

TWELFTH NIGHT

COMPANY

Olivia, an Illyrian countess - GIA BONELLO
Maria, her waiting-gentlewoman - EMMA CLAIRE GIBSON
Sir Toby Belch, Olivia's kinsman - REUBEN BARSKY
Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Sir Toby's companion - SAMUEL T. CINI*
Malvolio, steward in Olivia's household - KATRIN NUGENT
Feste (Fool) / and others - CLARICE REINER
Orsino, duke (or count) of Illyria - GIORGIO PANETTA
Viola / Cesario - ESTHER MCGREGOR
Sebastian, Viola's brother - RIVER KNIGHT*
Antonio, friend to Sebastian - MERLIN MCCORMICK*
Musician / Officer - MORGAN FANNING

*Equity Member appearing with permission of Actors' Equity Association without benefit of an Equity contract in this Off-Off Broadway production.

Produced by [GENERAL PRODUCTION STUDIOS](#).

General Production Studios was created by Trevor Clarkson and Bradley D. Sheen in 2024. A production company that puts devised drama at the center of filmmaking and theater.

Director: MATTHEW ZIMMERMAN
Assistant Director / Producer: TREVOR CLARKSON
Stage Management / Producer: KIERNEY McALLISTER
Producer: GIA BONELLO
Costumes: MADELINE ROSTMEYER
Music Direction / Composition: MORGAN FANNING
Teaching Artist: HANNAH STEPHENS
Production Photography: SHAWN A. GUERRA, MATT STREET

Reuben Barsky (he/him) is an actor, writer, musician, and jeweler. When not running around the street, Reuben can be found at The Actors Studio, where he is a member of the Playwrights/Directors Workshop; ripping cigs with friends in front of theaters, going to diners, and at the gym. He has four unreleased records and two feral cats. His feature film, *The Life of Peter Gottlieb*, is available on Tubi & Apple TV.

Gia Bonello (she/her) is an actor who writes when inspiration strikes her, directs because she's very opinionated, and produces only when she "has to" (which is, rather frequently). Recent credits include: *Cimino's Defeat*, *Ile/The Stronger* (Adult Film), *Hotel Nepenthe*, *The Dreamer Examines His Pillow*, *Manuscript*. BFA: NYU Tisch.

Samuel T. Cini* (he/him) is an actor, director, and producer based in Brooklyn, NY. He has performed in and directed various plays, readings, workshops, and classes across New York City

that were a lot of fun but are now over. He extends his gratitude to everyone who has come out to support this show and hopes they think about it for a while.

Morgan Fanning (she/her) is an actor and musician based in NYC. NYC: *Dog Sees God* (BKOne Productions). Select Regional Credits: *One Man Two Guvnors* (Good Theatre), *Pericles* (7 Stages Shakespeare), *Hair*, *Bat Boy*, *Rocky Horror* (Seacoast Repertory Theatre). Film: *Below Average*. Luther College BA Theatre and Music. @morganfannmail

Emma Claire Gibson (she/her) Brooklyn-based actor and Western Massachusetts native. NYC: *It's a Free Country* (SheNYC), *Board of Ed* (wild project). Regional: Miss Julie (Katonah Classic Stage), *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare in the Woods). She loves new plays, old plays, knitting, and playing dress-up for a living. Smith College BA, Brooklyn College MFA in Acting. More at emmaclairegibson.com.

River Knight* (they/them) is an actor, writer, and director. Recent theatrical highlights include Saylor (*Queer Bait*, New York Theater Festival), Jasper (*Witches*, ALAB), Richard (*In Our Profession*, Adult Film), and Chris (*Gray Whale*, Twenty Something Productions). Recent film credits include: *The Ghost at Skeleton Rock* (dir. Bobby Abate), *Winners and Losers* (dir. Cece Wheeler), and *Sotto Voce* (dir. David Stillman Meyer), which recently premiered at Soho International Film Festival, where it won Best Ensemble Performance. They're incredibly grateful to the team, William Shakespeare, and the L train.

Esther McGregor is an actor who mostly works in film and TV, but found her passion through theater. She can be seen alongside Nicole Kidman and Antonio Banderas in Halina Reijn's film *Babygirl* for A24. She can also be seen in the TV show *We Were Liars* for Amazon. In 2025, she wrapped three upcoming independent films: *Clean Hands*, leading opposite Zach Braff; *Becoming Capa*, leading alongside Mark Eydelshteyn; and *A Place in Hell*, opposite Michelle Williams and Daisy Edgar-Jones.

Merlin McCormick* (he/him) is a performer and screenwriter originally from Raleigh, North Carolina. His favorite credits include: Young Martius at TFANA (Off-Broadway), Viola in *Twelfth Night* (National Black Theatre Festival), Millie in *Trouble in Mind* (Clarence Brown Theatre), and Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare and Company). Training: MFA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Katrin Nugent (they/them) is an actor, writer, and comedian living in Brooklyn, NY: *Good to You* (Adult Film); Film & Television: *The Trouble with Tessa* (Screambox), *Bleu* (dir: Haiba Khan), *I Hate Birthdays!* (dir: Haiba Khan), Comedy: *Soy Pony Sketch Show* (Union Hall); BFA, Pace University.

Giorgio Panetta (he/him) is an actor, writer & producer based in Brooklyn. He has most recently appeared in Season 1 of *CIA*, *The Equalizer*, *Law & Order*, *The Godfather of Harlem*, *POSE*, and others. He co-wrote and co-starred in *The Life of Peter Gottlieb*, available on streaming & VOD. Upcoming: *East Of The River* w/ Ben Ahlers. Love to Val & Rocco. Graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Art.

Clarice Reiner (she/her) is an actor, writer, and producer. She is Colorado-born and Brooklyn-based. Theatre: *Operation Destroy Beff Jezos* (Ozone Theatrics), *Theatre Sequence Initiated* (Soft Brain Theatre Company), *Good Water* (Kitchen Sink Theatre Company), *The Seagull* (BU), *Hamlet* (BU), *Shakespeare in Love* (BU). Film: *Faux Amis* (U Can Smell it Films), *Franz* (Reflekt Films), *Mother's Best* (dir. Kozel), *The Product* (dir. Greenberg). She is the co-founder of Farmhands Productions and frequently performs her original comedy musicals around NYC. BFA: Boston University.

Trevor Clarkson (Producer) (he/him) is a self-taught actor and filmmaker whose work spans numerous short films and stages in New York City. Without formal education or institutional backing, he has produced most projects he's worked on from the ground up.

Kierney McAllister (Producer/Stage Manager) is an actor, writer & musician. She is a classically trained actor and opera singer, with accolades from The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and credits from coast to coast.

Madeline Rostmeyer (Costume Designer) is an actress, designer, and producer. Her recent design work includes: *Richard III* (Atlas Shakespeare), *The Cherry Orchard* (Adult Film), *The Path* (Experimental Theatre Wing), and *The King's Men* (Twenty Somethings). They are a founding member of Twenty Somethings Productions (@twentysomethingsnyc) and a graduate of NYU Tisch where they studied at the Atlantic Acting School.

Hannah Stephens (Teaching Artist) is a facilitator and director who has worked in arts education for the last decade! She is currently the Education Programs Manager at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, NJ, where she oversees all in-school and community-based programming. She holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Montevallo and an MA in Applied Theatre from the City University of New York. She has created immersive, educational theatre experiences for John Jay College, DOROT Manhattan, NYC Civic Engagement Commission, Hope's Door Domestic Violence Agency and the CAT Youth Theatre.

Matthew Zimmerman (Director) (he/him) is a theater artist and educator. NYC: *EXTRAORDINARY ALIENS!* (JACK), *The Cherry Orchard* and *Cimino's Defeat* (Adult Film), *Face Value* (DUAF), *Arms and The Man* (Gingold Theatrical Group). Regional: Shadowland Stages, Alabama Shakespeare Festival (Acting Fellowship). He dedicates this production to the memories of John Basil and Fred Franklin, two Shakespeareans who inspired a love for the Bard and instilled a belief that theater like this should be accessible to all. MFA Brooklyn College, BFA Marymount Manhattan College.

SPECIAL THANKS

Duryea Presbyterian Church and the Board of Elders, who considered this project and welcomed us into the space; Lemuel Worrell; Merron Walters; AJ Molder; Seamus Geraty; CUNY Brooklyn College for free studio space; Gabrielle Bonello / Brooklyn Studio Secondary School; our FOH volunteers; over 70 generous donors who helped fund this production.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Twelfth Night, one of William Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, was probably written between 1601-1602. Its plot and themes reflect the raucous celebrations and music that marked the end of Christmastide, the traditional "Christmas Season" in the Christian liturgical calendar.

Riotously funny, *Twelfth Night* nevertheless begins, as most of Shakespeare's comedies do, with some of life's hard turns. Thus, the music and merriment that follow become a healing balm to the characters, and in turn, us.

These plays are gems of our collective culture, and I have always connected them to service. My Shakespearean days began on the lawn at Historic Kenmore in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where every summer folks turned out to sit on the grass and enjoy free productions put on by a ragtag bunch of school teachers, college theater students, and the occasional lost high schooler (like me) who wandered in.

Our greatest Shakespearians are those who work tirelessly, year after year, to bring the Bard's plays to American communities for free. In their hands, libraries, public parks, school gyms – and church basements! – become a site of the particular magic that makes these plays resonate across 400 years.

I am proud to contribute here to that great tradition, which thrives in our city, and immensely grateful to the cast, creative and producing team, and all our partners who championed this vision.

We hope to see you again!

TWELFTH NIGHT SUMMARY – adapted from PLAY SHAKESPEARE

Duke Orsino of Illyria is in love with Olivia, but his advances are rejected. A shipwrecked Viola arrives on his shores, and with the help of a Captain, disguises herself as a boy, calling herself Cesario, and enters Orsino's service. Orsino takes to Cesario, and sends 'him' to woo Olivia for him. Viola, however, is already falling in love with Orsino. Olivia, in turn, falls in love with Viola's male persona, Cesario.

Meanwhile, Viola's twin brother Sebastian, also a casualty of the shipwreck, arrives in Illyria with the help of his close friend Antonio, a sea-captain and former enemy of Orsino.

Staying with Olivia is her uncle Sir Toby, who is encouraging Sir Andrew, his drinking-companion and source of funds, to woo Olivia. While carousing with Olivia's fool Feste late one night, they quarrel with Malvolio, a steward in Olivia's house,, and with the help of Olivia's maid Maria, they play a trick on him. Maria writes a letter to Malvolio, forging Olivia's handwriting, to make Malvolio think Olivia loves him. The letter asks Malvolio to dress and behave in eccentric ways, and Malvolio falls for their plot.

Meanwhile, Andrew prepares to leave the house, having seen Cesario apparently being more successful with Olivia, but Toby persuades him to stay, and to challenge Cesario to a duel. Sir Toby separately informs Andrew and Cesario that the other is a ferocious fighter, and they approach each other with trepidation. They are about to fight when Antonio arrives, intending to defend Cesario, whom he has mistaken for Sebastian. Antonio is arrested by officers who recognize him as Orsino's enemy. He asks for his purse from Cesario, who denies knowledge of it.

Andrew and Toby meet Sebastian, mistaking him for his twin Viola/Cesario. As they begin another fight, Olivia arrives and puts a stop to it. Sebastian is immediately taken with Olivia. Thinking him to be his twin Cesario, Olivia is delighted that he has finally responded to her affections, and they go off to be married.

Orsino is told by Cesario of his enemy Antonio's arrival, but when Antonio is brought before Orsino, he mistakes Cesario for twin Sebastian, his dear friend, and asserts that he has been with Cesario for some time.

Olivia arrives, and again rejects Orsino's advances. As Orsino and Cesario prepare to leave, Olivia insists on Cesario staying, and calls him her husband. When Cesario denies it, she presents the priest as confirmation. Orsino is enraged, thinking Cesario has betrayed him. Toby and Andrew pass by, having just been severely beaten by Sebastian. Sebastian then arrives, and the twins delightedly recognize each other. Everyone is amazed, Viola's true identity is revealed, and she and Orsino decide to be married.

Feste delivers Malvolio's letter to Olivia, and he is brought from his cell. Maria/Fabian reveals the nature of the trick played upon him, and Malvolio leaves, vowing revenge on them all. They all prepare for celebration, leaving Feste to bid the audience farewell.