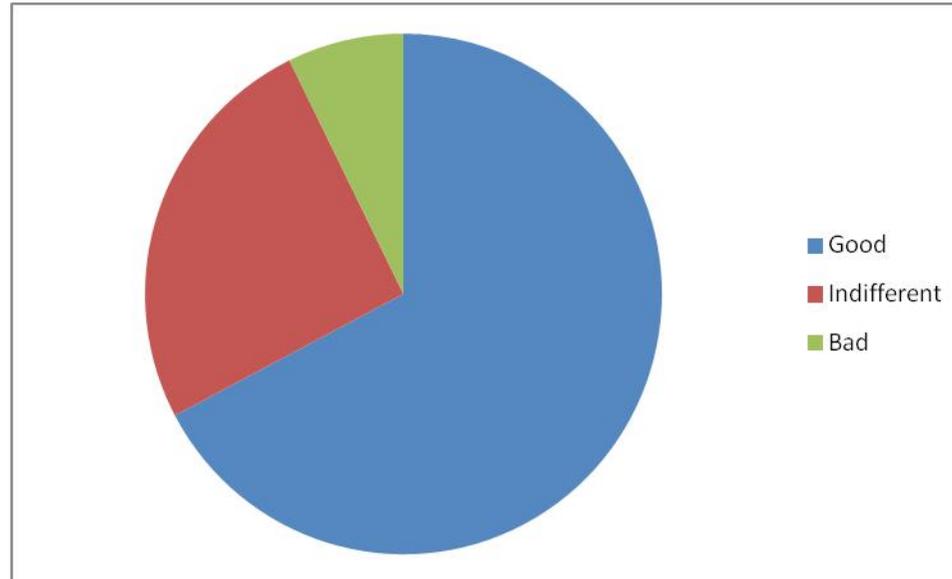


### Review – Much Ado About Nothing



Good – 37	Indifferent – 14	Bad – 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I thought this was an excellent production. Shakespearean "chick-lit" but I loved it.</li> <li>• We really enjoyed this adaption. Lots of laugh out loud moments.</li> <li>• Very good, a terrific adaptation of the play.</li> <li>• Enjoyed it very much, never thought that Shakespeare could work so well in a contemporary setting. Being in monochrome suited the film well.</li> <li>• Really enjoyed the film. A classic tale: well told. It probably stands watching again – as I don't know the story all that well. It was a little difficult to get to grips with the characters in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The film title says it all!</li> <li>• I did enjoy the film, but might have enjoyed it more if I had been able to attune to their accents. I'm not sure the black and white worked; the setting was modern - if it had been set further in the past, b &amp; w might have been more appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sorry but I found it hard to follow. Could have done with subtitles! Disappointing.</li> <li>• We disliked it unfortunately.</li> <li>• I could only understand</li> </ul>

early part of the film.

I have absolutely nothing against black and white, but couldn't see what it brought to the drama. Shooting in b/w and colour costs the same today, unless it was on film, but, if cost was an issue, then why not shoot on video? It was shown on DVD, so it's not the print cost. A minor point, but we felt it was one aspect which made it harder to differentiate between the characters - mostly in dark suits.

Thought the Nightwatchman and constable very good.

We didn't quite understand the prologue with Benedict and Beatrice in bed (well, we assumed it was them).

Anyway, we enjoyed it. Thanks.

- Loved it! One of the best films I have seen for a while.
- Really liked the black and white and how Shakespeare translated so well to a contemporary setting, but the constables/watch jarred as the humour didn't seem to go with the characters at all. Loved the music and very much liked Beatrice and Benedict, they made the dialogue sound so natural.
- Really enjoyed it. I know it's just a bit of fluff as Shakespeare admitted by the title, but I thought the setting was great and some of the comic moments were just as good as the screwball comedies of the 30's, though the malapropisms of Dogberry and the watch don't really work today. Liked the sunglasses. So 70's cop shows.
- I thought it was very unusual, very different. But could not get my head round the American accent. However it was an enjoyable performance once I got used to the setting. Keep up the good work.
- I was surprised at how much I enjoyed this film. I found the first 10 minutes a bit slow but after that it was a very good modern interpretation. It was a bit difficult to hear some of the dialogue, not sure if this was the sound system or the film.

The action moved along at a good pace and held my attention; a pleasant hour and a half.

- I think that's Shakespeare's fault - first half hour very confusing got better after that but really its chick lit, with, as usual, everything redeemed by marriage. It didn't work for us.
- It didn't work for us.
- American voices a bit difficult to grasp at times.
- Not keen on Shakespeare in American accents - also just couldn't hear dialogue some of time, very garbled delivery.
- Actually, I'm only choosing 'indifferent' because I thought it was a good film but it wasn't really my cup of tea. Some very clever parts and a few scenes that made me chuckle, but I'm afraid I really didn't appreciate Whedon's attempt to modernise

about two-thirds of what they were saying so was put off in the first five minutes and couldn't wait for it to end!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent!</li> <li>• Film was good and interesting to watch from many points of view.</li> <li>• Not just good, but brilliant. Acting, directing, delivery of Shakespeare's words in a way that was clear and brought out all the nuances. The lack of colour, we thought, was ideal as one was not distracted by scenery nor clothing. Well done, committee.</li> <li>• But I was confused by the beginning.</li> <li>• Good – once you got into it.</li> <li>• Really enjoyed it!</li> <li>• Having read many of the Bard's plays but not familiar with this one, I enjoyed Much Ado once I had settled to the mix of 'Shakespearean' language, modern dress and black and white film.</li> <li>• The American accents and speed of delivery made it difficult at times to follow the dialogue. It would have helped if I had read the play through beforehand or, even better, if there had been a much fuller synopsis written and circulated prepared by an Eng Lit/Shakespeare scholar, perhaps a retired schoolmaster! Very cheeky, I know. Alternatively, sub titles. However I enjoyed the evening and if the film ever gets transferred to DVD I would certainly buy it to watch again. Strange how the fact that it was b &amp; w went unnoticed save in retrospect. It clearly worked well.</li> <li>• Initially, I felt that the black &amp; white would make the film rather dull; however, the actors brought the words &amp; story to life so well that they shone out from the greyness of the set &amp; also made me concentrate on the language of Shakespeare. The comedy moments, such as the police locking themselves out of their car were inspired, some great laugh out loud moments.</li> <li>• The best things in life don't change, and the 21st century costume was a badly-needed reminder of this at a time when</li> </ul>	<p>Shakespeare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I didn't know this play and was intrigued for perhaps the first 20 minutes, until I realised it was basically a rom-com (albeit probably the original rom-com). I enjoyed some of the sequences- the first party scene sticks in my memory- but I struggled to maintain my interest. I'm not sure if the fault was Whedon's, Shakespeare's or mine.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
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virtue, wit, good manners, and open hearts are not prized in either men or women.

- You certainly can't accuse the Film Club of being boring. Bohemian Edwardian artists followed by Rocky Horror followed by Shakespeare and a very entertaining version too. Well done the selection committee.
- But we both thought the diction overall was appallingly bad, and some of the lead actors were nigh impossible to understand - but then they are Americans!
- I enjoyed it. At the beginning it took a little while of getting used to hearing Shakespeare in an American accent, and thinking we were in the Hollywood Hills. I loved the use of the garden for the plot.
- Excellent. Wonderful photography.
- Enjoyed this film, struggled a little with American accents but liked the B & W/emphasis on the text. That lawn could do with a good mow, though.
- I really enjoyed it, interesting but effective in black and white. Must admit though, I don't think you can beat the Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson version.