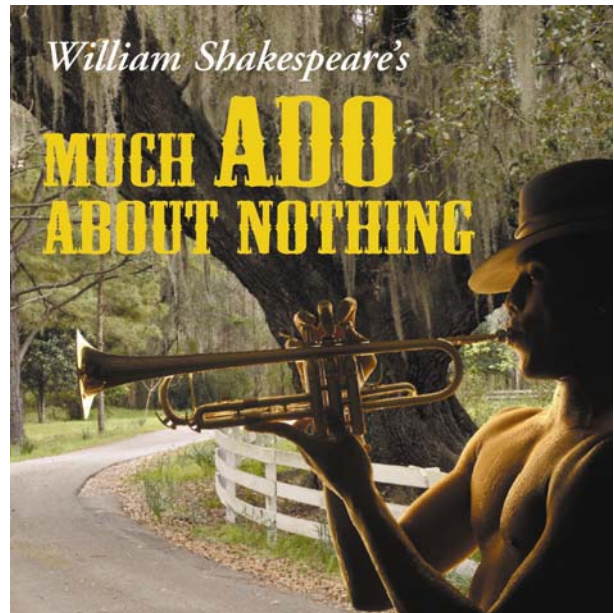
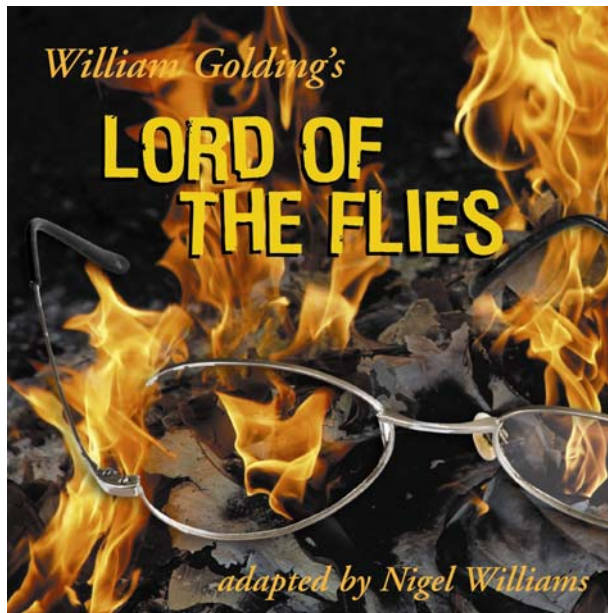




TOUR 61



Presenter Press Book

A PROGRAM OF



Dear Presenter of the National Players 61st Tour:

This is your Press Book, containing complete program copy and information to help you with your Presentation of Tour 61.

Please use these materials or paraphrase as you see fit. Any information that **MUST** be included in your program is notated as such. The company may be available, when in your area, for interviews. Please call **Madeleine Russell, General Manager** at **301.924.4485 x116** to make arrangements or if you have any questions.

The following division of the Press Book should enable you to find what you might need:

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Cast List and Credits

Director's Notes

Lord of the Flies by William Golding adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams

Cast List and Credits

Director's Notes

National Players Information

Company Biographies

Director and Designer Biographies

Olney Theatre Center Staff Listing

A History of National Players

On all programs, the following information must appear:

National Players is a program of Olney Theatre Center. Olney Theatre Center is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Much Ado About Nothing

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Clay Hopper

Set Design
Cristina Todesco

Costume Design
Diana Khoury

Lighting Design
Mark Lanks

Sound Design
Christopher Baine

Performance Coach
Halo Wines

Performance Consultant
William H. Graham, Sr.

Cast List

Leonato/ Second Watch
Borachio
Hero
Claudio
Ursula/ First Watch
Dogberry
Don John/ Don Pedro
Verges/ Balthasar/ Priest
Margaret/ Sexton
Beatrice
Benedick

Kyle Blair
Beau Guedry
Ann Marie Gideon
Drew Hampton
Bonnie McBride
Michael Pettey
Blane Pressler
Phillip Reid
Dionne Richardson
Grace Trull
Glen Wall

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Director's Notes – *Much Ado About Nothing*

The word “Nothing” in the title of Shakespeare’s play *Much Ado About Nothing* is a play on words, a sort of pun, on the Elizabethan term “noting,” which means eavesdropping. Without a doubt, overhearing conversations drives the plot in this play almost exclusively, but along with this device, a very definite motif of deception emerges. Although Shakespeare, ever the Romantic, does not say that deception is necessarily bad, he does seem to state that it depends entirely on the use to which it is put.

Deception is used in *Much Ado* to tell the truth with impunity, to delight in the chase that is courtship, and indeed to cross and vex happiness; but it is also used to help others, to bring them closer in line with their own desires. The sub-plot at the heart of the play in which Beatrice and Benedick are brought together shows us how a little deception can go a long way in helping us remove those obstacles we create that prevent us from growing as people.

Shakespeare almost certainly believed that our goal is to change, grow, and develop. And his compassionate depiction of these two people, who use their expansive wit to deceive *themselves* into living in a world where love is impossible, allows us an opportunity to see in ourselves the capacity for change. And to be secure in the knowledge that no matter how completely we hide from ourselves, we can always find our way back. And that’s something that should be noted.

- Clay Hopper, Director

Lord of the Flies

Based on the book by William Golding
Adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams

Directed by David Gram

Set Design
Cristina Todesco

Costume Design
Diana Khoury

Lighting Design
Mark Lanks

Sound Design
Christopher Baine

Performance Coach

Halo Wines

Performance Consultant

William H. Graham, Sr.

Cast List

Bill
Naval Officer
Sam
Jack
Sally
Eric
Perceval
Piggy
Rachel
Rose
Maurice

Kyle Blair
Beau Guedry
Ann Marie Gideon
Drew Hampton
Bonnie McBride
Michael Pettey
Blane Pressler
Phillip Reid
Dionne Richardson
Grace Trull
Glen Wall

There will be no intermission.

On all programs, this notice must appear:

Lord of the Flies is produced by special arrangement with
The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois

Director's Notes – *Lord of the Flies*

Exactly fifty years before the television show "Lost" premiered, William Golding's novel "Lord of the Flies" was published: Groupthink versus the individual; rational thought versus emotional reactions; morality versus immorality. Lord of the Flies is a savage inquisition of civilization, role-played by a group of young children. It is an indictment of government structures - where democracy and fascism collide; where order and anarchy battle it out to a murderous and bloody end. Their playground is a deserted island. Their toys are spears. Their prey is each other. The play is a coming of age tale where schoolchildren are forced to grow up under a blanket of war. The one they are fleeing, and the one they have created themselves.

Unique to our production is the casting of women in four of the boy roles (including that of our protagonist Ralph – who is now 'Rachel'). Instead of having our actresses portray 'boys', I wanted to embrace a gender switch and acknowledge the fact that we are living in a world where strong women are elected into positions of political power; that women can hold their own as leaders and freely adopt strong stances on both ends of the political spectrum. Without question, this change in gender dynamics will inherently impact on the storytelling, bringing a vitality and contemporary resonance to the action of the play.

In fifty years since the novel's initial printing, we are still fascinated with the lengths humans will go to in order to survive or come out on top. We watch reality programs like "The Amazing Race" or "Survivor" - which encourages contestants to 'outwit', 'outplay', and 'outlast' in order to win a million dollars. When people are put in high stakes situations – character is revealed. Their choices force us to question what we would do in similar situations. At which point do we betray those we care about in order to survive? Is violence justified in this pursuit? Are we willing to sacrifice ourselves, and/or our beliefs to live another day? Being stranded on a deserted island is the ultimate test of physical, mental, and emotional strength. Technology is useless. Money is worthless. All we have are our instincts, our value systems, and our will to endure.

- David Gram,, Director

UNDER THE LIGHTS

Ann Marie Gideon (Hero) is delighted to be touring with National Players this season. She recently graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of Memphis and completed a semester of training at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. University credits include the title role in *Miss Julie*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Brooke in *Noises Off*. Favorite regional credits include Hyacinth in *Scapin*, Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Nell Gwynn in *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*.

Drew Hampton (Claudio) is originally from Dallas-Fort Worth, and has a Master's Degree in Acting from Western Illinois University, where he developed a passion for performing Shakespeare, specifically with the First Folio Cue Script ('Un-Rehearsed') technique. Favorite roles include Jamie in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Howie in *Rabbit Hole*, Irwin in *The History Boys*, Versati in *The Underpants*, and Man #2 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!!!* Drew is also a member of the Actor's Equity Candidacy program.

Bonnie McBride (Ursula/1st watch) is a graduate of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. She is thrilled to be a National Player. Her previous roles include Dot/Marie (*Sunday in the Park with George*), Roxie Hart (*Chicago*), Sally Bowles (*Cabaret*), and Lynette Squeaky Fromme (*Assassins*) at the Saint Josephs University Center for the Performing Arts.

Michael Pettey (Dogberry) is honored to be joining the National Players for their sixty-first season. He recently appeared as Diedrich Knickerbocker in *The Ghosts of Sleepy Hollow* for the Harriet Lake Festival of New Plays at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater. At Orlando Repertory Theatre, Michael played Elya Yelnats in *Holes* as well as an array of fantastic creatures in the *Neverending Story*. A Florida Arts Scholar Award winner, Michael received his B.F.A. in Acting from the University of Central Florida.

Blane Pressler (Don John/Don Pedro) is thrilled to be joining The National Players. His regional/stock credits include Guildenstern in *Hamlet*, Manny Munoz in *City of Angels*, Roy in *The Odd Couple* and Jesus Christ Superstar all at Festival 56. His credits also include Gangster in *Kiss Me Kate* and Fred McCracken/Wacky in *Annie* at The Huron Playhouse and George Reed in *1776*, and Oklahoma at The Barn Theatre. Pressler is a recent graduate of Indiana Purdue University - Fort Wayne, IN (IPFW). His credits there include Dromio in *The Comedy of Errors*, Aston in *The Caretaker*, Bud Frump in *How to Succeed...*, Reverend Hale in *The Crucible*, Tranio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Sandy Tyrell in *Hay Fever*, Merilly We Roll Along, Medea, *The Exonerated* and *Wonderful Town*.

Phillip Reid (Verges/Balthasar/Priest) is very excited to be a part of the 61st tour of National Players. His credits include Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum* and Herr Shultz in *Cabaret* at Theater VCU, *The Wizard of Oz* at Richmond's Theater IV, and the world premiere of *Shadow Play* directed by David S. Leong. Phillip is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.F.A. in Theater Performance.

Dionne Richardson (Margaret/Sexton) is thrilled to have her first professional role with the National Players. She graduated Florida State University this past May with her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. Her previous roles include: *Wallflowers* (Jonilynn) at Florida State University, *Macbeth* (First Witch) with Capital City Shakespeare, and *Closer* (Anna) with the Il Nomo Theatre Ensemble.

Grace Trull (Beatrice) is thrilled to be performing with The National Players. Her credits include Violenta in *All's Well that Ends Well* at Shakespeare & Company, Mary Magdelene (et al) in the Off Off Broadway premiere of *Nunchuck Ninja Nuns* at 13th St Repertory theater, Martie in *Talking With...* and Woman in *The Siren Song of Stephen Jay Gould* at Drew University, where she graduated with a BA in Theater Studies.

Glen Wall (Benedick) is excited to be joining the National Players for their 61st tour. His credits include Launcelot Gobbo in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Oxford Shakespeare Festival, as well as Utamaro in *Samurai*, Richard in *The Lion in Winter*, Wesley in *Curse of the Staving Class*, and Steindorf in *Bach at Leipzig*, all at WIU. Glen is also an avid stage combatant, fight director, and instructor. He is recognized as a Full Instructor of Stage Combat with Dueling Arts International and an actor/combatant with the SAFD. Glen is also recent graduate of Western Illinois University with an MFA in acting.

Kyle Blair (Leonato/Second Watch) is particularly gung-ho about his upcoming adventure with the National Players. He has appeared regionally in the Tin Pan Alley Theatre Company's *Pippin* and *Annie Warbucks* (Portland, OR) and his other credits include *An Enemy of the People* (Peter), *Of Thee I Sing!* (Fulton), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Don Armado), *Scrooge!* (Christmas Present), as well as other roles in *Alison's House*, *Blood Wedding*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *The Wild Party*, and *Zombie Prom*. all at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL, where he received a B.A. in Theatre Arts this past May. Kyle is originally from Beloit, WI.

Beau Guedry (Borachio) is a recent graduate of Northwestern State University where he concentrated on electrician work and lighting design. He has also been seen as The Doctor in *In the Blood* and Male Greek Chorus in *How I Learned to Drive*.

BEHIND THE SCENES

CLAY HOPPER (Director, *Much Ado About Nothing*)

Clay Hopper has been directing for National Players and Summer Shakespeare Festival since 2003. Credits include *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Amadeus*. He also directed *Call of the Wild*, a musical adaptation of Jack London's novel by Jon Lipsky, first as a workshop at Boston University, then as a touring production for The National Players on tour 59, culminating in the World Premier on Olney Theatre Center's Main Stage in 2009. Other recent credits include *On the Verge or The Geography of Yearning* at Contemporary America Theatre Festival Actor's Lab. In 2002 he founded and produced a new play series called New Works/After Hours at Lincoln Center Institute's Clarke Studio Theatre. Off-off-Broadway: *A Home Without* by Robert Westfield, *Different Zen* by Clay Hopper with Third Eye Rep, *Earthworms* by Albert Innaurato with The Working Group, *Triage* by Chris Shiea with Miranda Theatre, and *The Interrogation* by Murphy Guyer with The Miranda Theatre. He has taught acting at Boston University, Woolly Mammoth's Theatre School, and College of Wooster, where he directed *King Lear* and was visiting assistant professor in 2006. As assistant director he has worked at The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Woolly Mammoth Theater Company. Clay received his BFA from North Carolina School of the Arts and his MFA from Boston University's College of Fine Arts.

DAVID GRAM (Director, *Lord of the Flies*)

Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, David is delighted to be returning to the National Players! Selected directing credits include: *What the Butler Saw*, *Bug*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Tartuffe*, *Old Times*, *The Virtuous Burglar*, *Yank*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Maids*, *The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine*, and the musical *City of Angels*. As an actor, David was most recently seen in the one-man show *I Am My Own Wife* (Boston Centre for American Performance). Selected acting credits include: *The Birthday Party*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Red Noses*, *The Tempest* (Trinculo/National Players), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Day Room*, *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*, and the musical *Assassins*. David received his MFA in Theatre Directing from Boston University. In addition to his directing and acting work, David is a playwright, dramaturge, opera lover, and musical theatre aficionado.

MARK LANKS (Lighting Designer)

Mr. Lanks returns to National Players having previously designed Tour 59 (*Twelfth Night* and *Call of the Wild*) and summer 2007 tour of *The Tempest*. Other recent designs include *Glory Days* on Broadway, *Big River* at Olney Theatre, *The Happy Time* and *The Studio* at Signature Theatre, *An Evening with Scott Bakula* for Ford's Theatre, *Julia Nixon in Concert* at the Lincoln Theatre, *Tick Tick Boom!* at MetroStage, and *Songs for a New World* at Strathmore Music Center. He received a BA in Musical Theatre from Susquehanna University and an MFA in Lighting Design from Boston University.

DIANA KHOURY (Costume Designer)

Ms. Khoury has designed Nobody's Perfect at The Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audiences. She also designed Ok and Underground for the Inkwell Festival, Made in China for Solas Nua, Black Comedy for the Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska, and A Midsummer Night's Dream for the Illuminations Theatre in Manteo, North Carolina. Upcomming projects include assisting on Kite on the Wind with The Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audiences, Anima with Doorway Arts Ensemble, and Intimate Apparel with African Continuum Theatre Company. Diana holds a BFA from the North Carolina School of the Arts in Costume Design and Technology.

CRISTINA TODESCO (Scenic Designer)

Cristina is thrilled to be back at the Olney where last year she designed the NP Tour's *1984* and *As You Like It*. Recent credits include *Grey Gardens* (Lyric Stage Company of Boston), *Picasso at Lapin Agile*, *The Clean House* (Elliot Norton Award: Outstanding Set Design), and *The Santaland Diaries* (New Repertory Theater), *Mr. Marmalade*, *The Bluest Eye*, *The Pain and the Itch* (Company One), *The New Century* (Speakeasy Stage), *How Many Miles to Basra?* (Stoneham Theater), *The Atheist* (The Culture Project at the Barrow Street Theater, Williamstown Theater Festival and Huntington Theater), *Look Back in Anger* (The Orfeo Group), *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, (Gloucester Stage Company). Cristina received her MFA in scenic design from Boston University's School for the Arts where she is currently a lecturer.

CHRISTOPHER BAINE (Sound Designer/Composer) Design credits include, Kennedy Center TYA, Theater J, Imagination Stage, Olney Theatre, Journeyman Theatre, Rorschach Theatre, American Century Theatre, Constellation Theatre Company, Theatre Alliance, Washington Shakespeare Company, Source Theatre Festival, American College Theatre Festival, Young Playwrights Theatre, University of Maryland, Catholic University, American University, Active Cultures, Actors Theatre of Charlotte, and Groundup Productions. He graduated from NC School of the Arts and holds a degree in Sound Design and Engineering.

HALO WINES (Acting Coach) serves as Associate Artistic Director for Olney Theatre and National Players. Her most recent appearances at Olney include Maureen/Clara in *In the Mood* (world premiere), Lavinia Penniman in *The Heiress*, Esty in *Morning's at Seven*, Aunt Ev in *The Miracle Worker*, Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Azra in *Necessary Targets*, Daisy Werthan in *Driving Miss Daisy*, Ruth Steiner in *Collected Stories* (a reprise of her 2001 performance at Theatre J as part of Olney's Potomac Theatre Festival), Countess Aurelia in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, and Miss Sook in *Holiday Memories*. Her previous directing credits include Olney's *Hedda Gabler*, *Omnium Gatherum*, *Having Our Say*, *The Miser*, *The Rivals*, *Tartuffe*, Summer Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, National Players Tour 54 production of *As You Like It*, and Catalyst Theater's *Cloud Nine*. She has been honored with five Helen Hayes Award nominations and received the award for her triple performance in *Cloud Nine* at Arena Stage, where she spent 25 years as a resident company member.

OLNEY THEATRE CENTER STAFF LISTING

Artistic Director.....Jim Petosa
Managing Director.....Amy Marshall

Artistic/Production

Associate Artistic Directors.....John Going, Halo Wines
Producing/Casting Director.....Brad Watkins
Resident Set Designer.....James Kronzer
Resident Costume Designer.....Howard Vincent Kurtz
Resident Lighting Designer.....Daniel MacLean Wagner
Company Manager.....Sean Cox

Technical

Technical Director.....Daniel P. Parker
Master Electrician.....Karen Scudder
Master Carpenter.....Jameson Shroyer
Shop Foreman.....Brett Dregge
Properties Artisan.....
Audio Engineer.....Jarett C. Pisani
Scenic Charge.....

Costumes

Costume Shop Supervisor.....Jeanne Bland
Costumiere.....Pei Lee

Production Interns

Production Management Interns.....Ashley Grant,
James Lanius
Casting Intern.....Katherine Russell
Stage Management Interns....Sarah Hickox, Megan Winters
Technical Interns.....Allison Riley-Duncan,
Molly Scrivens
Costume Shop Interns.....Cailin McMahon, Kate Roach

Administration

Director of Business Operations.....Erin Parker
Accountant.....Valerie Campbell
Business Assistant.....Michael Silard
Facilities Manager.....Mark Quackenbush
Rental Coordinator.....Carey Stipe
Communications

For additional program and publicity materials, and other general information:

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Davis

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Public Relations.....Will Dockery, Deb Fascela
Design & Publication Manager.....Erin Feliciano
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Development Associate.....Maureen Estrin
Special Events Coordinator.....Eric C. Bailey
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Assistant Box Office Manager.....Kimberly Rodney
Patron Services Manager.....Lindsey Wareing
House Managers.....Lina Al Dajani, Alex Bebee,
Arianne Lowel, Wesley Meekins,
Box Office Associates.....Michael Burgtorf, Sergio Fresco,
Lynda Lewis, Wesley Meekins, Herb Otter, Reagan Dregge,
Rachel Spory, Anna Vaught, Giavanna Wright

Olney Theatre Institute

Director.....Eve Muson
General Manager.....Diana S. Fooksman
Artistic Manager.....Clay Hopper
Olney Theatre Institute Intern.....Dawn Harris

National Players Touring Company, Tour 60

Director, <i>As You Like It</i>	Clay Hopper
Director, 1984.....	Jeffrey Stanton
Costume Designer.....	Diana Khoury
Set Designer.....	Christina Todesk
Lighting Designer.....	Mark Lanks
Sound Designer.....	Ed Moser
Performance Consultants.....	William H. Graham, Sr., Halo Wines

or: Emilie Kuhar, National Players Associate
301.924.4485 x143
ekuhar@olneytheatre.org

For logistical information, including company arrival time:

Glen Wall
Company Manager, Tour 61
npcm@olneytheatre.org
301.520.6038

For future bookings:

Madeleine Russell
General Manager, National Players
301-924-4485 x116
mrussell@olneytheatre.org

America's Longest Running Touring Company

Now celebrating its 60th anniversary season, National Players has earned a distinctive place in American theatre by bringing innovative and accessible productions to audiences across the country. Performed with high-voltage energy, clarity, and wit, National Players introduces audiences to great works of dramatic literature that are rich in exciting stories and characters, and profound in language and themes. Our productions touch hearts and minds, inspire imagination and wonder, spark curiosity about the self, the world, and the creative process, and celebrate what it means to be human.



National Players was founded in 1949 by Father Gilbert V. Hartke, O.P., a prominent arts educator and then head of the drama department at Catholic University of America. His mission – to stimulate young people's higher thinking skills and imaginations by presenting classical plays in surprisingly accessible ways – is as urgent and vital today as it was 60 years ago.

Olney Theatre Center is proud to be the artistic home of National Players and continue Father Hartke's vision and commitment to provide young theatre artists with their first professional opportunities. Players' alumni include actors, directors, and designers working on dozens of stages across America, and in film and television.

National Players has performed in the East Wing of the White House, in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East for American military, and throughout 40 states. Known for its talent and commitment to excellence, National Players has brought literature to life for more than 2.5 million audience members.

National Players offers an exemplary lesson in collaboration and teamwork-in-action: the actors not only play multiple roles onstage, but also serve as managers, teaching artists, and technicians. A self-contained company, National Players carries its own sets, lights, costumes, and sound.



Announcing the 61st National Players Tour
(September 2009 – May 2010)

William Shakespeare's
Much Ado About Nothing
and

William Golding's
Lord of the Flies

Adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams