

**CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL:
EVERYMAN 20**

Sophia Gardens
Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9SQ



AUDITION NOTICE

'If music be the food of love, play on'

TWELFTH NIGHT

By William Shakespeare

A ship is wrecked on the rocks, twins are separated and washed up on the island of Ilyria, forced to fend for themselves in a new land. Viola, the first twin, falls in love with Duke Orsino, who is in love with Olivia, who falls in love with Viola and is secretly adored by Malvolio. Meanwhile enter Sebastian, the second twin, identical to his sister. Chaos ensues...

Directed by David Mercatali

Performance Dates: Thursday 2nd July to Saturday 11th July

Festival Theatre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

No performances on Sunday 5th July or Monday 6th July

Technical and Dress Rehearsals: Sunday 28th June to Wednesday 1st July

Rehearsal days and times – to be confirmed.

Please note all performances take place in the open-air

The Play

Viola is shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria. She has lost contact with her twin brother, Sebastian, whom she believes to be drowned. Disguising herself as a young man under the name Cesario she enters the service of Duke Orsino. Duke Orsino believes he is in love with Olivia, who is mourning the recent deaths of her father and brother. She refuses to be in the company of men, or to accept marriage proposals from anyone, the Duke included, until seven years have passed. Duke Orsino then uses 'Cesario' as an intermediary to profess his passionate love for Olivia. Olivia, however, in an unexpected turn, falls in love with 'Cesario'. In the meantime, Viola has fallen in love with Duke Orsino, creating a love triangle: Viola loves Duke Orsino, Duke Orsino loves Olivia, and Olivia loves Viola disguised as Cesario.

In the comic subplot, Olivia's riotous uncle, Sir Toby Belch; a silly squire named Sir Andrew Aguecheek; her servants Maria and Fabian; and her melancholy fool, Feste, are having themselves a good time and a drunken night. They are interrupted and chastised by Olivia's pompous steward Malvolio. They plan revenge on him. They convince Malvolio that Olivia is secretly in love with him by planting a love letter, written by Maria in Olivia's handwriting. It asks Malvolio to wear yellow stockings cross-gartered—a colour and fashion that Olivia actually hates—and to smile constantly in the presence of Olivia. Malvolio finds the letter and reacts in surprised delight. He starts acting out the contents of the letter to show Olivia his positive response. Olivia is shocked by the changes in Malvolio and agreeing that he seems mad, leaves him to be cared for by his tormentors. Pretending that Malvolio is insane, they lock him up in a dark chamber. Feste visits him to mock his insanity, both disguised as a priest and as himself.

Meanwhile, Viola's twin, Sebastian, has been rescued by Antonio, a sea captain who previously fought against Orsino, yet who accompanies Sebastian to Illyria. Sebastian's appearance adds the confusion of mistaken identities to the comedy. Taking Sebastian for 'Cesario', Olivia asks him to marry her, and they are secretly married in a church. Finally, when 'Cesario' and Sebastian appear in the presence of both Olivia and Orsino, there is more wonder and confusion at their physical similarity. At this point, Viola reveals her identity and is reunited with her twin brother.

The play ends in a declaration of marriage between Duke Orsino and Viola, and it is learned that Sir Toby has married Maria. Malvolio swears revenge on his tormentors and stalks off..

From the Director

Hilarious and heart-breaking, Twelfth Night is arguably Shakespeare's greatest comedy. It certainly has some of his greatest characters and most iconic moments: from the chaotic love triangle of Viola, Olivia and Orsino, to the hilarious and cruel humiliation of lovesick Malvolio at the hands of Toby Belch, Maria and their rowdy crew. I want to bring out the riotous fun and play in this script and make the most of all these incredible moments to give the audience a great time.

We will also have the best time putting this together, that I can promise you! My main request would be that anyone who was interested came with an open and generous approach and was prepared to embrace the energy and humour of the piece, as well as the Shakespearean verse.

The festival shows are a memorable experience where you will make friends for life doing what you love. Please bear in mind that such an amazing experience requires a big commitment. Only put yourself forward if you know you can come to the vast majority of rehearsals. There will be a lot to do in a short space of time and I won't be able to make this work without actors!

Look forward to meeting you all soon

David

The Characters

The Synopsis and Character Breakdown apply to the play as published and do not take into account any creative decisions or cuts to the text that may be made prior to the start of rehearsals.

- All roles are available, casting is open and newcomers to the Festival are welcome and encouraged
- Some roles can be played by male or female
- Smaller roles will be doubled / trebled, and some characters may be combined
- There may be opportunities for non-speaking ensemble roles

Viola – A young woman of aristocratic birth and the play's protagonist. After the shipwreck, Viola decides to make her own way in the world. She disguises herself as a young man, calling herself "Cesario," and becomes a page to Duke Orsino. She ends up falling in love with Orsino—even as Olivia, the woman Orsino is courting, falls in love with Cesario. Thus, Viola finds that her clever disguise has entrapped her: she cannot tell Orsino that she loves him, and she cannot tell Olivia why she, as Cesario, cannot love *her*.

Orsino - A powerful nobleman in the country of Illyria. Orsino is lovesick for the beautiful Lady Olivia but becomes more and more fond of his handsome new page boy, Cesario, who is actually a woman—Viola. A supreme egotist, Orsino mopes around complaining how heartsick he is over Olivia, when it is clear that he is chiefly in love with the idea of being in love and enjoys making a spectacle of himself.

Olivia - A wealthy and noble Illyrian lady, Olivia is courted by Orsino and Sir Andrew Aguecheek, but to each of them she insists that she is in mourning for her brother, who has recently died, and will not marry for seven years. She and Orsino are similar characters in that each seems to enjoy wallowing in his or her own misery. Viola's arrival in the guise of Cesario enables Olivia to break free of her self-indulgent melancholy. Olivia seems to have no difficulty transferring her affections from one love interest to the next, however, suggesting that her romantic feelings—like most emotions in the play—do not run deep

Sebastian - Viola's lost twin brother. When he arrives in Illyria, traveling with Antonio, his close friend and protector, Sebastian discovers that many people think that they know him. Furthermore, the beautiful Lady Olivia, whom he has never met, wants to marry him. Sebastian remains confused until his sister reveals herself.

Malvolio - the straitlaced steward—or head servant—in the household of Lady Olivia. Malvolio is very efficient but also very self-righteous, and he has a poor opinion of drinking, singing, and fun. His priggishness and haughty attitude earn him the enmity of Sir Toby, Sir

Andrew, and Maria, who play a cruel trick on him, making him believe that Olivia is in love with him. In his fantasies about marrying his mistress, he reveals a powerful ambition to rise above his social class.

Feste - The clown, or fool, of Olivia's household, Feste moves between Olivia's and Orsino's homes. He earns his living by making pointed jokes, singing old songs, being generally witty, and offering good advice cloaked under a layer of foolishness. In spite of being a professional fool, Feste often seems the wisest character in the play.

Toby Belch - Olivia's uncle. Olivia lets Sir Toby Belch live with her, but she does not approve of his rowdy behaviour, practical jokes, heavy drinking, late-night carousing, or friends (specifically the idiotic Sir Andrew). Sir Toby also earns the ire of Malvolio. But Sir Toby has an ally in Olivia's sharp-witted waiting-gentlewoman, Maria. Together they bring about the triumph of chaotic spirit, which Sir Toby embodies, and the ruin of the controlling, self-righteous Malvolio

Maria - Olivia's clever, daring young waiting-gentlewoman. She helps hatch the plot to humiliate Malvolio and is Toby's partner in crime throughout, eventually marrying him

Andrew Aguecheek - A friend of Sir Toby's. Sir Andrew Aguecheek attempts to court Olivia, but he doesn't stand a chance. He thinks that he is witty, brave, young, and good at languages and dancing, but he is actually none of those things.

Antonio - A man who rescues Sebastian after his shipwreck. Antonio has become very fond of Sebastian, caring for him, accompanying him to Illyria, and furnishing him with money—all because of a love so strong that it seems to be romantic in nature. Antonio's attraction to Sebastian, however, never bears fruit.

Fabian – a servant in Olivia's household

Captain – a friend to Viola

Valentine and Curio – attendees on the Duke

The Director – David Mercatali

David is a freelance director who made his Everyman debut with last year's festival production of *Much Ado about Nothing*. A graduate of Cardiff University, he started directing in Act One Drama Society between 2000-2003. Moving to London after that, he took up directing professionally and his credits include: *Tremor* (Sherman, 59e59 NYC, Paines Plough Edinburgh), *Insignificance*, *Cargo* (Arcola Theatre), *Blue Heart* (Tobacco Factory, Orange Tree), *Radiant Vermin* (Soho Theatre, 59e59 NYC), *Little Light* (Orange Tree), *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (Soho Theatre, Pleasance Edinburgh, National Tour), *Tonight with Donny Stixx* (Pleasance Edinburgh, Bunker Theatre), *Every you, Every me* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Tender Napalm* (Southwark Playhouse, National Tour), *Johnny Got his Gun*, *Feathers in the Snow*, *Our Ajax* (Southwark Playhouse), *Coolatully*, *Black Jesus* (Finborough Theatre), *Someone to Blame* (Kings Head), *Sochi 2014* (Hope Theatre). He has directed productions for several leading drama schools, including Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, LAMDA and Central School of Speech and Drama. In 2017 he returned to Cardiff to be Associate Director at the Sherman Theatre, and he now lives in Canton with his family.

The Auditions

Before auditioning, please take a moment to consider the necessary level of commitment.

Take careful note of the rehearsal period and be honest about your availability within it. Although the rehearsal process takes place over several weeks, consistent and punctual attendance is essential

as we will be operating within a very tight schedule.

A high level of unavailability, persistent lateness and/or no-show will regrettably result in you being asked to leave the production.

Sunday 2nd and 9th February. Recalls on Sunday 16th February

- **If you would like to audition but cannot attend on any of these days, please let us know as soon as possible.**
- Please arrive **15mins before** your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form with photograph attached. Spare audition forms will be available on the day.
- **When booking an audition slot**, please refer to the character breakdown.
- Prepare one speech from Shakespeare for your audition
- **Not being recalled** does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role.
- **Attendance at the Festival Company Meeting during May is strongly urged.**
- **Please Note:** By accepting a role in the Festival you acknowledge that your photograph will be taken during rehearsals and performances and permit these to be used for any marketing (including on our website, social media, and printed material). Consent can be withdrawn at any time by emailing festivalmarketing@everymantheatre.co.uk This will not apply to material already published.

To reserve your place at the audition, please email:

festival-auditions@everymantheatre.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you!

Everyman Theatre Cardiff Ltd.

Audition Form for

TWELFTH NIGHT [2020]

To book your audition time please contact:
festival-auditions@everymantheatre.co.uk



Please write clearly and don't forget to bring this form, complete with photograph, to your audition!

Name

Date of audition Time.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Email address

Tel.no [home]..... [work/mobile]

Age..... Height.....

ROLE(S) YOU ARE TO AUDITIONING FOR

Would you be prepared to accept other roles including ENSEMBLE? YES / NO

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS – eg, dancing, singing, juggling, musical instrument playing, etc

Don't keep secrets! Please state **any and all commitments** [family/work/holidays/other shows etc] that **may** clash with the rehearsal period! Continue overleaf if necessary.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary]

Are you auditioning for the other Festival shows? Yes / No (if yes, please state which ones)

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? Yes / No (please note that everyone cast must become an Everyman member)

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast / recalled / cast.....acceptance rec'd **YES / NO**