

LSBU Student Theatre Company Presents

William Shakespeare's

TWELFTH NIGHT

directed by **Vivienne Rochester**



EST 1892

LSBU

TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare

Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy, and romantic love is the play's main focus.

We see that love is coupled with pain, longing and even violence through following Viola's journey, who has been shipwrecked into the imaginary land of Illyria. (In this production Illyria is not imaginary but familiar).

She believes her brother Sebastian to have drowned, who in fact is rescued by a devoted friend Antonio. Viola goes to work for the Count Orsino, disguised as a boy. The Count, who is already in love with Olivia, accepts Viola as she presents herself and then sends Viola to woo Olivia on his behalf. Thus the love triangle is formed and complete.

The uncertainty, the ambiguity of gender plays an important role here too.

Who, what is a man?

Who, what is a woman ?

Can I love both, either?

Is it fluid?

Is dormant homoeroticism not only hidden but present ?

Questions arise throughout the play. What is real, imaginary, truth, lies ?

What is acceptable what is not?

All are seeking love and happiness, some find it, other's love remains the cause of suffering.

The feast of Twelfth Night, from which the play takes its name, was a time when social hierarchies were turned upside down.

That same spirit is alive in Illyria: The characters in Olivia's household, Sir Toby Belch, her uncle, Maria, her gentlewoman, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a knight, The Fool and Fabian all embrace this spirit. Malvolio is the only character, due to overweening ambition and his morose disposition, that refuses to embrace this, only wanting advancement for himself ; and as such becomes a target of disdain.

Twelfth Night is most definitely joyous but it also has its darker shades.

We present both the light and the dark for you to enjoy!

DIRECTOR

Vivienne Rochester Director

Vivienne Rochester is an Actor, Director, Teacher and a Trinity Drama School Examiner.

Highlights from her acting career include a season and a half at The Royal Shakespeare Company playing such roles as Rose in Edward Bond's *Restoration* and appearing in the West End in *Love in Idleness*, directed by Trevor Nunn. Her most recent acting credits include *Django* for Sky TV and *Doctors* for the BBC.

Her most recent directing credits include *The Story of John Archer* performed at Battersea Arts Centre and *Flip Fraser: The Black Hall of Fame* performed at Battersea Arts Centre and The Omnibus Theatre Clapham.

As well as holding the position of Head of Drama Dance and Speech at the City Lit for several years and founding and directing The City Lit Rep company, she's taught in a variety of schools from The Royal Ballet, Ballet Rambert and Drama Centre, directing one of their final showcases.

As an examiner, she regularly visits several accredited Drama schools.

THE CAST

Beth Ashe - (Viola)

Beth is from Solihull and has been acting all her life. Her passion was fuelled by her 9 years at Stagecoach, exploring acting, singing, and dance. She aspires to perform Shakespeare professionally after her time at East 15, performing as Miranda in *The Tempest*.



Callum Minas - (Orsino)

Callum started acting in his gap year and attended an influential acting class by The Actors Crib, which kicked off his passion. He then attended The Identity School of Acting and The Unseen Acting School before deciding to join LSBU. He has worked with friends who have started a production company, where he has appeared in a short film and an advert.



Caroline LeVans - (Sir Toby)

Caroline, from San Francisco, California, started acting at age 5 in a variety of local musicals. She developed a love of performing arts through years of dance and choir in one of the top school choirs in California. As well as university plays, she has worked on many short films such as *Los Ojos* (Dir. Alejandra Paz) and *Crit* (Dir. Isabel Lea). Currently working towards a career in screen acting and producing, she hopes to make her mom and sister proud and inspire young girls through film and storytelling as she was by her favorite director, Greta Gerwig.



THE CAST



Ellie Shearer - (Malvolio)

Ellie is a direct entry to LSBU this year after studying at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles, and most recently at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Glasgow. The Edinburgh native is excited to kickstart her acting career here in the heart of London.



Elliott Jones - (Fool)

Elliott comes from Somerset and dreams to one day perform on the West End. He is currently the President of Music Community at LSBU. His professional credits include *Shrek Adventure*, *Aladdin Pantomime Tour*, and *A Winters Trail/Satan's Slammer* (with Area 51). Elliott thanks all his friends and family for supporting him.



Elsie Gordon - (Fool)

Elsie comes from Barnstaple and would love to pursue a career in theatre. Her love of acting started after performing in her town's *Gang Show* at the age of 12. She then went on to study theatre, where she co-wrote a musical and won Exeter College's Best-Performing Arts Student of 2024.

THE CAST

Finlay Gutteridge - (Sir Andrew)

Finlay found a love for theatre at a young age when he played Tiny Tim in his school's production of *A Christmas Carol*. He later participated in the National Theatre's Connections program for 3 years running and played John in *The Long Road* for LSBU Acting and Performance.



Kamaya Nelson Clayton - (Fabian)

Kamaya is a dedicated performer. She started performing at the Bedales Oliver Theatre from the age of 11, appearing in plays such as *Bugzy Malone* as fizzy, *Ash Girl* as Ash girl, and *Hayfever*. Kamaya is excited to persure a career in both stage and screen.



Liliana Perstrelo - (Antonio/Curio)

Liliana, from Portugal, found her passion in the arts from a young age through her culture. Being in a production of *In The Heights* and having worked recently with Frantic Assembly, she hopes to hone her skills within university to work professionally in the theatre world.



THE CAST



Madeleine Spink - (Sir Toby)

Madeleine is from Southend on Sea and has performed for most of her life. She's worked extensively both onstage and behind the scenes with her local amateur group, the Southend Shakespeare Company, and her favourite role she's played so far has been Bunty Mainwaring in Noel Coward's *The Vortex*.



Oliva Kelly - (Sebastian)

Olivia commenced her training at Pulse Dance Academy, delving into dance and musical theatre from the age of 9. In sixth form, she appeared in productions such as *Legally Blonde*, *The Addams Family*, and *Grease*. She also toured six schools with her class-devised work, *Add Me on E-Safety*, advocating digital awareness.



Raeanne Ebanks-Hydes - (Captain/Servant/Guard/Preist)

Raeanne is a 19-year-old aspiring actress from the Cayman Islands. She recently performed as Mary in a recent school theatre production titled *The Memory of Water* by Shelagh Stephenson. Continuously evolving as an artist, Raeanne remains dedicated to delivering powerful, memorable performances both on screen and the stage.

THE CAST

Resharna Cummings - (Sir Andrew)

Resharna is an aspiring actress with a deep passion for the arts. She first discovered her love for acting during secondary school, where she initially chose the subject to help build her confidence. This experience sparked a deeper interest, motivating her to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.



Saf Malik - (Maria)

Saf is a Pakistani actress, passionate about inspiring other South Asians to pursue acting. She has performed in a variety of college productions, including Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Macbeth*, *The Addams Family Musical*, and *Rent*. She also enjoys costume making and wig styling as hobbies.



Thea Rubina - (Olivia)

T started acting in her primary school drama club, going on to study at East15 and now LSBU. Credits include *Trumpets and Raspberries* (Barons Court Theatre), *Ancient Apocalypse* (ZDF Mediathek), and *VOID* (CFS). Her favourite role to play was Her in *Yerma* by Simon Stone.



CREATIVE TEAM

Director

Vivienne Rochester

Producer

Alex Deacon

Associate Producer

Jade Hassan

Production Manager

Louise Anderson

Lighting

Ben Davis

Sound/AV

Alan Power

DSM

Connor Ings-Summers

Music Director

Elliott Jones

REHEARSALS





COURSE INFORMATION

BA Acting for Stage and Screen

BA Acting for Stage and Screen at LSBU offers acting and performance training in the heart of London's theatre quarter, combining the best of the conservatoire with an enriching University experience.

At LSBU we are confident that we offer a challenging, exciting and above all, transformative opportunity to study, learn and train with industry professionals. Uniquely, you will be taught by theatre directors, actors, performers and guest companies, who understand the demands on young people making their way in a competitive industry. Networking with the profession is built into the course and many of our former students are now successful practitioners and artists.

Located in the heart of London's cultural quarter, LSBU is the ideal place for you to study and grow as a creative actor and theatre maker with many of the world's greatest theatres within a fifteen-minute walk. You can take advantage of this proximity by attending professional workshops, gaining temporary employment and answering casting calls to the Drama department.

For more information, go to <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk>

Marketing Design
Alan Power

Headshots
Tom Chaplin