Hero's other lady-in-waiting, Margaret is lower class. Margaret loves to break decorum, especially with bawdy jokes and teases.

**Borachio:** An associate of Don John. He conspires with Don John to trick Claudio and Don Pedro into thinking that Hero is unfaithful to Claudio. His name means "drunkard" in Italian, do with that what you will.

**Conrad:** One of Don John's more intimate associates, entirely devoted to Don John.

**Dogberry:** The constable in charge of the Watch, or chief policeman, of Messina. Dogberry is very sincere and takes his job seriously, but he has a habit of using exactly the wrong word to convey his meaning. Dogberry is one of the few middle-class characters, in the play, though his desire to speak formally and elaborately like the noblemen becomes an occasion for parody. Dogberry is very out of the box and is very different than the rest of the characters in the play. A big choice must be made when portraying him.

**Verges:** The deputy to Dogberry, chief policeman of Messina. Dogberry's loyal assistant and helper.

**Antonio:** Leonato's elderly brother and Hero's uncle. He is Beatrice's father. He is strong and fatherly.

**Balthasar:** A waiting man in Leonato's household and a musician. Balthasar sings the song, "Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more". He is very charming and suave.

**Ursula:** One of Hero's waiting women. She is older and of more class with Margaret.

**Watchmen:** They are under Dogberry's command and each have very distinctive and different personalities. The "bumbling" idiots willing to follow any command.

# **TEEN INTENSIVE Audition Form**

*Please bring this completed form with you to the audition along with a resume & current photo or headshot. Please print clearly!*

<b>Student Name:</b>		<b>Age &amp; Birth Date:</b>	
<b>Student Preferred Pronoun (circle) He She They Other (please indicate): _____ Prefer not to say</b>			
<small>We require the following information for the purposes of helping our staff use the most respectful language when addressing our students and understanding our population better.</small>			
<b>Home Address:</b>		<b>City, State, Zip:</b>	
<b>Parent/ Guardian Name (1):</b>		<b>Parent/ Guardian Name (2):</b>	
<b>Parent/ Guardian Email (1):</b>		<b>Parent/ Guardian Email (2):</b>	
<b>Parent/ Guardian Phone (1):</b>		<b>Parent/ Guardian Phone (2):</b>	
<b>Student Email:</b>		<b>Student Phone:</b>	
<i>Email address will be used to announce casting, general show info, rehearsal changes, and future Playhouse notices.</i>			

Is there a particular role in the show you are most interested in?      Yes\_\_\_\_\_      No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you accept another part if not offered any listed above?      Yes\_\_\_\_\_      No\_\_\_\_\_

Do you sing, dance, play piano or have other special talents? If so, please explain level of skill:

Do you Roller Skate?      Yes\_\_\_\_\_      No\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have **ANY** conflicts with the rehearsal/ performance schedule?      Yes\_\_\_\_\_      No\_\_\_\_\_

**Please list ALL conflicts below (be as specific as possible to dates, times). Additional conflicts after being cast may not be accepted.**

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Audition Monologues**  
***Much Ado About Nothing***  
**Summer Teen Intensive 2019**

**Male Identifying Monologues**

**Benedick**

I mean in singing; but in loving,  
Leander the good swimmer,  
Troilus the first employer of panders,  
And a whole bookful of these quondam carpet mongers,  
Whose names yet run smoothly  
In the even road of a blank verse, why,  
They were never so truly turned over and over  
As my poor self in love.

**Leonato**

I cannot bid you bid my daughter live;  
That were impossible: but, I pray you both,  
Possess the people in Messina here  
How innocent she died; and if your love  
Can labour ought in sad invention,  
Hang her an epitaph upon her tomb  
And sing it to her bones, sing it to-night.

## **Female Identifying Monologues**

### **Hero**

O god of love! I know he doth deserve  
As much as may be yielded to a man,  
But nature never framed a woman's heart  
Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice.  
Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes,  
Misprizing what they look on, and her wit  
Values itself so highly that to her  
All matter else seems weak. She cannot love.

### **Beatrice**

What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?  
Stand I condemned for pride and scorn so much?  
Contempt, farewell, and maiden pride, adieu!  
No glory lives behind the back of such.  
And Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,  
Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand.  
If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee  
To bind our loves up in a holy band.  
For others say thou dost deserve, and I  
Believe it better than reportingly.