

Love's Labour's Lost

Sound (2 minutes post play start)	Singers will deliver a selection of songs, starting around 7.20pm as the audience is encouraged to gather on the Wine Glass Lawn for the first scene. How many tunes will depend on when they start singing and how long it takes to organise the audience. But the tune that leads into the Prologue will be "Paperback Writer" (which has new words to it).
Scene 0	Prologue
<p><i>Charles and Hypatia sweep elegantly on stage applauding the singers as the latter exit. They are followed by a gaggle of scruffy looking, nose-picking, bum scratching kids of varying ages, sizes and physiques.</i></p> <p><i>Charles and Hypatia command CS, the rest gather in a scrum behind them. As Charles speaks, their attention is anywhere but on him.</i></p> <p><i>Movement to support the words will be developed in rehearsal but this short piece needs to have loads of energy, tight cueing and be loud.</i></p> <p><i>Boxes are cubes, around 0.5m-0.6m, probably 12mm plywood. Lectern is two boxes stacked together so 4 needed overall.</i></p>	
Charles	Thank you to our wonderful musicians for their pre-show set and a very good evening to all of you this <i>[insert weather description and correct day, e.g. this wonderfully sunny Wednesday evening]</i>
Hypatia	Well, we don't really need to introduce ourselves do we?
Charles	No because we're mega-famous, let's face it.
Hypatia	But, for those of you out there that haven't heard of us.....Charles, will you do the honours?
Charles	I'm too young to have even done the ordinary yet!
Hypatia	Oh, yes, a little intellectual joke to get us going.
Charles	They didn't get it.
Hypatia	Not many degrees in the audience tonight.
Charles	I blame Brexit.
Actor 1	You can blame that for anything these days.
Actor 2	Or Donald Trump.
Hypatia	<i>(Dismissively)</i> No bad language, please. This is a family show. Now, my name is Hypatia....
Charles	And I'm Charles....
Hypatia	<i>(Cheerily)</i> And what an evening of entertainment we've got to place before you.
Charles	So let's introduce you to our play, Love's Labour's Lost.

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Actor 3	Is that what we're supposed to be helping you with then?
Actor 4	Yes, because us kids normally get to do stuff in these shows, don't we?
Actor 3	<i>(Disappointed)</i> But it's normally just a bit of prancing around or the odd line here and there.
<i>If we've got 2-4 gymnasts who can do a few simple moves, e.g. handstands, cartwheels, splits, etc., then use the following lines. If not, skip over this.</i>	
Actor 5	<i>(With enthusiasm)</i> We could do some gymnastic or acrobatics though. Lots of plays in Shakespeare's day had actors doing handstands, cartwheels and stuff as part of the action.
Actor 6	Yes, look.
<i>Actors perform selection of moves, no more than 10-15 seconds</i>	
Actor 1	That's all well and good but we want some real lines in this one.
Actor 4	Not if they're involve swearing and oaths.
Actor 6	Come again?
Actor 4	Swearing! I heard these guys in rehearsal saying 'I do forswear' this and 'I am forsworn' that.....
Actor 5	Pardon?
Actor 4	<i>(Sounding appalled)</i> And they said 'Women to forswear'. You can't say that these days. Hashtag 'Me Too'!! Stand up for women!
Actor 6	<i>(Indicating that Actor 4 has a screw loose)</i> He's lost the plot!
Actor 5	<i>(To Actor 4)</i> 'Forswear' just means to give up something.
Actor 8	Or in can mean to lie about something when you're not supposed to.
Actor 5	Shakespeare uses 'forswear' all the time in his plays.
Actor 2	<i>(Coming forward and declaiming with some aplomb)</i> I know a bank where the wild thyme grows. There sleeps Titania some of the night. And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes and make her full of hateful fantasies.
<i>All the others applaud enthusiastically</i>	
Actor 8	That's more like it!
Actor 7	Very good! I love Julius Caesar!
Actor 3	That was from A Midsummer Night's Dream, you numpty.
Actor 5	<i>(Coming forward and declaiming with gravitas)</i> Know that we have divided in three our kingdom: and 'tis our fast intent to shake all cares and business from our age.
Actor 7	OOOh, that sounds just like Nicola Sturgeon getting on her high horse again about another independence referendum!
Charles	<i>(Patronisingly)</i> As Hypatia was saying, this is a family show. Shall we keep politics out of it? <i>(Indicating audience)</i> We're trying to provide these good people with an evening of culture. I know! I'll initiate an extemporised discussion on the finer points of Love's Labour's Lost.
Actor 3	'Initiate'? What's that, mate?

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Hypatia	<i>(Condescending laugh)</i> Oh, how quaint, you're speaking in iambic pentameter!
Actor 4	No he ain't. He's from Walkerburn, he can barely speak in English.
Actor 3	And what's an elephantised discussion?
Charles	<i>(Cuffing him round the ear)</i> Extemporised, extemporised , you grotty little urchin. It's what we're doing now, talking as an ensemble of actors without using a script.
Actor 5	Better not let the director catch you then, he'll do his nut.
Actor 6	<i>(Pointing to the singers)</i> Sshhhhh! He's one of them singers.
Hypatia	One of "those" singers.
Actor 6	Alright Miss Hoity-Toity.
Hypatia	<i>(Smoothly, indicating the audience)</i> If we could just move things along. Now, this play is all about falling in love and the strange ways people behave when it happens.
Actor 8	<i>(With derision)</i> Falling in love? It's not a play full of sloppy kissing is it?
Actor 5	I hate all that smoochie stuff.
Actor 2	Like when your Mum kisses you goodbye at the school gate.
Actor 6	And wipes your face when you're in front of your friends.
Actor 5	Or when your Dad snogs your Mum.
All	<i>(Appropriate gesture of disgust)</i> EEEUgggh!!
Actor 1	I think my Dad's in love with a duck.
Hypatia	He's what?
Actor 1	And possibly a cow.
Charles	Is he particularly fond of animals?
Actor 1	Not really.
Hypatia	Then what makes you think he's in love with a duck?
Charles	And a bovine?
Actor 1	Well, he and Mum were working in the garage the other day and Mum hit Dad's thumb with the hammer and I'm sure I heard him shout <i>(shouts loudly and slowly)</i> "love a duck, you silly cow!"
Charles	<i>(Gives a "down the nose look" to Actor)</i> Yeeess. Now, as Hypatia was saying, Love's Labour's Lost is a rollercoaster of emotions, where people make solemn promises for the future, the future arrives, the promises prove inconvenient or undeliverable and so they revoke them and substitute new promises.
Actor 2	Are we talking about that Brexit thingy again?
Hypatia	I thought we'd agreed to keep politics out of this, you grotty little oik.
Actor 2	Well, I saw this guy on the TV last week, waving a book, making all these promises that he said would come true if we did what he said. He had a big white beard and was very old.

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Actor 6	Father Christmas?
Actor 2	No, but it had something to do with Labour's lost.
Actor 6	Oh, you mean Jeremy Corbyn.
Actor 2	That's him!
Actor 7	<i>(Dreamily)</i> Is it a story where a dashing Prince sweeps a beautiful girl off her feet?
Hypatia	Well, there's an element of that in the play.....
Actor 4	What about that Prince Harry? Didn't he sweep a girl off her feet and marry her last year?
Actor 8	Yes! They held the wedding in Windsor so he could be near his Granny's castle.
Actor 7	And the honeymoon in the Cayman Islands, so he could be near his Granny's money.
Actor 3	But why did he marry Miss Marple? She's old enough to be his Granny!
Charles	I think you may have got hold of the wrong end of the stick.....
Actor 3	Well, I thought that's what her name was. Or was it Magic Marker?
Charles	Well, her name is alliterative I suppose but you're not even close.
Actor 3	Spangly Sparkle?
Charles	Enough! <i>(Indicating audience)</i> These people have come to be entertained!
Actor 9	Entertained? Come on, Shakespeare's plays are all the same.
Actor 10	Seen one, seen them all.
Actor 9	Just like the Carry On films.
Actor 10	There's good people, bad people, silly people, ugly people....
Actor 9	... a lot of talk about piffing pants and boobingtons....
Actor 10	...overuse of that plot device called mistaken identity....
Actor 9	...a few bits of music....
Actor 10	...and a wedding at the end.
Actor 8	I don't like some of the evil things they plot to do though.
Actor 9	Don't worry, that's just Shakespeare's bad guys and things planned by bad guys never actually happen.
Actor 10	They said that about Brexit and Donald Trump!
Hypatia	<i>(Indicating the mob behind her)</i> Charles, you and I really shouldn't be mixing with these intellectual pygmies.
Charles	You're so right my dear.
Hypatia	Let's get those sophisticated singers back on and see if they can't busk a four-part close harmony a cappella two minute synopsis to get this thing started.

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Charles	And introduce some much needed class to the proceedings. Let's clear the stage of this riff-raff
<i>Charles and Hypatia shoo the rabble off SL towards the bar area with the rabble making a suitable din as they leave. The singers come on from USR.</i>	
Sound (2 minutes)	"Blackadder II" with new words and a four part harmony. The latter will be used if we have four singers who can cope with a cappella harmony singing, otherwise go in unison.