

News Web

HUFFPOST ENTERTAINMENT

SEARCH >

Like 316K Follow

CONNECT

- FRONT PAGE
- POLITICS
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- MEDIA
- TECH
- COMEDY
- STYLE
- WORLD
- FOOD
- HEALTHY LIVING
- IMPACT
- MORE
- LOCAL

[ENTERTAINMENT](#) [MEDIA](#) [COMEDY](#) [MUSIC](#) [TV](#) [CELEBRITY KIDS](#) [MOVIEFONE](#)



WHO Is This Man?



Bad Guy?



PHOTOS: Fat Joe's Shocking Weight Loss

Michael Giltz
Freelance writer

GET UPDATES FROM MICHAEL GILTZ

39

Theater: "Much Ado" "Ends Well" at Globe

Posted: 05/30/11 11:56 AM ET

React > [Inspiring](#) [Funny](#) [Hot](#) [Scary](#) [Outrageous](#) [Amazing](#) [Weird](#) [Crazy](#)

Read more > [Much Ado About Nothing](#) , [Shakespeare](#) , [The Globe London](#) , [The Globe Theatre](#) , [William Shakespeare](#) , [Entertainment News](#)

SHARE THIS STORY

0 3 1 0

share tweet email comment

Get Entertainment Alerts

[Sign Up](#)

Submit this story

Much Ado About Nothing ** 1/2 out of ****
All's Well That Ends Well **** out of ****

London is always worth visiting for theater. But if there's any downside to a visit during the winter, it's the fact that Shakespeare's Globe isn't open for performances then. It's not just the best bargain in theater -- it's also some of the best theater, period. Now I've discovered that they're adding to their site on South Bank an indoor Jacobean Theatre that will be lit with candles to duplicate as closely as possible the atmosphere theatergoers would have experienced centuries ago. The Globe has been a marvelous success on every level and this new space is truly exciting. **You can become a**

patron and support its construction. (Let's hope they let Mark Rylance grace the stage as soon as possible.)

London theater isn't just better than anywhere else, including New York. It's also much less expensive. I saw a **fine *Cherry Orchard* at the National with the great *Zoe Wannamker*** (and an outstanding Conleth Hill) for just 12 pounds. And at the Globe I spent 5 pounds to watch the best show I'd see during my entire visit.

But first came the premiere of *Much Ado About Nothing*. It's one of Shakespeare's great mature

ADVERTISEMENT

PHOTO GALLERIES



PHOTOS: Who Won Big At This Year's 'Fashion Oscars'?



Nancy Pelosi Wears Vintage Thierry Mugler To



7 Sites You Should Be Wasting Time On Right Now



7 Celebrity Fad Diets

HUFFPOST SOCIAL NEWS

FOLLOW US



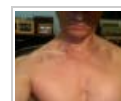
MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST

1 of 2 >



New Photos Emerge In Anthony Weiner Twitter Scandal

Like 6K



Anthony Weiner Admits Sending Racy Pictures, Refuses To Resign

Like 19K

comedies/romances. The informative program let me know that *Much Ado* is a signal work of theater, since revolutionary productions in the early 1900s changed forever how Shakespeare was performed. (One production released theater from tiresome realism by letting the production design and your imagination take flight; the other production allowed the language to flow with a new naturalness that is the way we experience Shakespeare today). I also certainly didn't know that the "nothing" in the title was also slang for a woman's vagina. That puts quite a new spin on the show, doesn't it? The 3 pound program was worth every penny.

The story of course involves young love. Claudio is just back from the wars and is happily set to marry the lovely Hero. The bastard Don John can't handle any happiness and sets out to ruin their nuptials with a dastardly plot. Caught in the middle are Beatrice and Benedick, who both mock the idea of love but can't stand injustice.

Much Ado rises and falls on its battling duo Beatrice and Benedick. If they're in fine form, the show will be worth seeing. They've got a great pair in Eve Best and Charles Edwards. Best is well-known to American theatergoers and is enjoying the critical acclaim for the new BBC series *The Shadowline*. Edwards came to Broadway with the silly bit of fun *The 39 Steps*. They are superb here as two people who hate each other on sight almost as much as they hate the idea of romance and marriage. But Best shows such real pleasure in the coming nuptials of Hero and Claudio that you know she's not really that averse to romance. And Edwards has great fun in undermining his own seriousness with the comical scene where he overhears gossip that makes it seem Beatrice truly loves him.

Another plus in this show is Philip Cumbus as Claudio. He has such a disarming boyish glee that you're somehow willing to swallow he might prove just as gullible in being deceived, which makes his turning on his love Hero somehow more palatable. (You know as bitter as he is that a minute later he'll be in love again.) But the rest of the cast is less satisfying. Ony Uhiara makes no impression as Hero, Matthew Pidgeon is too moustache-twirling as the villain and Paul Hunter is very tiresome as Dogberry, the requisite comic relief.

None of this dims the pleasure of two excellent actors delivering strong performances in two of the best-matched sparring partners the theater has ever known. Best and Edwards make this a show you don't want to miss. They're competing for attention with David Tennant and Catherine Tate of *Doctor Who*; those two are performing *Much Ado in the West End at the very intimate Wyndham Theatre*. They have marvelous chemistry too and the show is already one of the hot tickets of the season. Let's hope their starriness doesn't blind people to the chance to see two worthy productions of this show.

But the very next day I saw *All's Well That Ends Well* and that puts to the lie any satisfaction you should feel with a production that doesn't do a classic justice. I would simply have to list the entire cast to tell you every outstanding performance. It was performed marvelously from top to bottom and directed with care by John Dove. The music, the modest additions to the Globe's set (in this case, mainly large canvas screens towards the back of the stage that indicated changes from day to night), the gorgeous (and subtly revealing of character) costumes -- this is truly a credit to the Globe and one of the best Shakespearean stagings I've seen in many a year.

Helena (a pitch perfect Ellie Percy) has just cured the king of a terrible ailment and as a reward she can have her pick of men. She chooses Bertram (handsome devil Sam Crane) the son of her ward (a truly marvelous Janie Dee). Bertram is aghast because Helena is beneath him socially and he takes off for war rather than bedding his wife. Helena spends the rest of the play tricking Bertram into bed and winning his love. Not a note is misplaced here, from the fully realized Parolles of James Garnon (a character usually played too broadly) to Sam Cox's properly imperious King Of France.

It seems unfair not to mention every actor since so many are so good. As with all the shows at the Globe, they end with a dance as was traditional in Shakespeare's day. It's all you can do not to join in with them, so transporting is their work. **The Globe is always worth attending**; *All's Well* however would be worth circling the globe to see.

Note: Michael Giltz was provided with a free ticket to *Much Ado* with the understanding that he would be writing a review.

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the cohost of *Showbiz Sandbox*, a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's available for free on iTunes. Visit Michael Giltz at his [website](#) and his [daily blog](#). Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called *Popsurfing* and also



PHOTOS: Who Won Big At This Year's 'Fashion Oscars'?

Like 434



Engadget: WWDC 2011 liveblog: Steve Jobs talks iOS 5, OS X Lion, iCloud and more!

Like 13K



Engadget: Live from Microsoft's E3 2011 keynote!

Like 479



The Center for Public Integrity FACT WATCH: Sarah Palin's Twist on Paul Revere

Like 1K



PHOTOS: 10 Best Mafia Lessons For Success In Business

Like 432



Engadget: Live from Nintendo's E3 2011 keynote!

Like 484



Engadget: Engadget, broadcasting live from WWDC!

Like 3K

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

1 of 5



Steven Chu

A Safe, Secure Nuclear Future



Dan Rather

Taking on TARP



Casey Anthony Family Computer Searched 'Neck Breaking' and 'Death'

READ MORE



Shania Twain Lands Vegas Show Deal

READ MORE



Scotty McKnight, Hayden Panettiere a Couple?

READ MORE

More Celebrity News at People.com



Clooney's Girl, Elisabetta Canalis: 'I Will Be Married'

available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

Sponsored Links

Work At Home Jobs EXPOSED

We investigated work at home jobs. What we found may shock you...
HomeJobManual.com

New Policy In NEW YORK

Drivers with no DUIs in Florida may be eligible for \$9 per week car insurance. Only Zip Code...
YourInsuranceSearch.com

Mom Is 55, Looks 30...

Her clever \$5 wrinkle therapy angers Botox Doctors. Find Out How!
FDXNews8.com

BlackBerry® PlayBook™

Now Available. Introducing The First Professional-grade Tablet.
BlackBerry.com/PlayBook

[Buy a link here](#)

Related News On Huffington Post:



Shakespeare On The Subway: Duo Takes The Bard Underground (VIDEO)

It's not exactly the Globe Theatre, but a subway car works just fine for Shakespeare. From the Wall Street Journal: Taking literally the Elizabethan playwright's...



Globe Theatre At The Broad Stage: The Merry Wives Of Windsor

Who: The world-renowned Shakespeare Globe Theatre players. What: The Globe Theatre will be performing Shakespeare's The Merry Wives of Windsor. Directed by Christopher Luscombe, it...

Read more from Huffington Post bloggers:



Michael Giltz: Sixteen New DVDs You Must Check Out

Here are 16 DVD releases that are the best of the best from the first four months of 2010. Rent them, buy them, stream them; do whatever you want. Just don't miss them.

The image shows a Bing search results page. At the top is the Bing logo and a search bar. Below the search bar are tabs for 'Web', 'Videos', and 'Images'. The search results for 'Much Ado About Nothing' are displayed, featuring three main images: a DVD cover, a red book cover, and a scene from the play. A 'SEE MORE IMAGES >>' link is visible at the bottom right of the results area.

Around the Web:

[Much Ado About Nothing / Shakespeare's Globe](#)

[Much Ado About Nothing, Shakespeare's Globe, London - Reviews ...](#)

[Much Ado About Nothing Launches Old Globe Shakespeare Season May ...](#)

[Much Ado About Nothing – review | Stage | The Guardian](#)

[Much Ado About Nothing, The Globe, London](#)

[Zach Galifianakis Slams Sean Penn, Ke\\$ha, Little Kids](#)

[Kim K. Hopes to Be Pregnant 'by End of Year'](#)

[More Celebrity News at Popeater.com](#)

TOP VIDEO PICKS

◀ 1 of 11 ▶



One-armed guitarist impresses Bon Jovi

[PLAY VIDEO ▶](#)



Ice Loves Coco Stars Keep it Real

[PLAY VIDEO ▶](#)



Laurence Fishburne Leaving CSI

[PLAY VIDEO ▶](#)

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW

◀ 1 of 2 ▶



Jennifer Love Hewitt: Worst Actress In Hollywood?



Zach Galifianakis Reveals Major Details From Third 'Hangover' Film, Hates Fame

f HOT ON FACEBOOK

◀ 1 of 3 ▶



Emma Watson: Guys Won't Date Me, I Wasn't Bullied At Brown

[Like](#) 952



'Parks & Rec' Star Campaigns For Oprah To Join The Show

[Like](#) 3K

t HOT ON TWITTER

POWERED BY **TOPSY**

◀ 1 of 2 ▶



[stark](#)

un nuevo estudio determina que Monsanto sabía desde 1980 que su herbicida Roundup produce defectos de nacimiento:
<http://huff.to/llwsR3>

[retweet](#)



[charliemc1](#)

Breaking Through Weight Loss Plateaus <http://bit.ly/kIV7Kt>

[retweet](#)

Sponsored Links

Work At Home Jobs EXPOSED

We investigated work at home jobs. What we found



Emma Watson: Guys Are Intimidated By Me,...



Naomie Harris: New Bond Girl In 'Bond...



Jennifer Love Hewitt: Worst Actress Since 1985,...



Eminem: 'A Kiss' Calls Lady Gaga 'Male...

may shock you...
HomeJobManual.com

New Policy In NEW YORK

Drivers with no DUIs in NEW YORK may be eligible for \$9 per week car insurance. Only Zip Code...
LifestyleHeadlines.com/CarInsurance

Mom Is 55, Looks 30...

Her clever \$5 wrinkle therapy angers Botox Doctors. Find Out How!
FDXNews8.com

[Buy a link here](#)

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



Movies



NY Around Town



Video



Airlines



Iran



Elections 2012



Gulf Oil Spill



Healthy Living Health News



Natural Disasters

[MORE BIG NEWS PAGES >](#)

SEARCH

- FRONT PAGE
- POLITICS
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- MEDIA
- TECH
- COMEDY
- STYLE
- WORLD
- FOOD
- HEALTHY LIVING
- IMPACT
- MORE
- LOCAL

[ENTERTAINMENT](#) [MEDIA](#) [COMEDY](#) [MUSIC](#) [TV](#) [CELEBRITY](#) [KIDS](#) [MOVIEFONE](#)

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Careers](#) | [FAQ](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2011 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

Part of **HuffPost News**