



SHAKESPEAR'S THELEFTH NIGHT

AUDITIONS

SEPT 6, 1-4PM / SEPT 7, 5-7 PM

Character descriptions

- **VIOLA (Female):** A young woman of aristocratic birth, and the play's protagonist. 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 (Male):** 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 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 spectacle of himself. His attraction to the ostensibly male Cesario injects sexual ambiguity into his character.
- **OLIVIA (Female):** A wealthy, beautiful, 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. Viola's arrival in the masculine guise of Cesario enables Olivia to break free of her self-indulgent melancholy.
- **SEBASTIAN (Male):** 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.
- **MALVOLIO* (Male):** The straitlaced steward in the household of Lady Olivia. Malvolio is very efficient but also very self-righteous, and has a poor opinion of drinking, singing, and fun. His haughty attitude earn him the ire 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* (Male/Female):** The clown, or fool, of Olivia's household, Feste moves between Olivia's and Orsino's homes, earning a living by making pointed jokes, singing old songs, being generally witty, and offering good advice cloaked under a layer of foolishness. Singing is required for this role



- **SIR TOBY BELCH*(Male):** 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. Sir Toby also earns the ire of Malvolio. Sir Toby has an ally in Olivia's waiting-gentlewoman, Maria. Together they bring about the triumph of chaotic spirit, and the ruin of the controlling, self-righteous Malvolio.
- **MARIA*(Female):** Olivia's clever, daring young waiting-gentlewoman. Maria is remarkably similar to her antagonist, Malvolio, who harbours aspirations of rising in the world through marriage. But Maria succeeds where Malvolio fails – perhaps because she is more in tune with the anarchic, topsy-turvy spirit that animates the play.
- **SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK*(Male):** 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 these things.
- **ANTONIO (Male):** 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 (Male):** A servant in Olivia's household.
- **SEA CAPTAIN(Male/Female):** A friend to Viola.
- **VALENTINE & CURIO (Male):** attendants to the Duke Orsino
- **PRIEST (Male/Female)**
- **ENSEMBLE(Male/Female):** includes Officers, Servants, Sailors, Musicians, Lords, Attendants

Notes

- Some actors may have to double (Or triple) up on roles
- * denotes roles that may have some minor cursing and innuendos
- Although the traditional genders are indicated above, we are very open to non-traditional casting. Actors of any gender should feel free to audition for any role they are comfortable with.