



READING SHAKESPEARE WITH FILM 2

WITH RUSS HELDMAN

CLASSROOM GUIDE | SESSION SIX | APRIL 24

April 24, 2024

"The Excommunication of Tragedy"

Much Ado About Nothing

Films:

 Much Ado About Nothing- Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, Denzel Washington, Keanu Reeves, Michael Keaton (1993)

Clips from:

- Much Ado About Nothing, Act I, Scene 1, lines 30 196
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act I, Scene 3, lines 1 64
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act II, Scene 1, lines 1 378
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act II, Scene 3, lines 1 265
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act III, Scene 1, lines 23 122
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act IV, Scene 1, lines 269 350
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act IV, Scene 2, lines 1 89
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act V, Scene 1, lines 193 342
- Much Ado About Nothing, Act V, Scene 4, lines 35 133







Like Claudio, Benedict and Beatrice will learn to distrust their excessive pride in their senses and their reason, and to admit their own imperfection instead of being obsessed with the possibility (should we say certainty?) of imperfection in a mate. These benevolent lessons in faith and humility will make of them the almost perfect match they have always been for each other, appearances notwithstanding The thrusts and parries of their merry war will continue to edify them both for ever after... For Benedick and Beatrice are characters the audience loves quickly and deeply, characters they never forget.

From Faith and Folly In Shakespeare's Romantic Comedies, R. Chris Hassel, Jr., 1980