

SHAKESPEARE'S



Twelfth Night

Education Mini-Pack

12 NOVEMBER 2018 – 5 JANUARY 2019

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

About the Play

Twelfth Night is a tale of unrequited love – hilarious and heartbreaking. Twins are separated in a shipwreck and forced to fend for themselves in a strange land. The first twin, Viola, falls in love with Orsino, who dotes on Olivia, who falls for Viola but is idolised by Malvolio. Enter Sebastian, who is the spitting image of his twin sister. Where music is the food of love, and nobody is quite what they seem, anything is possible!

About the Playwright

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English poet and playwright, and is widely considered to be the greatest writer in the English language. He wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets. During his lifetime, Shakespeare was not without controversy, but he also received lavish praise for his plays, which were very popular and commercially successful. Many of his plays were dramatised versions of historical accounts, and hundreds of words he invented have made their way into the English language. Some of his most popular plays include *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *Othello*.

Cast

Sebastian/Musician Caleb Alloway
A Sea Captain/Musician/Ensemble Roderick Cairns
Maria Tamsin Carroll
Malvolio Russell Dykstra
Viola Esther Hannaford
Antonio/Valentine/Musician Anthony Harkin
Feste Colin Hay
Sir Toby Belch Richard Piper
Curio/Musician/Ensemble Alec Steedman
Olivia Christie Whelan Browne
Sir Andrew Aguecheek Frank Woodley
Orsino Lachlan Woods

Creative Team

Director Simon Phillips
Set & Costume Designer Gabriela Tylesova
Lighting Designer Nick Schlieper
Composers Kate Miller-Heidke and Keir Nuttall
Musical Director & Additional Composition Ian McDonald
Voice & Text Coach Leith McPherson
Associate Lighting Designer Chris Twyman
Assistant Costume Designer Sophie Woodward
Choreographer Andrew Hallsworth
Fight Choreographer Nigel Poulton
Swordplay Consultant Gindi Wauchope
System Designer Terry McKibbin
Stage Manager Whitney McNamara
Deputy Stage Manager Julia Smith
Assistant Stage Manager Jess Maguire
Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager Benjamin Cooper
Stage Management Secondment Sarah Strong
Rehearsal Photographer Deryk McAlpin
Production Photographer Jeff Busby

Genre

Shakespearean comedy

Running Time

Approx. 2hrs 40min including interval

Attendance Information

Contains mild violence, mild sexual references, partial nudity, strobe and haze effects. For detailed information, please visit www.mtc.com.au/production-content-guide



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

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Before the show



Meet the players at mtc.com.au to see a family tree of all the characters and their relation to one another. Make predictions about what might transpire between characters.



Watch cast member Frank Woodley explain the plot of *Twelfth Night*, props and all, at [facebook.com/MelbourneTheatreCompany](https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneTheatreCompany). Create your own series of tableaux that convey the story.



See the rehearsal gallery at mtc.com.au/backstage and make predictions about what is happening in each scene being rehearsed.



Analyse Orsino's opening monologue, with the famous phrase 'If music be the food of love, play on'. How would you stage this scene, and what kind of music would you use? Try different genres of music and see how it affects the scene.

Post-show Activities



Discuss the jester Feste's line, 'Nothing that is so, is so'. What does he mean by this? Re-read this scene for context, and try to recreate the scene from your memory of the production.

Look at the list of people in the Creative Team overleaf. Choose three jobs to research more about, such as swordplay consultant.

Research the significance of this play's title, and make connections between moments in the play. Did you know it also has an alternative title, 'What you will'? Which title is better?

Discuss how the play is written and directed so that the audience is let in on the joke, and can enjoy the comedy that comes from mistaken identities and deception. When did characters speak to the audience in an aside? How were soliloquies (a character speaking their thoughts aloud) used?



See the gallery of production photos at mtc.com.au/backstage. Annotate each image with details you recall from the play, such as notes about mood, contrast, sound and space.



In small groups, perform your own interpretation of the scene where Malvolio discovers the fake letter that instructs him to wear yellow stockings for Olivia, as Sir Toby Belch and others spy on him. Think about how you can direct the scene so that the audience sees things Malvolio cannot.

Download the show programme at mtc.com.au/backstage to see some of Gabriela Tylesova's costume designs. Choose one character and create a mood board to demonstrate your own costume design concept. Annotate your mood board to explain your creative choices regarding colour, fabric, accessories etc.

Research poster designs for productions of *Twelfth Night* throughout history and around the world. Identify similarities and differences with the MTC poster. Do you notice common themes? Create your own poster design, and write a rationale explaining your concept.

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukitj Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand, and we pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.



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MTC Education

MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne



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