



CHARACTER & PLOT GUIDE

12TH NIGHT: A HOLIDAY MUSICAL

Portland's Favorite New Holiday Tradition

WHAT IS 12TH NIGHT?

Fenix has infused a professional production of Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* with over 25 holiday songs performed by local actors and a live band.

We make Shakespeare easy for all ages to understand with clear vocals and big physical comedy! Our 3rd annual *12TH NIGHT* is a festive, fun, beloved tradition for Portland families.

WHY A HOLIDAY SHOW?

"Twelfth Night" is a reference to the 12th night after Christmas Day, also called the Eve of the Feast of Epiphany. It was often celebrated with revelry and festive rituals. The pagan celebration of Yule is also 12 days, from Dec 21-Jan 6.

Shakespeare wrote six songs into *Twelfth Night*, the highest amount in all his plays except *As You Like It*. Artistic Director Peter Brown felt that filling the show with even more holiday and winter music was a natural fit!



Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 non-profit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier theatre in the Portland, ME community since 2008.





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in order of appearance

Scan here for
cast bios



FESTE

Played by AP Nuri (she/they)

Feste is a clever, witty fool who has been away from Illyria for several months. They used to work in Olivia's household before Olivia's father & brother died, and now Feste moves from house to house finding work fooling & singing where they can.



SEBASTIAN

Played by Bluee Brewster (they/them)

Sebastian gets shipwrecked and thinks his twin sister Viola drowned at sea. At the start of the show, Sebastian has been saved by and is in love with disgraced sea captain Antonio.



VIOLA aka CESARIO

Played by Sararose Willey (she/her)

Viola gets shipwrecked in Illyria and thinks her twin brother Sebastian drowned at sea. To stay safe in a strange land, she disguises herself as a man, CESARIO, and goes to work for Duke Orsino. Viola is witty, outspoken, and big-hearted.



CAPTAIN / VALENTINE / OFFICER

Played by Shannon Oliver (she/her) - also band member

The Captain rescues Viola from the shipwreck. Valentine works for Orsino as a messenger (in our production is also a woman in disguise as a man). The Officer is law enforcement in Illyria.



DUKE ORSINO

Played by John Logan (he/him)

Orsino is the Duke of Illyria. He is in love with Countess Olivia, but is really more in love with being in love. He sends messengers, including "Cesario", to woo Olivia on his behalf.



COUNTRESS OLIVIA

Played by Katelyn Manfre (she/her)

Olivia is Illyrian nobility. Her father and brother recently died, and she is in mourning for them. She manages the chaos of her household along with her steward Malvolio. She is smart, capable, and strong-willed.



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SIR TOBY BELCH

Played by Josh Brassard (he/him)

Sir Toby is Olivia's drunken uncle. He is in love with Maria. He's always up for a good time, and keeps Sir Andrew around for his money under the false guise that Olivia is interested in Sir Andrew as a suitor.



MARIA

Played by Molly Bryant Roberts (she/her)

Maria is Olivia's lady-in-waiting. She is in love with Sir Toby. Clever and playful, Maria comes up with the idea to write a fake love letter from Olivia to trick Malvolio.



SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK

Played by Paul Fidalgo (he/him) - also band member

Sir Andrew is a wealthy gentleman who befriends Sir Toby. He wants to be liked, and is also interested in wooing Olivia. He's not the brightest crayon in the box.



PRIEST / CURIO

Played by Brendan Daly (he/him) - also band member

The priest is at Olivia's beck and call for whatever religious services she may need; from mourning to wedding ceremonies. Curio is a member of the band and works in Orsino's household.



MALVOLIO

Played by Megan Cross (she/her)

Malvolio is the authoritarian steward to Olivia. She hates disorder and rowdiness. She secretly harbors love for Olivia and always seeks to advance her station.



ANTONIO

Played by Kyle Aarons (he/him) - also band member

Antonio is a disgraced sea captain who saves Sebastian from the shipwreck and falls in love with him. He has a history with Orsino and is in danger by being in Illyria.

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THE BEGINNING

Viola and her twin brother Sebastian have been shipwrecked and arrive in the winter wonderland of Illyria. Each thinks the other has drowned. Saved by a friendly sea captain, Viola disguises herself as a man using the name "Cesario" and starts working for Duke Orsino.



THE LOVERS

Duke Orsino is lovesick for Countess Olivia (but let's be real, is more in love with the idea of being in love). Olivia is in mourning for her father and brother who have both recently died, and has sworn off men for 7 years. Orsino sends Viola (as Cesario) as a messenger to woo Olivia on his behalf. Olivia quickly falls for Viola/Cesario.

A love triangle emerges: Viola falls in love with Orsino, Orsino catches (confusing) feelings for "Cesario", and Olivia loves "Cesario."



TRICKING MALVOLIO

Olivia's authoritarian steward, Malvolio, disapproves of all the other members of Olivia's household. Malvolio likes order and quiet, and hates the drunken revelry of Olivia's uncle Sir Toby Blech, his wealthy sidekick Sir Andrew Aguecheek, clever lady in waiting Maria, fool Feste, and the rowdy 12th Night band.

Fed up with Malvolio being a grinch, they decide to play a joke on her. Maria forges a letter to Malvolio suggesting that Olivia loves her and that she should wear yellow stockings and smile all the time. When she does, Olivia thinks she has gone mad.



SWORDPLAY

Sir Andrew is trying (unsuccessfully) to woo Olivia. When he sees Viola/Cesario doing such a good job of it, he issues a challenge to Cesario. Neither one of them really wants to fight but they attempt to anyway.



SEBASTIAN'S ALIVE!

Sebastian has been rescued by disgraced sea captain Antonio, and they love each other. Antonio is in danger by being in Illyria. People start to confuse Sebastian for Viola/Cesario. Antonio is arrested when he mistakenly saves Viola in a swordfight thinking she is Sebastian.



CONFUSION & RESOLUTION

Lots of confusion ensues around the mistaken identity of Sebastian and Viola/Cesario. Couples are formed, truths emerge, and the jokesters take it too far with Malvolio.



THE END

Will it all work out with everyone forgiven in the holiday spirit? Or will Malvolio be revenged on the whole pack of them?



FAMOUS QUOTES

12TH NIGHT: A HOLIDAY MUSICAL

"If **MUSIC** be the **FOOD OF LOVE**, play on!"

—ORSINO, ACT 1 SCENE 1

"My stars **SHINE DARKLY** over me."

—SEBASTIAN, ACT 2 SCENE 1

"Dost thou think,
because thou art
VIRTUOUS,
there shall be no more
CAKES AND ALE?"

—SIR TOBY, ACT 2 SCENE 3

"What great ones **DO**,
the less will **PRATTLE** of."

—CAPTAIN, ACT 1 SCENE 2

"I have **UNCLASPED** to
thee the **BOOK** even of
my **SECRET SOUL**."

—ORSINO, ACT 1 SCENE 4

"Better a **WITTY FOOL**
than a **FOOLISH WIT**."

—FESTE, ACT 1 SCENE 5

"O **TIME**, thou must
UNTANGLE this, not I.
It is too hard a **KNOT** for
me to **UNTIE**."

—VIOLA, ACT 2 SCENE 2

"Be not afraid of
GREATNESS. Some are
BORN GREAT, some
ACHIEVE GREATNESS,
and some have
**GREATNESS THRUST
UPON THEM**."

—MALVOLIO, ACT 2 SCENE 5