

# Entertainment

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## There is a great deal to "Much Ado"

By Patrick Freestone

**Much Ado About Nothing** is filmmaker Kenneth Branagh's eagerly-anticipated second venture into the works of William Shakespeare. The result is a lush, bawdy, sensual film that jumps off the screen. **Much Ado About Nothing** is masterpiece.

Producer, director, writer and actor Kenneth Branagh presents Shakespeare the way he was meant to, presented with passion and vibrance and not as homework in a classroom.

**Much Ado About Nothing** is simply the story of two courtships. Branagh and real-life wife, Emma Thompson, portray Benedick and Beatrice, a couple who mask their true feelings behind wisecracks and witticisms. The parallel love story is between Claudio (Robert Sean Leonard) and Hero (Kate Beckinsale). Their love consists of soft looks and flowery words. Throw in a

### Movie Review

well-meaning noble Don Pedro (Denzel Washington) and a bastard brother, Don John (Keanu Reeves) and you'll see why love's road is anything but smooth.

For much of his adult life, Branagh has traveled the world with his own Theatre Company performing the works of Shakespeare. Branagh knows that the greatness of Shakespeare comes from his words. Therefore, Branagh directs with a passive camera. There are no grand camera movements that threaten to overwhelm the dialogue. Instead, with soft and lingering movement, the camera drinks in every delicious word spoken.

Branagh and Thompson are superb in the film's most pivotal roles. Branagh creates a Benedick who is at times gullible, sarcastic, romantic

and heroic. Thompson is equal to the task. Her Beatrice is outspoken and witty, as well as sincere. These fine performances allow the film to bounce between comedy and drama effortlessly.

The obvious brilliance of both Branagh and Thompson point to the film's only flaw. So comfortable with the material are these two, they make the American actors

appear weak, but this is only a minor point.

Special mention must be made of cinematographer Roger Lander, whose use of pastel tones gives a rich and unforgettable look to the film.

In a 1991 interview, Branagh said "I don't see myself as a filmmaker. I feel like a bit of an impostor in the role". With the release of **Much Ado About Nothing**, there is no doubt Kenneth Branagh is well on the way to becoming one of the leading filmmakers of our generation.

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### Kids programs

New this year, all parents/guardians of children registered in the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department Summer Programs will receive a copy of our new Summer Camps Parent Handbook. This booklet contains a wealth of information regarding the operation of the Day Camp programs as well as details about how you can support this year's Environmentally Friendly "Go for Green" theme by donating good used toys in our Toy Drive or supplying great recycled "stuff" for use in the craft and drama programs. Staff are eagerly awaiting the opening day of the five Activity Centres throughout Acton and Georgetown. If you have a child between the ages of 3 years and 16 years who is looking forward to a fun-filled summer, be sure to register them in one of these camps.

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 SAT. & SUN. 2 P.M.  
 CINEMA 2 **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**  
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 SAT & SUN MATINEE 2 P.M.  
 CINEMA 3 **SNOW WHITE AND THE 7 DWARFS**  
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