

THE CURTAIN THEATRE RETURNS TO OLD MILL PARK 2021

TWELFTH NIGHT

OR *WHAT YOU WILL*

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



DIRECTED BY MICHELE DELATTRE

2:00 PM

OLD MILL PARK AMPHITHEATRE
MILL VALLEY

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS,
AND LABOR DAY MONDAY
AUGUST 14TH TO SEPTEMBER 6TH
2021

Setting: Illyria, port in the Canadian Maritimes, 1890.

————— **PLAYERS** —————

FABIAN (lady's maid in Olivia's house)	Lindsey Abbott
CURIO (Orsino's attendant; officer)	Euan Ashley
SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK (Toby's friend).....	Steve Beecroft
ANTONIO (sea captain, Sebastian's rescuer)	
/ORSINO'S GUEST	Marc Berman
MARIA (Olivia's housekeeper).....	Kim Bromley
ORSINO (Duke of Illyria).....	Nelson Brown
FESTE (Fool)	Heather Cherry
NAN (Olivia's kitchen maid).....	Clara Desmond
VIOLA (Sebastian's twin sister).....	Isabelle Grimm
SIR TOBY BELCH (Olivia's uncle)	Glenn Havlan
VALENTINE (Orsino's attendant; officer)	Emmet Kalish
SEBASTIAN (Viola's twin brother)	
/ORSINO'S GUEST	Nic Moore
PRIEST	Tom Reilly
COUNTESS OLIVIA.....	Faryn Thomure
CAPTAIN (Viola's rescuer).....	Michael Walraven
MALVOLIO (Olivia's steward).....	Grey Wolf

————— **BAND** —————

Don Clark (guitar, composer); Michele Delattre (concertina);
Hal Hughes (fiddle, composer); Jo Lusk (flute)

————— **PRODUCTION** —————

DIRECTOR.....	Michele Delattre
CHOREOGRAPHY/FIGHT/PRODUCTION	Steve Beecroft
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Don Clark
SET DESIGN	Steve Coleman
COSTUME DESIGN	Jo Lusk
COSTUME ASSISTANT.....	Jody Branham
STAGE MANAGER	Diane Pickell-Gore
ASST STAGE MANAGER	Lisa Immel
HOUSE MANAGER	Nic Meredith
ASSISTANT FRONT OF HOUSE.....	Sam Ross
DRAMATURGE	Peter Bradbury
PUBLICITY.....	Pat Meier-Johnson
PHOTOGRAPHY	Russell Johnson
POSTER DESIGN	Mark Shepard
SET BUILDER	Michael Walraven

🏹 DIRECTOR'S NOTES 🏹

Welcome to Illyria, a storybook seaport on the East coast of Canada at the end of the nineteenth century. Two great houses of Illyria, one ruled by Duke Orsino and the other by the Countess Olivia gained their fortunes on the sea. But when we meet them the sea is also the source of confusion and loss. Like the play's namesake Christmas holiday, a storm of topsy-turvy mayhem restores order. For more on that and other engaging ideas, visit our dramaturge's blog "behind the curtain" at curtaintheatre.org.

The Curtain company has been nursing this production since the theaters were shut down last year and the sequester has influenced our experience of performing the play. There are many rich themes in *Twelfth Night* touching on gender, identity, power, and coming of age, but the sequester highlighted the experience of theater itself in healing a community. Reuniting in "sad and merry madness" with our players and audience in the park is immensely precious and we thank you all for joining us. Our community of Curtain collaborators -- directors, designers, cast, musicians, dramaturge, backstage team, and our hard working board welcome you as part of the 2021 company. Play on!

– Michele Delattre, August 2021

🏹 DRAMATURGE'S NOTES 🏹

Elizabethan London. The plague is a constant threat. Shakespeare writes *Twelfth Night*, a play set at the end of the chaotic twelve day festival of Christmas, when masks and ambition shield our true identities.

We open as the world weary Duke Orsino conjures music to alleviate the ennui of unrequited love. A tempest brings a shipwreck and the beautiful and nimble-minded Viola; having lost her much loved brother in the wreck she disguises herself as a man and on the pretense of serving the Duke Orsino she masquerades her way into the household of the beautiful and nimble-minded Olivia who has also lost a brother. We know what happens in Shakespeare when women dress as men and fool around with each other, veering between truth and banter. As an audience we are framed with irony because we know what the characters on stage don't know. We are moved by the gaps; we watch and listen to the fireworks, the proclamations of love; we sense the thrumming chords of desire that create their own music; we see the sundry fools metaphorically tumbling around the stage; we feel righteous satisfaction when the puritan upstart Malvolio is hoist by his own pétard and plunged into darkness; and before we know it we are drawn in by the Fool who speaks and sings a dry commentary on the ambitions of men and women and women-as-men. Who reminds us that the pandemic brings death, that great leveler of status, pride and desire. But this is a comedy. Equals find their opposite. Love may not always triumph but marriage does.

– Peter Bradbury, August 2021

Lindsey Abbot (Fabian) Lindsey Abbott is thrilled to be making her Curtain debut. She graduated this May from Sonoma State University with her BA in theatre arts, and is continuing her education at CUNY Brooklyn College to receive her MFA in theatre management. Much love to her family and wonderful boyfriend for always supporting her.

Euan Ashley (Curio) is excited to be making his post-college debut with Curtain Theatre. Euan graduated in May from Sonoma State University and looks forward to being part of Bay Area shows. He thanks his girlfriend and family for supporting his artistic endeavors.

Steve Beecroft (producer, choreographer, fight director, Sir Andrew Aguecheek) This is Steve's eleventh year with the Curtain Theatre. He directed *Henry IV part one* in 2018 and his onstage roles range from the crazy Dr Caius in *Merry Wives of Windsor* and Caliban in *The Tempest* to Tranio in *Taming of the Shrew* and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He thanks his lady, Trish, for her support, the ever resourceful Curtain Board of Directors for their tireless commitment to putting on great plays in Old Mill Park and you, the audience. It is lovely to be back onstage again!!

Marc Berman (Antonio) Previously seen as Master Ford in *Merry Wives*. Alumni of AADA and accomplished make-up artist (Seduction Make-up). Other favorite roles include Napoleon in *Animal Farm* (RPE), *Micky in Greetings* (PSP), *Templeton in Charlotte's Web* (Sacramento). Marc thanks his Consort Lisa and their boys, Aidan and Xander for the constant support.

Peter Bradbury (dramaturge). Writer, critic and cultural rouseabout, I've been in love with Shakespeare's language since I first learned the Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow speech as a schoolboy. A thesis, articles and many students later I love watching the actors putting language into action.

Jody Branham (costume assistant) is delighted to be working for the first time with the wonderful Curtain Theatre after attending many performances. She earned her AA degree in Drama at College of Marin and is currently a Masters in Theatre candidate emphasis on costume design at SFSU. She is also the mom of Faryn / Olivia!

Kim Bromley (Maria) was raised by pirates. She holds a BA in Theater Arts and MA in film production. Kim's credits include work with a variety of local theaters. In addition to her acting life, Kim is also a director, writer and producer. She's thrilled to be out of lock down and back onstage!

Nelson Brown (Orsino) is more eager than ever to be back in the park participating in live theatre! His previous Curtain roles include LaFleche in *Moliere's the Miser* and Poins in *Henry IV Part 1*. Next up Nelson will be playing Roger in Marin Musical Theatre Company's *RENT*.

Heather Cherry (Feste). "Take away the Fool" — Heather has worked at Curtain Theater, Marin and Shoebox Shakespeare, Theater of Others, and others, playing women, men, kings, and animals. Free outdoor Shakespeare is her favorite. Welcome back after our plague year — we are so happy we are here. Love to Connie and Peter.

Don Clark (music director) has played guitar in the Curtain band since its founding in 2000, and once again composed songs and tunes for this production. Besides work with this company, he and spouse Michele Delattre perform Celtic music with the band Luck Penny and rock with the band Off the Record.

Steve Coleman (set designer) is a longtime artist in Mill Valley and award winning set designer. He is known for his loving, often fantastical creations of everything from small models to the elegant reborn performing spaces at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre.

Michele Delattre (director, band) is a founding member of the Curtain Theatre and has been artistic director for over a decade. She performed in Shakespeare festivals across the country but her favorite home is this magical company in Old Mill Park. Thanks to the creative team on and off stage, and the community that makes it possible.

Clara Desmond (Nan) is a rising senior at Tam High and I love acting, directing, writing, and making movies. I loved working with Curtain Theatre this summer because everyone in the cast is so kind and I'm learning a lot from all these talented people. It was a super fun experience making new friends here and we hope you enjoy the show.

Isabelle Grimm (Viola). Isabelle couldn't be happier to return to theatre with her friends at Curtain! Her previous shows include *Henry IV Part I*, *The Miser*, and *The Comedy of Errors*. Locally, she has also worked with Marin Shakespeare Company, Theatre Lunatico, Ross Valley Players, and Sonoma Arts Live, among others. A Bay Area native, she received her BFA in Theatre Performance from Chapman University. Follow her continuing adventures at her website: isabellegrimm.com

Glenn Havlan (Toby) has performed in and/or directed over thirty productions of twenty different Shakespeare plays, including nine with Marin Shakespeare Company. He has founded two San Francisco companies, the Free Civic Theater and the Theater of Others, staging fifty productions from 2000-2019. This is his first show with the Curtain.

Hal Hughes (band, composer) has worked with music and theater in the Bay Area since the 1970s, with Tumbleweed, Overtone Theater, Nightletter Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare, Word for Word, Backyard Beckett, and many others. He's delighted that Curtain Theatre likes to use his tunes in their productions. This is his eleventh Curtain production.

Emmet Kalish (Valentine). Even though this is only Emmet's second play with Curtain Theatre, it wouldn't feel like summer to him without it.

Jo Lusk (costume designer/band) is the costume room manager for the Masquers Playhouse where she has costumed somewhere around 40 shows and played in the pit for nearly that many. She's happy to be working again with Michele and the Curtain Theatre troupe where she previously costumed *Much Ado* and *The Tempest*. And she gets the bonus of playing in the band!

Nic Meredith (house manager). Returning after a period of good behavior is Front of House Manager, Nic Meredith, who brings unfettered enthusiasm and charm matched only by his lack of experience and unbridled ineptitude. Coming from England, he is a bit of a scallywag so count your change when buying snacks at the break.

Nic Moore, He/Him (Sebastian) is glad to be back in Old Mill Park performing with Curtain Theatre once again. After a year-long hiatus from in-person performing Shakespeare-in-the-Park is just what Nic Needed. Nic has performed with Curtain twice before in *Henry IV part One* (2018) and *The Miser* (2017).

Diane Pickell-Gore (stage manager) is happy to be returning for her 10th Season with the Curtain! (With a BA in Theatre Management from San Francisco State she's actually using her degree.) She can be found during the week managing the office at Bread and Roses, and "stage managing" services at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Corte Madera on Sunday mornings. Enjoy the show!

Tom Reilly (Priest) is delighted to be working with Curtain Theatre again! He has previously appeared in Curtain's productions of *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Miser*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Henry IV, Part 1*. Slainte!

Faryn Thomure (Olivia) is a graduate of C.T.E, Tam High's theatre program, and is currently working on her BFA in acting at CalArts. She is thrilled to perform in her first Curtain production and to be a part of such a welcoming, kind, and talented company.

Michael Walraven (Captain, set builder) has been active in Marin theaters for many years. At the Curtain Theatre he appeared as Verges in *Much Ado About Nothing* and a mobster merchant in *Comedy of Errors*. Michael also supervises set building in the park.

Grey Wolf (Malvolio). Despite retirement, I am so Grateful to and for the Goodness of Curtain, our ever warm Ensemble of Artists, our welcoming You, and the Magical Redwoods that Bless and succor our Communion along with Magic of Shakespeare, Moliere, and hopefully Chekov! May I answer the Call and Please You well.

————— MUSIC NOTE —————

Original and traditional folk music are hallmarks of every Curtain production, helping to establish the setting and underscore the personalities and moods of characters. We were inspired this time by the traditions of Eastern Canada--particularly Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland--where the descendants of Scottish and Irish immigrants still share the songs and dance tunes of their ancestral homelands.

Don Clark composed the opening song "Illyria" and Olivia's song, "Thorns Among the Roses," and melodies to "Mistress Mine," "Come Away Death" and "Farewell Dear Heart." Hal Hughes composed the incidental music, which the band also performs before the show, except the traditional jig "Haste to the Wedding." The melody to the "Wind and the Rain" finale may be at least as old as the play.


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