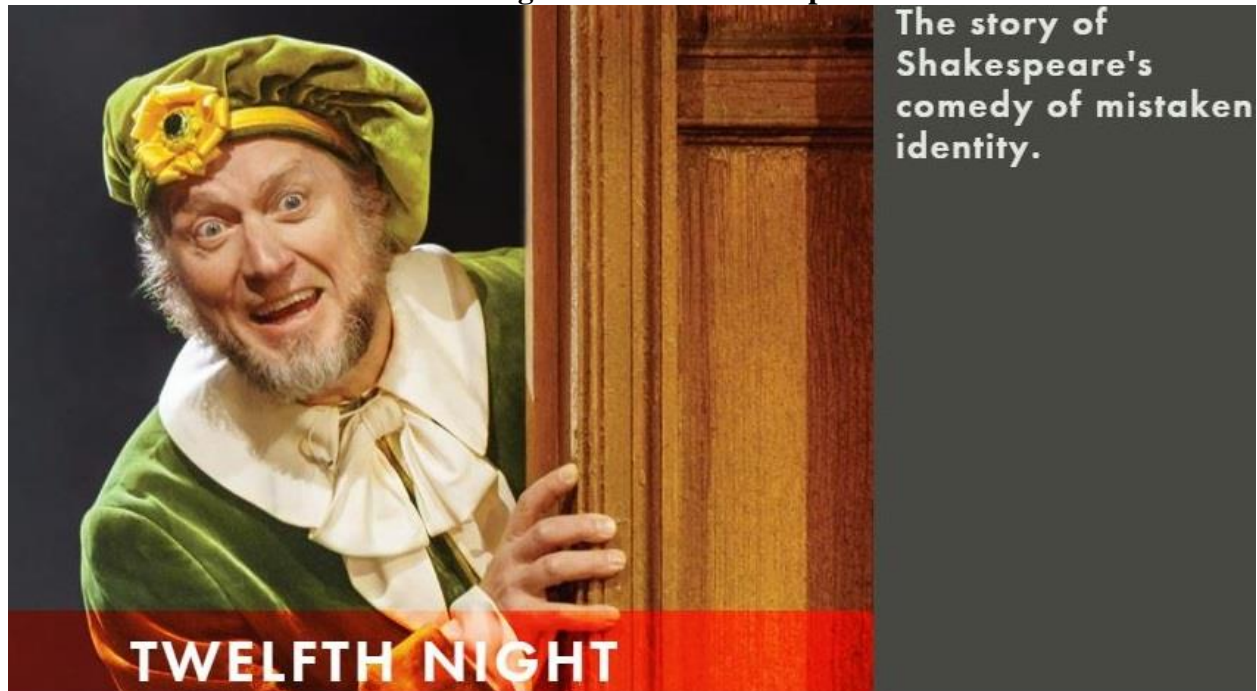


Twelfth Night – William Shakespeare



**'I am all the daughters of my father's house,
And all the brothers too.'** (Viola)

Overview of 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

SYNOPSIS

Viola, separated from her twin Sebastian, dresses as a boy and works for the Duke Orsino, whom she falls in love with. Orsino is in love with the Countess Olivia, and sends Viola to court her for him, but Olivia falls for Viola instead. Sebastian arrives, causing a flood of mistaken identity, and marries Olivia. Viola then reveals she is a girl and marries Orsino.

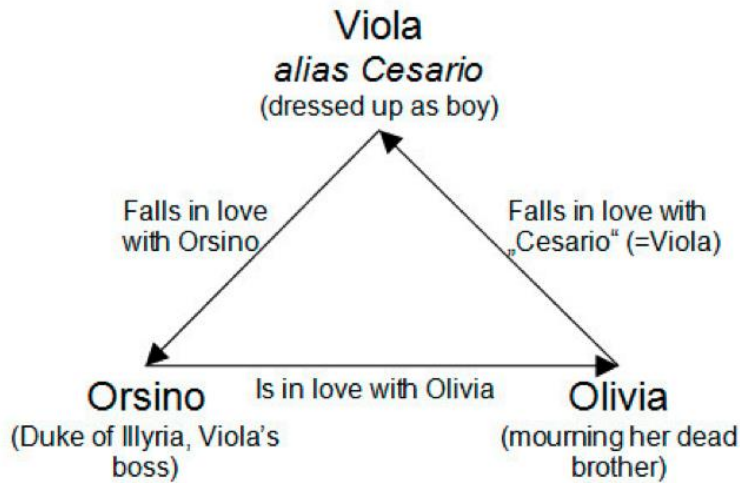
Viola and her twin brother Sebastian have been shipwrecked; each believes the other to be drowned. Viola disguises herself as a young man and, under the name of Cesario, gets a job as a servant for the Duke, Orsino.

A LOVE TRIANGLE

Orsino is in love with Olivia, but she's mourning for her dead brother, so has rejected all his advances so far. He sends Cesario (who is really Viola) with love letters to woo Olivia on his behalf. Unfortunately for the Duke, Olivia is taken in by Cesario's disguise and falls in love with him.

Viola has secretly fallen in love with Orsino, and Orsino is confused by his feelings for his new 'male' servant. So, Viola loves Orsino, Orsino loves Olivia and Olivia loves Cesario/Viola.

Love triangle in Twelfth Night or What you will



TRICKING MALVOLIO

Olivia's butler, Malvolio (puritan), disapproves of all the other members of her household – her drunken uncle Sir Toby Belch, his friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek and her servants, Maria, Feste and Fabia. Fed up with Malvolio constantly spoiling their fun, they decide to play a practical joke on him.

Malvolio is secretly in love with Olivia, and the others trick him into believing that these feelings are returned. Maria forges a letter to Malvolio, supposedly from Olivia, suggesting that she loves him and he should wear yellow stockings and smile all the time. Malvolio does as the letter suggests, and Olivia thinks he has gone mad, so has him locked up.

SEBASTIAN RETURNS

Viola's brother, Sebastian, who believes his sister is dead, arrives with his friend and protector, Antonio, who rescued him from the shipwreck.

Sebastian meets Olivia. She mistakes him for Cesario and asks him to marry her, he agrees.

CONFUSION, COUPLING AND A HAPPY ENDING

Lots of confusion follows around the mistaken identity of Sebastian and Cesario, and exactly who is promised to whom. Eventually all is revealed, the brother and sister are reunited and the love triangle is resolved into two couples, Sebastian and Olivia, and Viola and Orsino.

Finally, Viola discovers the trick that has been played on Malvolio, and he's released from confinement.

Act I

Orsino, Duke of Illyria, is despairing that he is spurned by the Countess Olivia. She has forsworn men's company for seven years while she mourns the death of her brother and rebuffs all his advances. Nearby, a group of sailors arrive on shore with a young girl, Viola, whom they have rescued from a storm at sea. Viola laments the loss of her twin brother, Sebastian, in the shipwreck. She resolves to fend for herself by dressing as a boy to get work as a page to Duke Orsino. **“If music be the food of love, play on” (ACT 1 SCENE 1)**

Despite his former rejection, Orsino sends his new page Cesario (Viola in disguise) to court Olivia for him. Cesario/Viola fell in love at first sight with her master Orsino, so she goes

to court Olivia unwillingly. To make matters more complicated, Olivia continues to reject Orsino but is attracted to Cesario. She sends her proud steward, Malvolio, after him with a ring. Thus, a genuine love triangle arises between Olivia, Viola/Cesario, and Orsino.

Act II

Meanwhile, members of Olivia's household plot to expose the self-love and aspirations of the steward, Malvolio. These include Olivia's uncle, Sir Toby Belch, her servant, Maria, and Sir Toby's friend, Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Sir Andrew also happens to be seeking the hand of Olivia. Together, they use a letter to trick Malvolio into believing Olivia loves him. The letter demands that Malvolio appear in yellow stockings, cross-gartered, and smiling to show his love for Olivia. After he does so, the Countess is horrified and has Malvolio shut up in the dark as a madman. Meanwhile, Viola's twin brother, Sebastian, has also survived the shipwreck. He comes to Illyria with his sea-captain friend, Antonio, who is a wanted man for former piracy against Orsino.

“Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em”
(ACT 2 SCENE 5)

Act III

Sir Andrew's affections for Olivia lead him to be jealous of Cesario, and he decides to declare a duel between them. Thanks to a prank by Sir Toby, both Andrew and Cesario believe that their opponents intend to fight to the death. They both shirk the fight. However, the sea-captain Antonio passes by and mistakes Cesario for Sebastian, and intervenes to defend his friend. He is recognized by Orsino's men and arrested. Later, Sebastian comes along and is challenged by Sir Andrew, who thinks he is Cesario. Sebastian, trained in combat, wins the fight. But Olivia intervenes and invites Sebastian into the house, also thinking him to be Cesario (this is clearly a common mistake). Olivia and Sebastian are married that night.

Act IV

Malvolio, held in the dungeon for being a madman, is psychologically tortured by Maria, Sir Toby, and Feste, the court fool. Feste dresses up as a priest to convince Malvolio that he is, in fact, mad. After realising that they might get into trouble for treating Malvolio this way, they allow him a pen and paper to be able to write a letter to Olivia.

Act V

Antonio is brought to talk with Orsino, and upon seeing Cesario, he accuses him of betrayal. Just then, the real Sebastian arrives to apologise for fighting Sir Toby. The twins see each other and discover that they are both alive. Orsino's fool, Feste, brings a letter from Malvolio, and on his release, Maria's letter is revealed to be fraudulent. Malvolio departs promising revenge. Maria and Sir Toby have already married in celebration of the success of their plot against the steward.

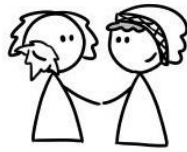
The play ends as Orsino approves the union between Olivia and Sebastian. Realising his own attraction to 'Cesario', Orsino promises that once Viola is dressed as a woman again, they will be married as well.

“Journey's end in lovers meeting” (ACT 2 SCENE 3)

MARRIED = 3



SEBASTIAN & OLIVIA
(Act 4, Scene 3)



SIR TOBY & MARIA
(Act 5, Scene 1)



ORSINO & VIOLA
(Act 5, Scene 1)



Shakespeare Memorial Theatre – 1958



Royal Shakespearean Theatre – 1974





Acts and scenes of the play:

Twelfth Night: Act 1, Scene 1

Illyria. A room in Duke Orsino's palace.

(Duke of Illyria; Curio; Lords; Musicians; Valentine)

Twelfth Night: Act 1, Scene 2 The sea coast.

(Viola; Captain; Sailors) **Twelfth Night: Act 1, Scene 3** A room in Olivia's house.

(Sir Toby Belch; Maria; Sir Andrew Aguecheek)

Twelfth Night: Act 1, Scene 4 A room in Duke Orsino's palace.

(Valentine; Viola; Duke; Curio; Attendants)

Twelfth Night: Act 1, Scene 5 A room in Olivia's house.

(Maria; Clown Feste; Lady Olivia; Malvolio; Attendants; Sir Toby; Viola)

Twelfth Night: Act 2, Scene 1 The sea coast.

(Antonio; Sebastian)

Twelfth Night: Act 2, Scene 2 Illyria. A street. (Viola; Malvolio)

Twelfth Night: Act 2, Scene 3 A room in Olivia's house.

(Sir Toby; Sir Andrew; Clown; Maria; Malvolio)

Twelfth Night: Act 2, Scene 4 A room in Duke Orsino's palace.

(Duke; Viola; Curio; Clown; Attendants)

Twelfth Night: Act 2, Scene 5 Olivia's garden.

(Sir Toby; Sir Andrew; Fabian; Maria; Malvolio)

Twelfth Night: Act 3, Scene 1 Olivia's garden.

(Viola; Clown; Sir Toby; Andrew; Olivia; Gentlewoman)

Twelfth Night: Act 3, Scene 2 A room in Olivia's house.

(Sir Toby; Sir Andrew; Fabian; Maria)

Twelfth Night: Act 3, Scene 3 Illyria. A street.

(Sebastian; Antonio)

Twelfth Night: Act 3, Scene 4 Olivia's garden.

(Olivia; Maria; Malvolio; Servant; Toby; Fabian; Sir Andrew; Viola; Antonio; First Officer; Second Officer)

Twelfth Night: Act 4, Scene 1

Illyria, A street adjoining Olivia's house.

(Sebastian; Clown; Andrew; Toby; Fabian; Olivia)

Twelfth Night: Act 4, Scene 2

A room in Olivia's house. (Maria; Clown; Toby; Malvolio)

Twelfth Night: Act 4, Scene 3 Olivia's garden. (Sebastian; Olivia; Priest)

Twelfth Night: Act 5, Scene 1 A street before Olivia's house.

(Clown; Fabian; Duke; Viola; Curio; Lords; Antonio; First Officer; Second Officer; Olivia; Attendants; Priest; Sir Andrew; Sir Toby; Malvolio)

PLOT

Viola and her twin brother Sebastian have been shipwrecked off the coast of Illyria. Each believes that the other has been drowned. Viola disguises herself as a boy and, under the name of Cesario, enters the service of the duke Orsino. The duke sends Cesario to woo the lady Olivia on his behalf, but Olivia falls in love with the lovely 'boy'. Viola/Cesario, meanwhile, has fallen in love with Orsino.

VIOLA

In *Twelfth Night*, we can see that Viola is resourceful/strong/independent/able to adapt to varying circumstances. An aristocratic woman, she is tossed up on the coast of Illyria by a shipwreck at the beginning of the play and disguises herself as the pageboy, Cesario, to make her way. Throughout the play, Viola exhibits strength of character, quick wit, and resourcefulness.

THEMES

- ♦ The Danger of Love
- ♦ Love and the Self
- ♦ Mistaken Gender Identity
- ♦ Identity

