

ECO-FRIENDLY

GREEN STAGE

"Love's Labour's Lost" is the first green show at MSU.

Here's how the cast and crew made it happen:

The idea was more challenging than it originally sounded, director Christina Traister said.

"What we're finding is it's a lot more complicated than you would think because it's not something that has been the trend in theater and you would think that it would be because theater is usually filled with lots of creative-thinking people, people who think outside the box," Traister said. "But for some reason, it's just now that people in the arts are like, 'Oh wow, we should really look at this.' What we're finding is it's a lot more complicated than we would think. There hasn't been a precedent set and you can't go from zero to 100."

Traister said the show is about 60 percent green, and when they couldn't find eco-friendly alternatives they focused on supporting the local economy as well.

Adding 'green' to the production: Scenery

Lumber was purchased locally.

The paint used had no volatile organic chemicals (or VOCs), which are fumes known to deplete the atmosphere.

Materials were saved and reused from previous shows.

Portions of the set are being created with papier-mâché from past issues of The State News.

Furniture was built from salvaged loading pallets.

Costumes

Any new fabric that was purchased for the show was 100-percent natural fiber, including wool, silk and cotton.

New fabric was purchased from locally owned shops, promoting the local economy and saving on shipping emissions.

No fabrics were dyed.

Garments that were purchased were bought from consignment shops or were secondhand clothing.

Lighting

Technology was changed so that a new metal gobo process uses laser etching rather than chemical etching. In Indiana, the chemicals in the etching process qualify as a "large waste generator."

A new device, called the Gel Miser, was used. It extends the life of color filters. This reduces waste going to the landfills.

SOURCE: CHRISTINA TRAISTER, DIRECTOR OF "LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST"

# FACES PLACES



HELLO, MY NAME IS Molly Masters

Just to be clear, Molly Masters doesn't ride horses. She just plays water polo. "I've gotten that so many times — 'How do you get a horse in the water?' Or they think we play with those little sticks," Masters said. The special education junior is co-president of the MSU Women's Water Polo Team. The club officially starts its season next semester, when its members will be in the water for about two hours every day working on mechanics and scrimmaging, with an additional hour or more of cardio work on dry land. On the weekends, the team is usually at tournaments. Anyone is welcome to join the team, so long as they're ready to get beaten up a little, Masters said. "You're constantly swimming back and forth the entire time, and once you get to the other side, you wrestle. You don't touch the ground ever," she said. "There's definitely a lot of black eyes, a lot of bruises."

— Compiled by Dan Faas, photo by Sam Ruiz, The State News

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Section B | The State News

# LEADING ROLE



Theater graduate student Joel King, right, runs through the dress rehearsal with fellow cast members for the Shakespeare play "Love's Labour's Lost" Monday evening at the Pasant Theatre. King's character, Berowne, along with three of his friends, take an oath to swear off women in order to study for three years.

PHOTOS BY SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

## MSU graduate student draws on months of research for thesis role

"Love's Labour's Lost"

Will be playing through Sunday at the Pasant Theatre in Wharton Center.

Adult tickets cost \$12.50 and student tickets cost \$7.50, plus additional fees.

Play times:  
7:30 p.m. tonight  
7:30 p.m. Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday  
2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday

SOURCE: THEATRE.MSU.EDU



For More online ...

For a photo gallery of the cast's dress rehearsal for "Love's Labour's Lost," visit [statenews.com/multimedia](http://statenews.com/multimedia).

By Sarah Harbison THE STATE NEWS

When Joel King appeared on stage Monday for the final dress rehearsal of "Love's Labour's Lost," he was unrecognizable. Not because he was decked out in an elaborate costume — the men in the first scene start off in their underwear. And not because his voice was disguised in a different dialect. But the real reason King couldn't be seen was because the theater graduate student had literally become the character Berowne, head lord to the King of Navarre in Shakespeare's play.

The play revolves around a king and three of his attendants, who take an oath to study, fast and swear off women for three years. Trouble ensues when the princess and three of her ladies show up. "It causes this tension because all the guys end up falling in love with the girls," King said, describing the play as a romantic comedy. "They all fall in love and the guys try to woo the girls, but the girls don't want to have anything to do with it. So the play is about the guys trying to find some way to be with these women, but also fighting the fact that they've sworn an oath." "Love's Labour's Lost" is making history at MSU on multiple fronts. In 100 years of theater performance at MSU, this work of Shakespeare has never been done. Also, it will be the first "green" show done on campus. Director Christina Traister

fell in love with the idea of an environmentally friendly performance, but making that happen has been more difficult than anyone expected. "The challenge is how do you do a green show and still keep the production values so that it doesn't look like it's made out of milk jugs and hemp clothing," Traister said. "Hopefully the audience will not notice at all the green elements, so that the quality hasn't gone down for stuff." This also is a memorable performance for King, as it is his thesis role — the role that wraps up his academic acting skills and is one of the final steps in achieving his master's degree in fine arts. "I've been kind of blessed because this character, he's really an in-depth, rounded character who basically sets everything up," King said. "Everything goes through him, all



Theater graduate student Joel King speaks with Stephanie Koenig, a theater junior and fellow cast member in the Shakespeare play "Love's Labour's Lost," Nov. 6 in the Auditorium basement.

of the other characters' opinions basically go through him, so it's been an exciting task."

Prepping for the wrap-up

Becoming Berowne has been a culmination of King's entire academic acting career, but even more than that, about six months of intense research and work. "A thesis role is pretty much a culmination of all your training up to date, and you're embodying all of that training into one piece of performance," said Traister, an assistant voice and acting professor. "All of the research elements that go into it, and the fact

that it's Shakespeare — it's one step vernacularly removed from us so that's kind of a challenge of it and getting your ear tuned in and jumping in that way." But to earn his master's degree, King has to do more than just play Berowne on stage. He must write an in-depth character analysis, create a character biography and background, score the script (marking changes in character and changes in actions — a "map of the play for your character") and scan the language of the script, marking the fam-

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