

## **Cambridge touring group to present 'Much Ado About Nothing'**

9/20/05

The Cambridge University American Stage Tour (CAST) will perform Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the Alfred University Campus. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Prices are \$5 general admission, \$3 for non-AU students. AU students with ID will be admitted free. Reservations may be made by calling 607.871.2828 or online at <http://las.alfred.edu/per...> this well-known Shakespearean comedy, Don Pedro and his officers return victorious from war, arriving at the English country home of Lenato, totally unprepared for the scheming, sex and celebration to come. Their rest and relaxation is ruined by beautiful daughters, and jealous, wicked half-brothers, as new passions are born, old flames are re-ignited and plans are made for both marriage and mischief. With an occasional cricket match and afternoon tea on the law, Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" is a witty whirlwind of love, hate, tragedy, and happy endings, teaching us that in the "merry war" of the sexes, no one is safe from Cupid's darts. The CAST version of Much Ado about Nothing is set in rural Britain, circa autumn 1930. By the time the British-based CAST reaches America, the production has been 11 months in the making. Previews are staged in Cambridge prior to the tour to ensure the company is ready to give every audience a fully polished performance. One of the driving forces behind CAST is the need to make theatre accessible to modern audiences, using innovative methods and interpretations. This ensures that even those audience members who are unfamiliar with Shakespearean text will be able to enjoy high-quality productions.