

CHARACTERS

Valentine: (male in his 20s)

- * Full of energy, very physical, open and honest with a deep heart.
- * From a wealthy family in Verona, he is sent to Milan to join the court of the Duke.
- * Best friend of Proteus. He falls in love with Sylvia, the Duke's daughter. Then is betrayed by Proteus who organizes his banishment and tries to woo Sylvia for himself.
- * Valentine will be engaged in several sword fights

Proteus (male in his 20s)

- * Also from a wealthy family in Verona.
- * Best friend of Valentine until he betrays him.
- * In love with Julia but this changes when he follows Valentine to Milan and falls in love with Sylvia. After this, he betrays his friend, Julia and just about everything else to try to win Sylvia. Need to see the fall into this pit happen as passion unwinds his life and beliefs.
- * Proteus will be engaged in several sword fights.

Julia (female in her 20s)

- * From a wealthy family in Verona.
- * In love with Proteus. Once he leaves under his father's order to go to Milan, Julia decides to follow him dressed as a boy and eventually engages herself as Proteus' servant...the first time Shakespeare used this device.
- * Julia is so constant in her love that she sticks with Proteus even after he shuns her to chase Sylvia.
- * Will need two costumes...one while she is in Verona and another when she dresses as a boy.

Sylvia (female in her 20s)

- * The Duke of Milan's daughter. She falls in love with Valentine.
- * Bright, beautiful, witty but truly kind and caring despite her rank and position.
- * Like Julia, she is constant and true in her affections.
- * In our version of the play, Sylvia is the peacemaker at the end of the play, bringing Julia and Proteus together again and pushing Valentine to forgive Proteus' awful actions.
- * Needs two costumes...one for the first 3/4 of the play in the court and another when she travels into the forest.

The Duke (middle aged male)

- * An obviously powerful man, he dotes on his daughter Sylvia. He wants her to marry Thurio, a much older man and banishes Valentine when he gets in the way of this.

Thurio (middle aged male)

- * Wealthy, probably ostentatiously dressed, egotistical, fancies himself a lover, but...

Antonio (middle aged man). (Could double as an outlaw and courtier in Milan scenes)

* A nobleman of Verona, father to Proteus. Dresses accordingly, but only on for one scene.

* Austere and a bit taciturn, he decides to send Proteus to Milan, thus separating him from Julia.

Pantino (age and gender flexible) (Could double as an outlaw & courtier in Milan scenes)

* Advisor and friend to Antonio.

* Member of the nobility, so well dressed, but only on for a couple of short scenes

Lance (gender flexible, age flexible)

* Servant to Proteus.

* Of lower class and dressed accordingly.

* Clever despite his lack of education, he and his dog Crab are one of the great sources of comedy in the show.

Speed (gender flexible, age flexible)

* Servant to Valentine.

* Should be better dressed than Lance as he is better treated by his lord.

* Quick witted, fast talking and clever.

Lucetta (female, age flexible). (Could double as an outlaw & courtier in Milan scenes)

* Waiting-woman to Julia, but in our play also her friend.

* Quick witted, caring and capable with rye sense of humor.

Eglamour (male, age flexible) (Could double as Pantino in first half. He will also be one of the courtiers/dancers in Milan scenes)

* A gentleman. Agent for Sylvia in her escape from Milan.

* Upper class and dressed as such.

Host (middle aged, gender flexible). (Could double as Antonio or Pantino in first half. Could also be a courtier in Milan scenes.)

* Runs an inn in Milan. Dressed accordingly.

Servant (younger person, gender flexible) (Double as a courtier in Milan scenes)

Outlaws (5-7, most will double other parts, age and gender flexible. Can also be courtiers in Milan scenes)

* They live in forest and should be dressed accordingly.

* Rough but good natured.

* Some will be engaged in a friendly sword battle with Valentine.

Courtiers (5-7, most will double as Outlaws and other parts)

* Well dressed for the court.

* Many will be engaged in dancing.

Crab, the dog:

* The plan is to use a real dog for this. But if that fails, we will need to get someone in the cast into a dog suit.