

EVERYMAN THEATRE CARDIFF LTD

SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL 2012

at St Fagans National History Museum



Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare

AUDITION NOTICE

Director

Simon H West

"Love sought is good; but given unsought is better."

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is the story of twins, Viola and Sebastian, shipwrecked off the coast of Illyria and both believing the other to be dead. Viola dresses in her brother's clothes for protection in a strange land, and enters into the service of the self-absorbed Duke Orsino, who is passionately but unrequitedly in love with the Lady Olivia. Entrusted with pleading on her master's behalf, the disguised Viola is dismayed to find that Olivia has fallen in love with her; thus begins the first confusion of this bittersweet comedy. With the arrival of Viola's twin brother and the heartless deception of pompous steward Malvolio, darker confusions ensue including jealousy, mistaken identity and accusations of insanity. As *Twelfth Night* ends and order is re-established, Malvolio threatens revenge, Shakespeare speaks of the madness of love, and everyone is happy ... well, almost everyone!

The last of Shakespeare's three "mature comedies" [the other two being *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It*], *Twelfth Night* or *What You Will* was composed around 1601, probably as an entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. Although it has many familiar elements of an Elizabethan Romantic Comedy such as mistaken identity, separation and disguise, there are darker themes of melancholia, madness, death and loss that weave more poignant threads within the plot.

Performance Dates: Wednesday, 25th July - Saturday, 4th August 2012
12 performances. **Please note that there will be matinee performances on
Sat.28th July AND Sat.4th August but NO performance on Sun.29th July

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday 24th July

Technical Rehearsals: Sunday 22nd & Monday 23rd July

Provisional Rehearsal Period: Sunday 20th May [tbc] - Saturday 21st July

Rehearsal days [tbc]: scheduled calls, Tuesdays & Thursdays 19.00 to 22.00
Saturdays & Sundays 10.00 to 18.00

Additional rehearsal days may be added nearer production period.

THE DIRECTOR

Simon H West was a member of Everyman Theatre in the 1980s and appeared in several of their productions at The Sherman and Dyffryn Gardens before training at The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and Birkbeck University of London. Since then, he has worked extensively as a professional actor in theatre, television and commercials and to date has directed over 40 plays and musicals. He is also a director/drama tutor for Go Theatre School, guest director for a number of other Drama Schools and Repertory Companies and a performance reviewer for the National Council of Drama Training. This production will be Simon's ninth show for the Festival after *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* from 2001 to 2003; a highly regarded staging of *The Gondoliers* in 2009, his adaptation with Gareth Wyn Griffiths of *HMS Pinafore* in 2010, in which he also appeared as Captain Corcoran, and last year's 1970s inspired production of Shakespeare's *The Comedy Of Errors*. He is delighted to return in 2012 for his second production of *Twelfth Night* for the Festival.

THE CHARACTERS

Please note: The character breakdown below applies to the play as published and cannot take into account any creative decisions or cuts to the text that may be made prior to the start of rehearsals. Line counts given are approximate and for guidance only.

Sir Toby Belch: Olivia's uncle. Olivia lets Sir Toby live under her roof, but she does not approve of his rowdy behaviour, practical jokes, drinking and carousing, or his friends - especially Sir Andrew! Sir Toby also earns the ire of the controlling, self-righteous Malvolio. But Sir Toby has an ally - and eventually a wife - 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 Malvolio. [350 lines]

Feste: The clown, or fool, of Olivia's household. Feste moves between Olivia's and Orsino's houses earning his living with songs, wit and good advice cloaked under a layer of foolishness. In spite of being a professional fool, Feste can seem the wisest character in the story. Feste sings three songs during the play and it might be useful [but not essential] for him to be able to play one or more musical instruments. [340 lines]

Viola: A young woman of aristocratic birth, and the play's protagonist. Washed up on the shore of Illyria when her ship is wrecked in a storm, Viola disguises herself as a young man - "Cesario", and becomes a page to Orsino. She ends up falling in love with him - 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*. Her poignant plight is the central conflict in the play. [330 lines]

Olivia: A wealthy, beautiful, and noble Illyrian lady. Olivia is courted by both Orsino and Sir Andrew Aguecheek, but to each of them 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 misery. Viola's arrival in the masculine guise of Cesario enables Olivia to break free of her self-indulgent melancholy. [300 lines]

Malvolio: The straitlaced steward - or head servant - in Olivia's household. Malvolio is efficient but self-righteous; 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. [300 lines]

Orsino: A nobleman in the country of Illyria. Orsino is lovesick for Olivia, but becomes more and more fond of his handsome new pageboy, Cesario - Viola in disguise. Orsino is a vehicle through which the play explores the absurdity of love: 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 melancholy spectacle of himself. His attraction to the ostensibly male Cesario injects sexual ambiguity into his character. *[210 lines]*

Maria: Olivia's clever and daring waiting-gentlewoman. Maria is remarkably similar to her antagonist, Malvolio, who also harbours aspirations of rising in the world through marriage. But Maria succeeds where Malvolio fails - perhaps because she is a woman but, more likely, because she is more in tune than Malvolio with the anarchic, topsy-turvy spirit that animates the play. *[160 lines]*

Sir Andrew Aguecheek: A wealthy friend of Sir Toby's. Sir Andrew Aguecheek attempts to court Olivia, but he doesn't stand a chance. He is also goaded unwisely into a duel with Cesario. All this time Sir Toby is gradually pilfering his fortune. He believes that he is witty, brave and a fine dancer, but his attempts at these things provide much of the comedy within the play. *[150 lines]*

Sebastian: Viola's lost twin brother. When he arrives in Illyria, travelling with Antonio, his close friend and protector, Sebastian discovers that people seem to know him. Furthermore, Olivia, whom he has never met, wants to marry him straight away. Sebastian may not be as well rounded a character as his sister but he's handy in a fight! Sword/Combat skills an advantage. *[120 lines]*

Fabian: A servant in Olivia's household. He too dislikes Malvolio, and also participates enthusiastically in his downfall. However, in the final scene, he is the first to confess to Olivia the full nature of the cruel trick played on her hapless steward. *[120 lines]*

Antonio: An enemy of Orsino. Antonio rescues Sebastian after his shipwreck. He has become very fond of Sebastian, caring for him, accompanying him to Illyria [at much danger to himself] and furnishing him with money - all because of a love so strong that it seems almost romantic in nature. He is arrested in the street after a brawl in the belief that he is protecting Sebastian, when in fact he has encountered Viola in disguise. Sword/Combat skills an advantage. *[100 lines]*

A Sea Captain: Appears in the opening scene only. A friend to Viola, he helps her to disguise herself as Cesario. He initially breaks the news of Sebastian's apparent death. *[30 lines]*

Valentine: Charged with delivering Orsino's suit to Olivia before the arrival of Cesario. *[14 lines]*

First Officer: Arrests Antonio in the street after a brawl. *[12 lines]*

Priest: Reports to Orsino that he conducted the wedding of Olivia and Sebastian. *[8 lines]*

Curio: Attendant to Orsino. *[7 lines]*

Second Officer: Arrests Antonio with First Officer. *[4 lines]*

Servant: A member of Olivia's household. *[4 lines]*

Assistant Director: Once the play has been cast, there will be an opportunity to join the creative team as an Assistant Director. Previous experience is preferred. Please let us know if you would like to be considered.

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 a number of 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.

- The auditions will be held at Chapter Arts Centre **from 14.00 to 18.00** on **Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th March** with possible further auditions/recalls at a later date.
- **When booking an audition**, please refer to the character breakdown.
- **Prepare** a short speech [not much longer than a minute] from any Shakespeare play of your choice. If you are auditioning for the part of Feste, please also prepare a short song.
- Please turn up 15min before your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form [p.5] with photograph. Spare audition forms will be available.
- Production details [style, setting, etc] are yet to be finalised. We would wish to take account of the skills and abilities of the cast when making those decisions so it is important that any **special skills** [eg musical instrument, dance, combat, circus etc.] are listed on the audition form.
- Smaller roles **will** be doubled.
- Consideration **will** be given to women for some of the male roles in the play.
- **Not being recalled** does not necessarily mean you are no longer being considered for a role.

To book an audition: please contact Margaret Bourke
email amabourke@gmail.com or phone 01656 890371

We look forward to seeing you!

EVERYMAN SUMMER THEATRE FESTIVAL 2012

Audition form for - *TWELFTH NIGHT*

To book your audition time please contact
Margaret Bourke on
01656 890371
amabourke@gmail.com



Please 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].....

Date of birth if **under 16** on 1st April 2012playing age.....

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

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary].....

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? yes/no
PLEASE NOTE - everyone cast must become an Everyman member.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast/recalled/cast as.....written acceptance rec'd **yes/no**