



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 26, 2011

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Wayne State University Theatres Present a Shakespeare Comedy Package

Detroit, MI –*Much Ado About Nothing* at the Hilberry Theatre and *Twelfth Night* at the Bonstelle Theatre have been paired together to form the “Shakespeare Comedy Package.” Audience members who want to see both productions can save \$10 off the regular price by purchasing the package deal. *Much Ado About Nothing* runs October 28 through November 19, 2011 and *Twelfth Night* runs December 2 through December 11, 2011. The packaged deal can be purchased by mentioning promo code 30Q8 when calling the Box Office at (313) 577-2972 or when visiting the Hilberry Theatre Box Office at 4743 Cass Avenue on the corner of Hancock in Midtown, Detroit.

On **October 28, 2011** the **Hilberry Theatre** will open its second show of the season, William Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, first performed circa 1598-99. Internationally acclaimed visiting Director Matthew Earnest has reimagined the classical comedy of weddings and wit into a fresh party scene accessible to all ages and lifestyles. The characters of Benedick and Beatrice are engaged in a “merry war” of mile-a-minute talk about their scorn for love, marriage, and each other. Claudio and Hero are rendered practically speechless by their transcendent love for one another in a race to the altar. Don John nearly triumphs in ruining the wedding, but not before Beatrice and Benedick finally tell each other how they really feel. *Much Ado About Nothing* runs for four weeks until November 19, 2011, including three Tuesday morning matinees.

On **December 2, 2011** the **Bonstelle Theatre** will open its second show of the season, another of Shakespeare’s classic comedies, *Twelfth Night*. First printed in 1623, *Twelfth Night* begins after a shipwreck separates twins, but tragedy quickly turns to comedy when they wash up in a land turned upside-down by love. With raucous antics, ravishing language and rich characters, in one of his greatest comedies, Shakespeare creates a bittersweet tale of laughter and longing, jealousy and triumph, not to mention mistaken identity, cross-dressing, fights, duels and three marriages! During Shakespeare’s time, the Twelfth Night marked the January fifth end of a winter festival that started on All Hallows Eve (aka Halloween) and ends on the evening of the fifth of January. The common theme of the Twelfth Night celebration was that the normal order of things was reversed, royalty became peasants and peasants became royalty. *Twelfth Night* runs for two weeks until December 11, 2011, including one Thursday morning matinee.

Twelfth Night and *Much Ado About Nothing* display common Shakespearean comedic themes such as the struggle of young lovers to overcome difficulties, often created by elders; separation and re-unification; deception, especially mistaken identity; multiple, intertwining plots; and a happy ending.

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About the Hilberry Theatre Company

The Hilberry Company is unique in that it is the nation's only graduate theatre company staffed by young up-and-coming professionals that also runs on a rotating repertory schedule. About forty graduate students are selected in national competition to receive assistantships to work in this theatre and study for advanced degrees. The company performs an annual season of six plays, including matinees for nearly 6,000 students. Through the years four Hilberry productions have been selected to appear at the American College Theatre Festival.

Tickets for individual shows are \$12-\$30 and are available by calling the Hilberry Theatre Box Office at (313) 577-2972 or online at www.wsushows.com. The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., with extended hours to 8 p.m. on performance evenings (Thursday-Saturday). Group discounts and corporate packages are also available. For more information, please call (313) 577-2972 or visit the Wayne State University Box Office at 4743 Cass Avenue on the corner of Hancock in Detroit. Performance information and tickets may also be obtained by visiting the theatre's website at www.hilberry.com.

About the Bonstelle Theatre

The Bonstelle Theatre is a Broadway-style House with a 1,143-seat auditorium featuring a balcony. Here, future stars of theatre, film, and television follow in the footsteps of such successful alumni as Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning S. Epatha Merkerson (NBC's *Law and Order*, *Lackawanna Blues*), Lily Tomlin (*9 to 5*, ABC's *Desperate Housewives*) and Ernie Hudson (*Ghostbusters*, NBC's *Heroes*).

The Wayne State Theatre box office is open Tuesday – Saturday from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Hilberry Theatre. Tickets may be purchased at the door at the Bonstelle Theatre (3424 Woodward Avenue) one hour prior to performances. Regular tickets are available for \$15 and \$12 discounted tickets are available to students, seniors ages 62+, Wayne State University faculty, staff and Alumni Association members. Group discounts are also available. For more information, please visit the theatre's website at www.bonstelle.com.

Much Ado About Nothing
By William Shakespeare
At Hilberry Theatre

-Calendar Information-

October 28, 2011 – November 19, 2011

Tuesday 10 a.m.	Nov. 1, 8, 15 (Morning Matinees)
Wednesday 2 p.m.	Nov. 2 (Postshow Talkback)
Thursday 8 p.m.	Nov. 3 (Preshow Discussion), Nov. 10, 17
Friday 8 p.m.	Oct. 28 (Opening Night), Nov. 4, 11, 18
Saturday 2 p.m.	Oct. 29, Nov. 12
Saturday 8 p.m.	Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19

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Twelfth Night
By William Shakespeare
At Bonstelle Theatre

-Calendar Information-

December 2, 2011 – December 11, 2011

Thursday 10 a.m.	Dec. 8 (Morning Matinee)
Friday 8 p.m.	Dec. 2, 9
Saturday 8 p.m.	Dec. 3, 10
Sunday 2 p.m.	Dec. 4, 11

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