

The Four Bodily Humors in *Much Ado About Nothing*

According to Elizabethan medical thought, balances and imbalances of bodily fluids determined one's temperament...

Blood - Sanguine

- Happy, Strong, Lovesick
- Hot and Moist
- Ruled by Jupiter
- Element: Air
- Season: Spring

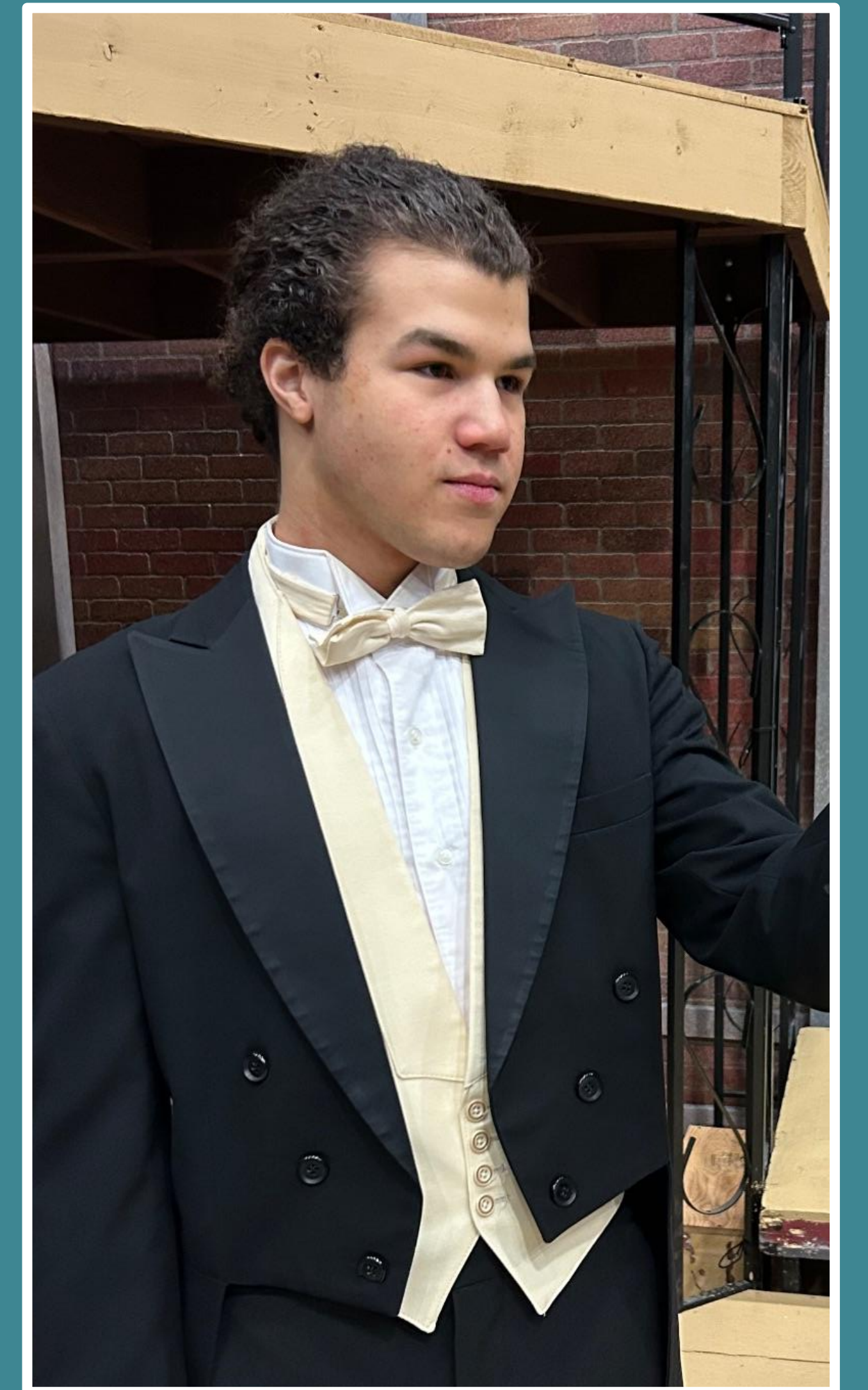


(Skye Sparks as Beatrice)

“There's little of the melancholy element in her, my lord: she is never sad but when she sleeps, and not ever sad then; for I have heard my daughter say, she hath often dreamed of unhappiness and waked herself with laughing” (II.i.259-262).

Yellow Bile - Choleric

- Arrogant, Short-tempered
- Hot and Dry
- Ruled by Mars
- Element: Fire
- Season: Summer



(Eliot Klus as Claudio)

“The count is neither sad, nor sick, nor merry, nor well: but civil, count, civil as an orange, and something of that jealous complexion” (II.i.222-224).



(Phi Rapacz as Dogberry)

Phlegm - Phlegmatic

- Foolish, Soft
- Cold and Moist
- Ruled by Venus
- Element: Water
- Season: Autumn

“I am a wise fellow, and which is more, an officer, and which is more, a householder, and which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any is in Messina” (IV.ii.65-67).

Black Bile - Melancholic



(Elaina Boyle as Don John)

- Melancholy, Bitter, Hateful
- Cold and Dry
- Ruled by Saturn
- Element: Earth
- Season: Winter

“I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all, than to fashion a carriage to rob love from any” (I.iii.20-22).