

The University Wits

Synopsis

How does a glover's apprentice "married to a churlish female who can't write her name" become the world's greatest playwright? The answer is he doesn't. Not without a little help from his friends.

The University Wits. Seven low-born Elizabethan bohemians, who went to Oxford and Cambridge on scholarships. In return they gave England, English Literature.

The play addresses the untold tale of how the Bard of Avon worked his way to fame and glory on the backs of those he claimed to love. What did they get for their bother? Not so much as a footnote.

This 5-act comedy-drama is the kind of story that could have been written by the Wits, had they not been so busy living it. "It begins the day we first met Willy-boy," says our narrator, Dr. Thomas Lodge, the last of the Wits, in the Dying Swan Tavern. "It's time someone set the record straight."

Production notes and comments:

It received a stage reading by the Bacbrock Theater Readers, played to a full house at the University of Utah, Little Theater of the Arts and received dozens of favorable comments.

"It was a big hit" stated the Director.

"I loved it from beginning to end. Everything that happens is plausible. It was so much fun watching Shakespeare gather crumbs from the "The Wits" table and turn them into the classic s that we all recognize. I can't wait to see it on stage".

Ron Fredickson, Chair of the Theater Department, University of Utah.

"Excellent dialogue. Enjoyed the development of the "The Wits" character and personalities".

"An entertaining play that at the same time addresses questions on the authenticity of Shakespeare's writings".

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