

# Twelfth Night

*A musical adaptation  
of the play by William Shakespeare*

*Book Adapted by Tom Large  
Music by Stephen Murray  
Lyrics by Stephen Murray and Tom Large*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

"If music be the food of love, play on!" In this modern-day adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved comedy, the sounds of disco, swing, gospel, Latin and hip-hop music propel an outrageous assortment of characters into each others arms.

The inhabitants of the Caribbean island of Illyria are celebrating a wedding. Aided by a dynamic trio of back-up singers, the resort's effervescent recreation director, Feste, welcomes us to the festivities and relates the recent events that led up to the nuptials.

Just a few days earlier, a terrible shipwreck stranded a young woman named Viola on the beaches of Illyria. The heartbroken Viola cannot find her twin brother, Sebastian, among the survivors. Desperate to support herself as she searches for her lost twin, Viola disguises herself as a man named "Cesario" in order to secure a position with a local nobleman, Duke Orsino.

The lovesick Duke sends Cesario on a mission to win the love of the Countess Olivia on his behalf. The disguised messenger Viola finds that the estate of the Countess is a tropical madhouse crammed with eccentric characters including Olivia's dramatic aunt, Tamara Belch, a wildly flamboyant former grande dame of the stage; Sir Anthony Aguecheek, a gullible and vaguely European nobleman who desires to marry the Countess; the preening egotist Malvolio, who manages her late brother's business affairs and dreams of wedding Olivia for his own social advancement; and Maria, a frazzled and crafty housekeeper with a talent for revenge. In the midst of this wild household, Viola's passionate messages of love are unexpectedly successful -- the mournful Countess Olivia falls hopelessly in love with him! Her? No, him. (But really her.)

Did we mention the bumbling pirates who rescue Viola's twin, Sebastian, from the sea; the extreme hip-hop makeover the servant girls perform on Malvolio; and the "exorcism" conducted by the dancing "holy women"?

Like the holiday from which it takes its name, this musical is an exuberant feast bursting with high-jinks, masquerades, and revelry!

#### **Note**

*Twelfth Night, or the Feast of the Epiphany, is observed on the sixth of January, twelve days after Christmas. Filled with rejoicing and holiday high-jinks, it is seen as bringing the holiday season to a close. Most of the action of the play is a flashback that explains the events leading up to the marriages of Duke Orsino and Countess Olivia.*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### **Women's Roles (10 to 13)**

**Viola** - shipwrecked young noblewoman, in mourning for her twin brother, Sebastian, who she believes died in the wreck; later disguises herself as a man, Cesario.

**Countess Olivia** - young heiress to a great estate, in mourning for her late brother.

**Feste** - the resort's perky young recreation director and the narrator of the play.

**Lady Tamara Belch** - a retired stage actress, flamboyant aunt to Countess Olivia.

**Maria** - stern manager of the household of Countess Olivia.

**Fabiana** - servant girl on Olivia's estate; assigned as personal maid to Lady Belch.

**Juliana** - the authoritative, warm-hearted, and motherly matriarch of the pirate clan.

**Anita** - maid to Countess Olivia; hard-working, sensible, and very direct young girl.

**Franchesca** - maid to Countess Olivia; inexperienced, lazy, and tends to whine.

**Carmen** - maid to Countess Olivia; the oldest and most experienced servant girl.

**The Trio** - function as a singing Greek Chorus; reminiscent of the Supremes and Destiny's Child; optional doubling by Anita, Franchesca, and Carmen.

### **Men's Roles (10)**

**Duke Orsino** - wealthy workaholic nobleman who owns the island's resort casino; infatuated with the Countess Olivia; develops a close bond with Cesario.

**Sebastian** - twin brother to Viola; believed drowned but rescued by the pirates.

**Malvolio** - the arrogant business manager of Olivia; secretly dreams of marrying her.

**Sir Andrew Aguecheek** - a foolish Euro-nobleman; lots of money but not very smart.

**Antonio** - hen-pecked and kind-hearted father of the pirate clan.

**Sea Captain** - rescues Viola and helps her establish her identity as Cesario.

**Anto** - pirate son of Antonio and Juliana; strong but not very bright.

**Ardillo** - pirate son of Antonio and Juliana; smaller, very energetic.

**Valentine** - senior advisor to Duke Orsino.

**An Officer** - the Captain of the Duke's Guard.

## Twelfth Night

-4-

### CAST (Continued)

#### Flexible Roles

**The Reverend** - marries the couples in the play's final scenes.

**Chorus Members** - play a wide variety of roles including Native Islanders, Sailors, Businessmen, Exercise Class, Vacationers, Servants, Pirates, Assisting Exorcists, Officers.

### SETTINGS

*There are multiple simple settings. All action takes place on the imaginary island of Illyria and the sea nearby. The play occurs in modern times, but the islanders live with a simplicity and elegance suggestive of the Old World.*

**Act I, Scene 1:** *The scene starts on the afternoon of January 6 (Twelfth Night) at the wedding celebration, then flashes back to December 31, the night of the great storm and the shipwreck. The scene concludes when Viola comes ashore at dawn on New Year's Day. All action takes place on the beach near Feste's cabana and the sea nearby.*

**Act I, Scenes 2 – 6:** *January 3, early morning through late night.*  
Sc. 2 - Duke Orsino's business office; Sc. 3 - Beach near Feste's cabana;  
Sc. 4 - Olivia's hacienda and on the road nearby; Sc. 5 - An isolated part of the beach; Sc. 6 - The grounds of Olivia's hacienda.

**Act I, Scenes 7 – 9:** *January 4, early morning through late night.*  
Sc. 7 - A street café; Sc. 8 - Olivia's garden; Sc. 9 - Olivia's hacienda.

**Act II, Scenes 1 – 6:** *January 5, early morning through late night.*  
Sc. 1 - The beach and the marketplace; Sc. 2 - Feste's cabana Sc. 3 - Olivia's hacienda; Sc. 4 - A street in town; Sc. 5 - Another street in town; Sc. 6 - Wine cellar of Olivia's estate.

**Act II, Scenes 7 – 8:** *January 6, early morning through afternoon.*  
Sc. 7 - On the beach; Sc. 8 - On the beach.

### PROPS

Large beach umbrella(s)  
Letter from Duke  
Wallet with bills for Sir Andrew  
Purse with coins for Olivia  
Bag of provisions for Sebastian  
Maria's fake letter  
Flower bouquet for Sir Andrew  
Luggage for Sir Andrew  
Note for Lady Belch

Veil for Olivia  
Laundry basket for Maria  
Exercise mats for Feste  
Bell that rings for Olivia  
Baton for Conductor (optional)  
Tambourines for singers  
Heavy coin purse for Pirates  
Laundry items to tie Malvolio  
Numerous dueling swords

*Twelfth Night*

-5-

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

*(A Piano Score and Rehearsal CD are available for productions. Contact the publisher for further information.)*

**Act I**

**“Isle of Love”**

*Feste, Trio, Viola, Orsino, Olivia, Sea Captain and Chorus*

**“Feel the Burn”**

*Feste, Lady Belch, Fabiana and Chorus*

**“What Is Love?”**

*Viola*

**“What Is Love?” (Reprise)**

*Olivia*

**“The Pirate Song”**

*Antonio, Juliana and the Pirates*

**“The Twelfth Night Stomp”**

*Lady Belch, Fabiana, Sir Aguecheek, Maria, Trio and Chorus*

**“Olivia!”**

*Malvolio, Lady Belch, Fabiana, Feste, Aguecheek and Trio*

**“Like No Man I’ve Ever Known”**

*Olivia, Trio and Chorus*

**Act II**

**“How Low Can You Go?”**

*Feste, Viola, Orsino, Olivia, Malvolio, Sebastian, Lady Belch, Sir Aguecheek, Maria, Fabiana and Chorus*

**“Stylin’ With Malvolio”**

*Trio, Malvolio, and Chorus*

**“The Duel”**

*Lady Belch, Fabiana, Viola, Sir Aguecheek, Trio and Pirates*

**“Bye-Bye, Evil”**

*Fabiana, Trio, Maria, Lady Belch, Malvolio and Chorus*

**“Play On”**

*Viola, Orsino, Olivia, Sebastian and Malvolio*

**“Finale”**

*Feste, Trio and Full Cast*

**“The Wind and the Rain” (Curtain Calls)**

*Full Cast*

## ACT I

### Scene 1: "Isle of Love" (Prologue, Part 1)

*(AT RISE: The beach of a Caribbean island. A TRIO of servant girls watches the sun rise. This TRIO will function as a kind of Greek chorus, appearing in various guises in musical numbers throughout the action of the play.)*

#### **Song: "ISLE OF LOVE"**

*(TRIO:)*

SUN SHINE, PALM TREES,  
WARM BREEZE, ISLE OF LOVE.  
WHITE SAND, BLUE SKY,  
BIRDS FLY, ISLE OF LOVE.

JOYFUL PEOPLE GREET YOU WITH SMILES,  
LOVELY BEACHES STRETCH OUT FOR MILES,  
SAVOR TASTY ISLAND-GROWN TREATS,  
AS YOU PROMENADE DOWN OUR STREETS.

*(FESTE steps forth, welcoming the audience as new arrivals to the island. Feste will also function as the play's narrator.)*

FESTE: Buenos dias, mis amigos, and welcome to Illyria, jewel of the Caribbean! My name is Feste, and my seaside bungalow provides a refreshing assortment of drinks made fresh from the fruit of our local farms. In the evenings, the casino, managed by the island's governor, Duke Orsino, offers the very finest in dining and entertainment.

*(FESTE and TRIO:)*

WE'LL PLAY TROPICAL SERENADES,  
YOU'LL HAVE MEMORABLE ESCAPADES.  
SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT,  
GRACE OUR SCENIC ISLAND RESORT.

*(FESTE and the TRIO watch as the CHORUS enters, clearly celebrating. The group includes VALENTINE and MARIA.)*

*(FESTE, TRIO and CHORUS:)*

BREEZE STIRS, PALM SWAYS,  
BAND PLAYS, ISLE OF LOVE.  
FRIENDS LAUGH, HEARTS SING  
BELLS RING, ISLE OF LOVE.

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