

Love's LABOR'S LOST

Free Shakespeare in Deering Oaks Park
Portland's Favorite Summer Tradition



THE SETTING

Welcome to the coastal Maine island of Navarre! We're glad you made the last ferry.

QUICK PLOT SUMMARY

The King of Navarre and three of his lords make a 3-year vow to avoid women and devote themselves to study. The Princess of France arrives with three of her ladies (the King of France is sick and the Princess is visiting on business). The four men fall in love and decide to court the women. In the end, the women task the men with year-long assignments to prove their love.

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Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 non-profit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier theatre in the Portland, ME community since 2008.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



In my opinion, *Love's Labor's Lost* is a perfect play for a summer evening. Light and airy, sure, but like so many favorite novels and films set in summertime, it's also a coming-of-age story. For many—myself included—summer feels full of potential, as though these longer days hold the promise of transformation, of growth, of returning to life in three months changed in some intangible way.

Some see it as a time to set a lofty personal goal, like committing to three years of academic study (or at least a library's summer reading challenge). For others, it's the opportunity to get out of town for a little bit, even if it is on a business trip from the French Court. For others, it's about those small-town summer flings that fizzle (or don't) as fall approaches.

Here in Maine, summer ends slowly, and then all at once. Not unlike this play, really.

Our Navarre is a small town on a coastal Maine island, populated by recognizable locals and visitors from away. In the spirit of keeping things fun and fast-paced, that ensemble of 15 characters is gamely played by just 8 actors in this production. We'll have live music played on at least 7 different instruments, as well as absurd disguises, mishandled letters, and a play-within-the-play. It is Shakespeare, after all.

Thank you for spending your summer evening with us. Enjoy the show!

– **KATELYN MANFRE** (she/her), Director

ABOUT FENIX THEATRE COMPANY

Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier professional theatre in the Portland, ME community since 2008, highlighting the talent of local Maine artists. Fenix is run by a volunteer board of directors and productions are sustained by donations.

If you enjoyed the show, please consider supporting Fenix by:

- Donating if you are able (free theater is NOT free to produce!)
- Telling your friends, family, coworkers about the show
- Following us on social media (@fenixtheatre)

Word of mouth is our best advertising and we'd love to share this production with as many people in our community as possible. Thank you for joining us!

Volunteer Board:

Peter Brown, Artistic Director; Benjamin Row, Fundraising; Shane Van Vliet, Marketing & Production Coordination; Kat Moraros, Digital Marketing; Zack Handlen; Tiki Fuhro.



LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST CAST BIOS



MEGAN CROSS (she/her) as Maria/Costard

This is Megan's second show with Fenix, having played Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* this past Christmas. Megan's favorite roles include Agatha in *The Moors* (Dramatic Repertory Company), Jean Brodie in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Portland Players), and Kia in *The Last Schwartz* (Marin Theatre Company). Special thanks to dialect coach Nolan Ellsworth.



HANNAH DALY (she/her) as Princess of France

Hannah Daly is a Portland-based actor who is glad to be back in the park for another beautiful summer. Favorite credits include Belle/Fred's Wife in *A Christmas Carol* (Portland Stage), The Moorhen in *The Moors* (Dramatic Repertory Company), Margaret/Verges in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Opera House Arts), and Emmy in *A Doll's House Part Two* (Good Theater). Film: *Downeast, Nice People*. Training: BFA in Acting from Syracuse University, Shakespeare's Globe, Tepper Semester. Big time love to Nolan & Birdie.



PAUL FIDALGO (he/him) as Longaville/Boyet/Holofernes

In the Long Long Ago, Paul worked for 10 years as a professional stage actor and musician. During five years in repertory with the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia, he played a wide variety of roles, wrote original music, and served as music director for several productions. In recent years, he has directed nine productions for the UNE Players including *Clue*, *Chicago*, and *Into the Woods*. Paul holds a master's degree in political management from George Washington University. In 2023, after a way-too-long absence, Paul finally returned to the stage playing Erik Blake in *The Humans*, Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd* (both at Schoolhouse Arts), and Sir Andrew in Fenix's *12th Night* (where he was also the band's guitarist). Most importantly, Paul is the father of two incredibly ridiculous and amazing children.



ZACK HANDLEN (he/him) as King of Navarre

Zack Handlen is a Portland-based writer and actor. He recently joined Fenix Theatre as a board member and is currently spending his time freelancing, editing a novel, and looking for a full time job. Zack is thrilled to be back in the park for another Fenix show: previous roles of note include Alonso in *The Tempest* (Fenix); the titular barber in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (Schoolhouse); Mad Hatter in *Waiting for Alice* (Mad Horse); and many others.



LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST CAST BIOS



JONAS MAINES (he/him) as Dumaine/Don Armado

Jonas Maines is an Augusta-based actor and writer, performing for the first time with Fenix. He received his BA in Performing Arts from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2019, and has since worked professionally for both the screen and stage in Austin and Chicago. Since returning to Maine in the winter of last year, he has appeared in numerous productions across Central Maine; recent performances include *Last Gas* (Nat Paradis), *Head Over Heels* (Ensemble), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Col. Arbuthnot) and several workshop productions at the Emery Arts Center. Notable past credits include *Hamlet* (Hamlet), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Christopher), *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Doug) and more.

Jonas is honored and privileged to work alongside such talented artists, and to have learned so much from each of them.



KAT MORAROS (she/they) as Rosaline/Mote/Sir Nathaniel

Kat is a queer multi-hyphenate theater artist and volunteer Fenix Board Member who is proud to be working with Maine theaters again after a few years living and performing extensively in Chicago and the midwest. Maine credits include work with Portland Stage, Theater at Monmouth, Good Theater, Mad Horse, Children's Theater of Maine, Dramatic Repertory Company, and more. Training: Bates College, London Dramatic Academy, Black Box Academy. Up next: Kevin O'Leary's newest play, *God Less America* at the Portland Stage Studio space in October 2024. Thanks to Kate for her thoughtful direction, to this talented cast for their playfulness and talent, and to you for joining us. @katmoraros @katmorarosphotography

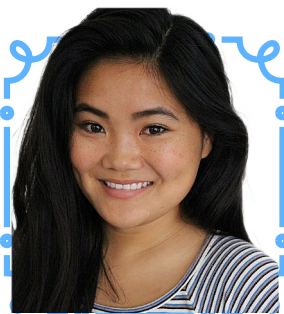


LUKE MYERS (he/him) as Berowne

Luke is new to Portland and grateful to play with Fenix this summer. Recently with Penobscot Theatre Company in *Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play* (Sam/Mr. Burns), California credits include PCPA Pacific Conservatory Theatre, SLO Rep, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Shotgun Players, Berkeley Playhouse, Capital Stage, Town Hall and Poltergeist Theatre Project. Minnesota credits include Full Circle Theatre and Open Eye Figure Theatre. Training: PCPA Pacific Conservatory Theatre and UMN/Guthrie BFA. Luke produces biennially with the global initiative Climate Change Theatre Action.



LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST CAST BIOS



SARABELL WRIGLEY (she/her) as Katherine/Jaquenetta

Regional: *I Love You Because* (Diana), *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *South Pacific* (Liat), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Meg), *Taming of the Shrew* (Tranio), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania). Costume Design and Construction: *A Doll's House Part 2* (Berkshire Theatre Award Nominee), *Angels in the Park* (Dublin Fringe Award Nominee), *Boeing Boeing*, *Exit the King*, *Adam and Evie*, *Riverdance*. Film/TV: *Mandalorian Season 2*, *Greyhound*, *Top Gun: Maverick*. Love to Phoenix.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Katelyn Manfre

Stage Manager: Patrick Therriault

Assistant Stage Manager & House Manager: Grace Kellar-Long

Production Manager: Shane Van Vliet

Set Designer & Props Designer: Stacey Koloski

Sound Designer: Chris Fitze

Music Director & Composer, "Peninsula" & "Leap Year": Paul Fidalgo

Fight Director: Michael Dix Thomas

Costume Designers: Katelyn Manfre & Sandy Quinn

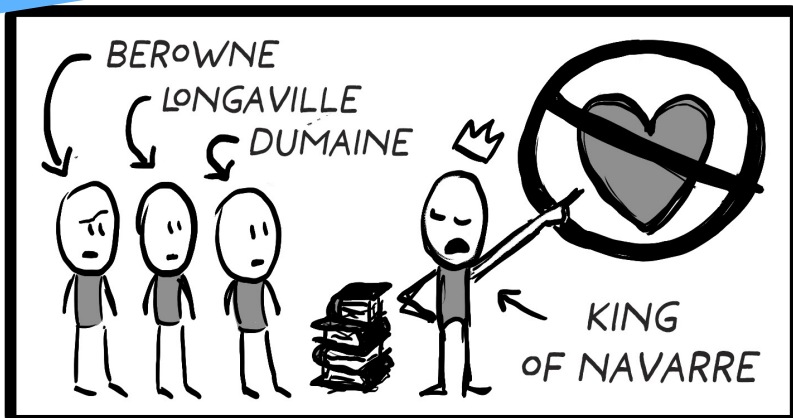
Costume Coordinator: Barbara Kelly

SPECIAL THANKS

Portland Ovation, Nick Hutchison, Robert Richmond,
Cammy Moraros, Nathan Speckman, Sarabell Wrigley,
Portland Theater Festival, Nolan Ellsworth, Cassidy Sarin,
Portland Parks Department

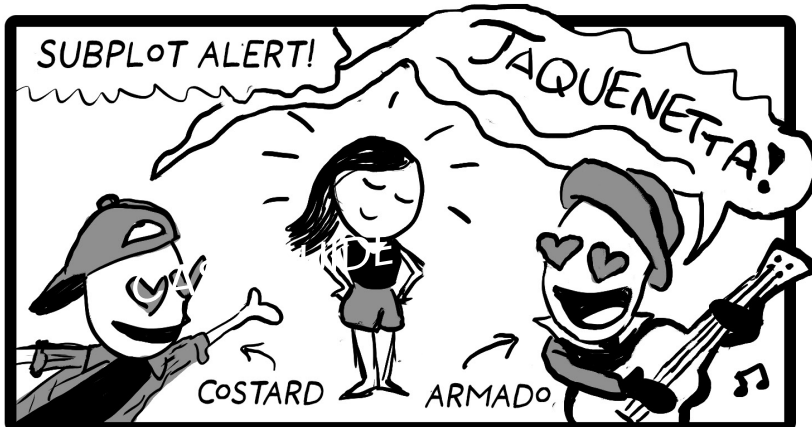
A HANDY COMIC BY NOLAN ELLSWORTH

LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST

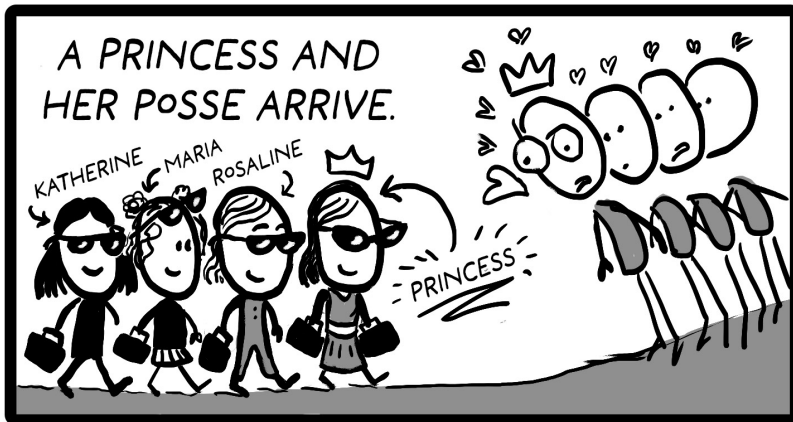


THE KING OF NAVARRE
BANS LOVE AND
WOMEN FROM HIS
COURT, SO HE AND HIS
BROS CAN STUDY.

THE CLOWNY
COSTARD BREAKS
THE NEW RULES...



MUSIC BOTH COSTARD AND DON ARMADO ARE CRUSHING ON JACQUENETTA. WILL ARMADO'S LOVE SONGS WIN HER HEART?



GIRLS HAVE
TO SLEEP
OUTSIDE.



AT THE KING'S COURT,
LOVE IS REVEALED.

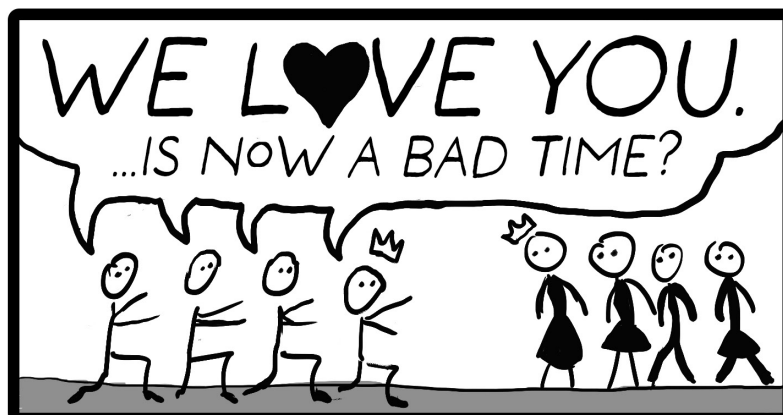
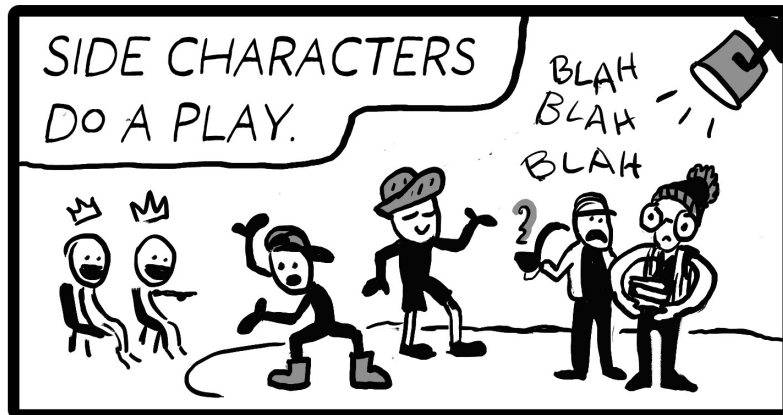
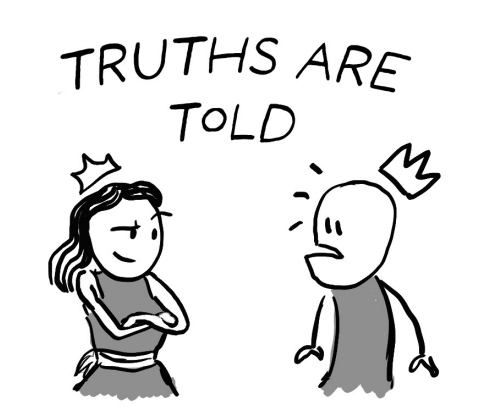
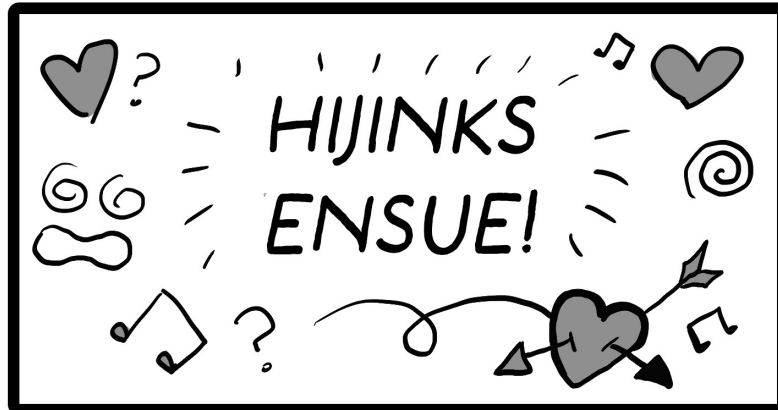
BUSTED!

BUSTED!



A HANDY COMIC BY NOLAN ELLSWORTH

LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST



THE ROYALTY - KING'S COURT

KING OF NAVARRE

Played by Zack Handlen (he/him)

The King of Navarre has brought three of his lords to study with him on his island for 3 years' time.

BEROWNE

Played by Luke Myers (he/him)

Berowne is the last to arrive to the King's court. He is a witty, verbose speaker who maybe doesn't quite agree with the oath they are all swearing to. He falls in love with Rosaline – they've met before.

LONGAVILLE

Played by Paul Fidalgo (he/him)

Longaville falls in love with Maria (and it gets weird).

DUMAINE

Played by Jonas Maines (he/him)

Dumaine falls in love with Katherine.

THE ROYALTY - PRINCESS' COURT

PRINCESS OF FRANCE

Played by Hannah Daly (she/her)

The Princess' father the King is very sick. She has come to Navarre on business, expecting to be put up in a lovely coastal Maine estate. She is traveling with her three ladies and lord in waiting.

ROSALINE

Played by Kat Moraros (she/they)

Rosaline has been friends with the Princess for a long time. She falls in love with Berowne – they've met before, and she thinks he needs to chill with his idle scorns and jests.

MARIA

Played by Megan Cross (she/her)

Maria falls in love with Longaville (and it gets weird).

KATHERINE

Played by Sarabell Wrigley (she/her)

Katherine falls in love with Dumaine.

BOYET

Played by Paul Fidalgo (he/him)

The Princess' lord in waiting.



LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST CHARACTER GUIDE

THE LOCALS

COSTARD

Played by Megan Cross (she/her)

Costard is a local gardener who works on the grounds of the King's estate. He is a bit of a troublemaker, and is often sneaking off into corners or around bushes with Jaquenetta because he is crushing on her hard. Costard likes to have a good time and clown around.

JAQUENETTA

Played by Sarabell Wrigley (she/her)

Jaquenetta is a local of Navarre who has ambitions of getting off the island and out into the world. Jaquenetta is often sneaking off into corners or around bushes with Costard, and has a major crush on Don Armado.

SIR NATHANIEL

Played by Kat Moraros (she/they)

Sir Nathaniel is the local pastor. He spends his days reading, using fancy words in conversations, and applauding his mentor, Holofernes.

HOLOFERNES

Played by Paul Fidalgo (he/him)

Holofernes is a master scholar who lives on the island. He spends his days reading, using fancy words in conversations, and advising locals with his mentee, Sir Nathaniel.

FROM AWAY

DON ARMADO

Played by Jonas Maines (he/him)

Don Armado is a Spaniard who has fallen in love with Jaquenetta. He uses fancy words, writes catchy songs, and uses lots of pet names.

MOTE

Played by Kat Moraros (she/they)

Mote is Don Armado's sidekick. He's very clever, very flirty, and always looking to have a good time.

MERCADE *(any pronouns)*

Played by a special guest at each performance

Mercade is an official messenger from the French Court.

LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST PLOT GUIDE



1.1 THE KING'S MEN'S OATH & ISLANDERS FROLICKING

The King of Navarre and his three companions Berowne, Dumaine and Longaville commit to a studious life for three years. No women, no love, fasting, little sleep – Berowne is skeptical. To help them keep their oath, they decree that all women must remain a mile from the court. Don Adriano de Armado, a visitor from Spain, sends a letter to the King that the local gardener, Costard, has been canoodling with Jaquenetta against the King's rules. Costard is told off and handed over to Don Armado, who will keep an eye on him.



1.2 CRUSHING

Don Armado tells his page, Mote, that he's the one who is actually crushing on Jaquenetta. He tries to flirt with her and after an epic fail, decides to write her a love song.



2.1 THE PRINCESS ARRIVES WITH HER LADIES

The Princess of France and her three ladies arrive: Rosaline, Katherine, and Maria, along with her lord-in-waiting, Boyet. They are there on business because the King of France is very ill. Because of the King's oath, the women are forced to camp in the field. The Princess' ladies all know of the King's men, and it isn't long before the King and his men find themselves falling for the ladies in classic summer romance style: The King and the Princess, Berowne and Rosaline, Dumaine and Katherine, Longaville and Maria.



3.1 LOVE SONGS & LETTERS

Don Armado writes Jaquenetta a song ("Peninsula" by Paul Fidalgo) and a letter and foolishly asks Costard to deliver it. Berowne also asks Costard to deliver a love letter to Rosaline on his behalf.



4.1 & 4.2 LETTERS MISPLACED

Costard creates confusion by delivering Armado's letter to Rosaline while the ladies are playing croquet. He then goes to hang out with local parson Sir Nathaniel and professor Holofernes – two learned residents who are obsessed with books and language. Sir Nathaniel has been deer hunting. Jaquenetta arrives with the letter from Berowne that Costard intentionally gave her to thwart her would-be romance with Armado.



4.3 LOVE REVEALED

The extent to which the men have forgotten their oath is revealed as they catch each other writing love poetry. At first the King is angry that his men have broken their oaths, but then his feelings for the Princess are also forced out into the open. They make plans to visit the ladies' camp and win them over.



5.1 DON ARMADO'S PLAN

Don Armado asks Holofernes and Sir Nathaniel to help him present a play for the Princess at the King's request. Holofernes suggests "The Nine Worthies". Roles are assigned and excitement builds.



5.2 DISGUISES & TRUTH TELLING

The ladies receive a delivery of jewelry, gifts and love letters from the men. Boyet tells them the men are arriving in disguise. The ladies decide to mess with the men by swapping gifts and pretending to be each other (Rosaline as "Princess" and vice versa, Maria as "Katherine" and vice versa). The men arrive in disguise as Russians a la Eurovision band and play music for the ladies. They all split off into couples (the wrong ones, unknown to the men) and the men all give them musical tokens of love.

Frustrated with getting nowhere in their wooing, the men leave. The ladies swap their original gifts back and prepare for their return. When the men arrive as themselves, the ladies force them to admit they were in disguise and question their ability to keep an oath.

Don Armado, Costard, Sir Nathaniel, Mote, and Holofernes arrive to present "The Nine Worthies". The men make fun of the actors. Don Armado and Jaquenetta are about to run off together in love, but Costard makes a musical plea for her affections. Don Armado and Costard get into a fight over Jaquenetta, which devolves into chaos for everyone.



THE END

Sad news arrives for the Princess and she needs to immediately return home. The King and his men hastily ask for their hands in marriage. The ladies, unconvinced that their love is genuine, declare that the men must wait a year to prove that what they say is true, giving each of them an assignment of how they should spend their time. Everyone sings a bittersweet song ("Leap Year" by Paul Fidalgo), as they pack up and part ways.



THANK YOU

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AND LOCAL MAINE ARTISTS



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PHOTOGRAPHY

 **BIRCH TREE
TRANSITIONS**

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