

Play: ____Much Ado About Nothing _ Author: Shakespeare

Text u	ısed:	Arden	Library ref:	
Key	y: e	nter from within	enter from without	
		exit inwards	Z Exit outwards	
Act /sc	door IN	Entering doo characters OU T		Commentary and notes
I.i	7	Leonato, Hero, Beatrice, Messenger Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, Balthasar, Don John	LEON. I learn in this letter that Don Pedro of Aragon comes this night to Messina. (1) MESS. Don Pedro is approached. D. PEDRO. Good Signior Leonato, are you come to meet your trouble? (87-8)	Messenger has already arrived from outwards, group now coming out of house discussing news. Arriving from outwards.
		All but Benedick and Claudio Don Pedro	LEON. Please it your Grace lead on? D. PEDRO. Your hand, Leonato, we will go together. (147-8) BENELook, Don Pedro is	Exit together into or towards Leonato's house. Don Pedro returns whence he last
		Don Fedio	returned to seek you. D. PEDRO. What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's? (189-90)	exited: Leonato's clearly marked as beyond inwards door.
	_	Benedick	D. PEDROgood Signior Benedick, repair to Leonato's, commend me to him, and tell him I will not fail him at supper(255)	Ditto.
		Don Pedro, Claudio	D. PEDROI will assume thy part in some disguiseThen after to her father will I breakIn practice let us put it presently. (301, 306, 308)	They too exit back towards Leonato's to carry out the plan for the wooing of Hero.
I. ii	\ <u>\</u>	Antonio 💋 Leonato	LEON. How now, brother, where is my cousin, your son? Hath he provided this music? ANTThe Prince and Count Claudio, walking in a thick-pleached alley in mine orchard(1, 7)	MINIMAL congestion at inwards door. Split & staggered entrance, Antonio entering first. Leonato comes out, meeting his brother who is arriving, having organised a musician, and bearing news from outwards about what transpired in his orchard.
	_	Antonio	LEONI will acquaint my daughter withalGo you and tell her of it. (19-20)	Antonio sent inwards to alert Hero of the imminent proposal.
		Antonio's Son, Musician, etc.	LEONCousins, you know what you have to do.	Simultaneous mid-scene entrance/exit. Entering, like Antonio, from outwards to the supper.
	\	Antonio's Son, Musician, etc	LEON. Go you with me and I will use your skill. (23-4)	They go in to the supper.
I.iii		Don John, Conrade	CON. What the good-year, my lord, why are you thus out of measure sad? (1)	Don John has done a backstage cross, but outwards door entrance avoids congestion at inwards door, and logical since they subsequently resolve to go to the supper (i.e. exit via inwards door)

	\ Borachio	BORA. I came yonder from a great supper. The Prince your brother is royally entertained by	He has been in at the supper.
	Don John, Borachio, Conrade	Leonato(40-1) D. JOHN. come, come, let us thither(59) D. JOHN. Let us to the great supper(66)	They exit inwards towards the supper. Clearly, however, from the next scene's indications, they do not arrive there in time to be noticed.
II.i	Leonato, Antonio, Hero, Beatrice	LEON. Was not Count John here at supper? ANT. I saw him not. (1-2)	MARKED congestion at inwards door. Pause with empty stage between exit and entry justified by, and signals, time-lapse indication in first line: supper is over, host and family now waiting for revellers to arrive to banquet.
	Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, Balthasar, Borachio, Don John etc.	LEON. The revellers are entering, brother; make good room. (76)	The revellers, having done backstage cross (further indication of time lapse) now enter from outwards into the banquet.
	All but Don John, Borachio, Claudio	BEATWe must follow the leaders. (140)	They go into the banquet.
	Don John, Borachio Benedick	D. JOHN. Come, let us to the banquet. (159) BENE. Come, will you go with me? (173)	Benedick returning from the banquet, attempts to persuade
	Claudio / Don Pedro, Hero, Leonato	CLAU. If it will not be, I'll leave you. (187) D. PEDRO. Now, signior, where's the Count? Did you see him? (196)	Claudio to go in with him. Refusing to go in to the banquet, he exits outwards door. Returning from the banquet, looking for Claudio.
	Claudio, L Beatrice	BEATI have brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me to seek. (269)	Evidently Don Pedro has had various search-parties out for Claudio; Beatrice has done a backstage cross and now brings him back in from outwards.
	Benedick Beatrice	BENE. O God, sir, here's a dish I love not! I cannot endure my Lady Tongue. (257) LEON. Niece, will you look to those	Exits inwards back in to the banquet, to avoid Beatrice who has entered from outwards. Sent off, outwards on unspecified
	Don Pedro, Claudio, Leonato, Hero	things I told you of? (318) D. PEDROGo in with me, and I will tell you my drift. (365)	errands. They too go back in.
II.ii	Don John, Borachio Don John, Borachio	D. JOHN. Is it so, the Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato. (1) D. JOHN. I will presently go learn the day of marriage. (56)	They, like Beatrice, have done a backstage cross to enter from outwards door. Exits inwards back towards Don Pedro.
П.ііі	Benedick, Boy	BENE. Boy! BOY. Signior? BENE. In my chamber-window lies a book; bring it hither to me in the orchard. BOY. I am here already, sir. BENE. I know that, but I would have thee hence and here	This elaborate and inconsequential exchange (the Boy in fact never returns with the book) serves to justify Benedick's backstage cross (time lapse, change of location), establishes the new and significant location (orchard), and establishes its relation to the 'in' of the house.

	<u>\</u>	Boy Don Pedro, Leonato, Claudio, Balthasar		again(1-6) (Exit Boy.) BENEI will hide me in the arbour. D. PEDRO. Come, shall we hear this music?(35-6)	Exit 'in' to the house. Benedick retires as others come out of the house into the orchard.
	_	Balthasar		D. PEDROI pray thee get us some excellent musicfarewell. (85, 89)	Balthasar returns in to do as directed.
	_	Don Pedro, Leonato, Claudio		D. PEDROLet us send her to call him in to dinner. (210)	Returning in to dinner.
	7	Beatrice		BEAT. Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner. (239)	She enters from inwards door.
	_	Beatrice		BEATYou have no stomach, signior, fare you well. (246)	Returns whence she came.
	_	Benedick		BENEI will go get her picture. (254)	He goes to have Beatrice's portrait made.
III.i		Hero, Margaret, Ursula	\	HERO. Good Margaret, run thee to the parlour; There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice Proposing with the Prince and Claudio. Whisper her ear, and tell her I and Ursley Walk in the orchard(1-5)	Location established as still the orchard, where the ladies are walking.
	_	Margaret		MARG. I'll make her come, I warrant you, presently. (14)	Exits back in inwards door to fetch Beatrice.
	7	Beatrice		HEROfor look where Beatrice like a lapwing runs Close by the ground, to hear our conference. (24-5)	Suggests Beatrice runs downstage at least as far as stage post, or possibly to the downstage corner.
	_	Hero, Ursula		HEROCome, go in; I'll show thee some attires, and have thy counsel(102-3)	They go back into the house.
		Beatrice	7	BEATAnd, Benedick, love on, I will requite thee(111)	If she re-enters the house potential congestion problem and possible comic effect (see next scene). Monologue offers no clear indication of exit direction.
III.ii	7	Don Pedro, Claudio, Benedick, Leonato		D. PEDRO. I do but stay till your marriage be consummate, and then go I toward Aragon. (1)	If Beatrice has exited inwards door, slight congestion (but only one exiting character); however possible comic effect if Benedick enters so shortly after Beatrice's exit.
		Benedick, Leonato		BENEWalk aside with me (64)	They return whence they came.
	7	Don John		D. JOHN. My lord and brother, God save you! (71)	
	'\	Don Pedro, Claudio, Don John		D. JOHNIf you will follow me, I will show you enough(109)	Takes them back in towards the house. This is a loop scene, with little indication of triangulation.
III. iii		Dogberry, Verges, Watch Dogberry, Verges	_	Enter DOGBERRY and his compartner, with the Watch. DOGI pray you watch about Signior Leonato's door, for the wedding being there tomorrow(90)	Arrive from outwards to set the watch. Dogberry and Verges exit back whence they came, explicitly reinforcing inwards door as Leonato's house.
	7	Borachio, Conrade		BORA. What, Conrade! CON. Here, man, I am at thy elbow. (95-6)	Simultaneous mid-scene entrance/exit. Enter from Leonato's house, Borachio having carried out his

III.iv	Watch, Borachio, Conrade Hero, Margaret, Ursula Ursula Beatrice Ursula Hero, Margaret, Ursula	SEC. WATCH. Never speak, we charge you, let us obey you to go with us.(169-70) HERO. Good Ursula, wake my cousin Beatrice, and desire her to rise. (1) HERO. And bid her come hither. (3) MARGAsk my Lady Beatrice else; here she comes. (35) URS. Madam, withdraw! The Prince, the Count, Signior Benedick, Don John, and all the gallants of the town are come to fetch you to church. (89-91) HERO. Help to dress me, good coz, good Meg, good Ursula. (92)	wooing of 'Hero' for Don John. They exit outwards door to take the prisoners to Dogberry. They come out of the house. Ursula returns inwards to wake Beatrice. Beatrice arrives from inside. Ursula returns whence she exited, bringing news that the Prince's party has arrived at the house. They go inwards to prepare for the wedding.
III.v	Ursula Leonato, Dogberry, Verges Messenger Leonato, Messenger Dogberry, Verges	LEON. What would you with me, honest neighbour? (1) MESS. My lord, they stay for you to give your daughter to her husband. (50) LEON. I'll wait upon them; I am ready. (51) DOG. Go, good partner, go, get you to Francis Seacoal, bid him bring his pen and inkhorn to the gaol: we are now to examination these menmeet me at the gaol. (53-5, 60)	They have returned whence they exited, to see Leonato; it must be assumed he has met them further outwards. The wedding party is clearly already met behind inwards door. Leonato exits to join them. They return outwards whence they entered, to meet at the gaol.
IV.i	Don Pedro, Don John, Leonato, Friar, Claudio, Benedick, Hero, Beatrice etc. Don Pedro, Don John, Claudio Leonato, Friar, Hero etc. Benedick, Beatrice	LEON. Come, Friar Francis, be brief(1) D. JOHN. Come, let us go. These things, come thus to light, Smother her spirits up. (111) FRIARPresently awayCome, lady, die to live(253) BENEI will kiss your hand, and so I leave youGo comfort your cousin; I must say she is dead: and so farewell. (331, 333)	Wedding party enters together through inwards door They exit to prepare for departure; outwards door exit marks break with Leonato. They take Hero back inwards. They go their separate ways.
IV.ii	Dogberry, Verges, Sexton, Borachio, Conrade, Watch Sexton	DOG. Is our whole dissembly appeared? (1) SEXMaster Constable, let these men be bound and brought to Leonato's; I will go before and show him their examination. (61-2)	MINIMAL congestion at outwards door, further minimised by staggered exit in previous scene. They enter from outwards to hold the formal questioning of the prisoners. He returns outwards to go to Leonato's house.

	All 🖊	DOGBring him away!(84)	They follow the Sexton on the way
17.	Lagrati	ANTE IC	to Leonato's house.
V.i	Leonato,	ANT. If you go on thus, you will kill	They come in together inwards
	Antonio	yourself(1)	door, already in conversation.
	Don Pedro,	ANT. Here comes the Prince and	Greeting indicates they come from
	Claudio	Claudio hastily.	different direction to that of
	D 1:1	D. PED. Good den, good den. (45-6)	previous entrance.
	Benedick	D. PED. See, see! Here comes the	He now returns from outwards (see
	K ,	man we went to seek! (110)	IV.i. 333).
	Leonato,	LEON. No? come, brother, away! I	They return inwards.
	Antonio	will be heard. (108)	D
	Benedick /	BENEhe and I shall meet; and till	Returns outwards.
	D 1	then, peace be with him. (190)	A :-: C 1 4
	Dogberry, L	DOG. Come you, sir(202)	Arriving from outwards at
	Verges, Watch,		Leonato's house.
	Conrade,		
	Borachio	DOC Builting and 1 di	6 -4 14 1 1-
	Leonato,	DOGBy this time our sexton hath	Sexton supposed to have previously
	Antonio,	reformed Signior Leonato of the	arrived at Leonato's, now comes
	Sexton	matter	out with Leonato and Antonio.
		VER. Here, here comes Master	
		Signior Leonato, and the sexton	
	Dogberry, 7	too. (247-8, 251)	
		DOGI humbly give you leave to	
	Verges	departCome, neighbour. (329-	
	D D - 4 7	20)	Th '4 h l l 4h
	Don Pedro, Z Claudio	ANT. Farewell, my lords, we look	They exit back whence they came.
	Claudio	for you tomorrow.	
		D. PED. We will not fail.	
		CLAUD. Tonight I'll mourn with	
	Leonato,	Hero. (322-4) LEON. Bring you these fellows on.	They go into the house.
	Antonio,	We'll talk with Margaret(325)	They go into the nouse.
	Watch,	we it talk with Margaret(323)	
	Borachio,		
	Conrade		
V.ii	Benedick,	BENE. Pray thee, sweet Mistress	Backstage cross for both characters
,	Margaret	Margaret, deserve well at my	indicates time-lapse from previous
	Wingaret	hands, by helping me to the	scene. They are at or in Antonio's
		speech of Beatrice. (1)	house (not Leonato's) Benedick
		specen of Beatifiee. (1)	seeking assistance to get 'in' to
			Beatrice.
	Nargaret Margaret	MARGWell, I will call Beatrice	She exits inwards to call Beatrice.
		to you(21)	
	Neatrice Beatrice	BENESweet Beatrice, wouldst	Beatrice comes out to speak with
		thou come when I called thee?	Benedick.
		(41)	
	Ursula 🖊	URS. Madam, you must come to	She enters from outwards with news
	_	your uncle—yonder's old coil at	of what has occurred at Leonato's
		home. (89)	house.
	Benedick,	BEAT. Will you go hear this news,	They exit outwards in direction of
	Beatrice,	signior?	Leonato's house.
	Ursula	BENEI will go with thee to thy	
		uncle's. (93, 95)	
V.iii	Claudio,	CLAUD. Is this the monument of	MARKED congestion at outwards
	Don Pedro,	Leonato?	door: time lapse and location
	Balthasar,	A LORD. It is, my lord. (1)	change. Music minimises
	Musicians,		congestion.The mourners arrive at
	etc.		Leonato's family vault.
	Claudio, 🖊	CLAUD. Good morrow, masters —	After fixing the scroll to the door of
	Don Pedro,	each his several way.	the vault (inwards door? cf. Romeo

	Balthasar,	D. PED. Come let us hence, and put	and Juliet), the mourners leave
	Musicians,	on other weeds, And then to	together, for separate destinations,
	etc.	Leonato's we will go. (29-31)	outwards door.
V. iv	Leonato,	FRIAR. Did I not tell you she was	If inwards door has been used as the
	Benedick,	innocent? (1)	vault in the previous scene, the
	Beatrice,		scroll might have to be removed
	Margaret,		before this entrance (though the
	Ursula,		irony of the entrance of the living
	Antonio, Friar,		Hero from the door which has just
	Hero		signified her monument would not
			escape the audience even if the
	_		scroll were removed).
	Beatrice, Hero,	LEON. Well, daughter, and you	They withdraw inwards to prepare.
	Margaret,	gentlewomen all, Withdraw into	
	Ursula	a chamber by yourselves, And	
		when I send for you, come hither	
	_	mask'd. (10-12)	
	Don Pedro, 🗸	D. PED. Good morrow to this fair	They arrive from outwards.
	_ Claudio, etc.	assembly. (34)	
	Antonio	LEON. Call her forth, brother; here's	Sent in to call the ladies.
		the friar ready. (39)	
	Antonio,	CLAUDhere comes other	Return from inwards.
	Beatrice, Hero,	reck'nings. Which is the lady I	
	Margaret,	must seize upon? (52-3)	
	Ursula		
	Messenger 🗸	MESS. My lord, your brother John is	Coming inwards with news.
	_	ta'en in flight(123)	
	All	D. PEDStrike up, pipers! (126)	After the dance they enter the house
			to conclude the festivities.
	backstage		
	cross		