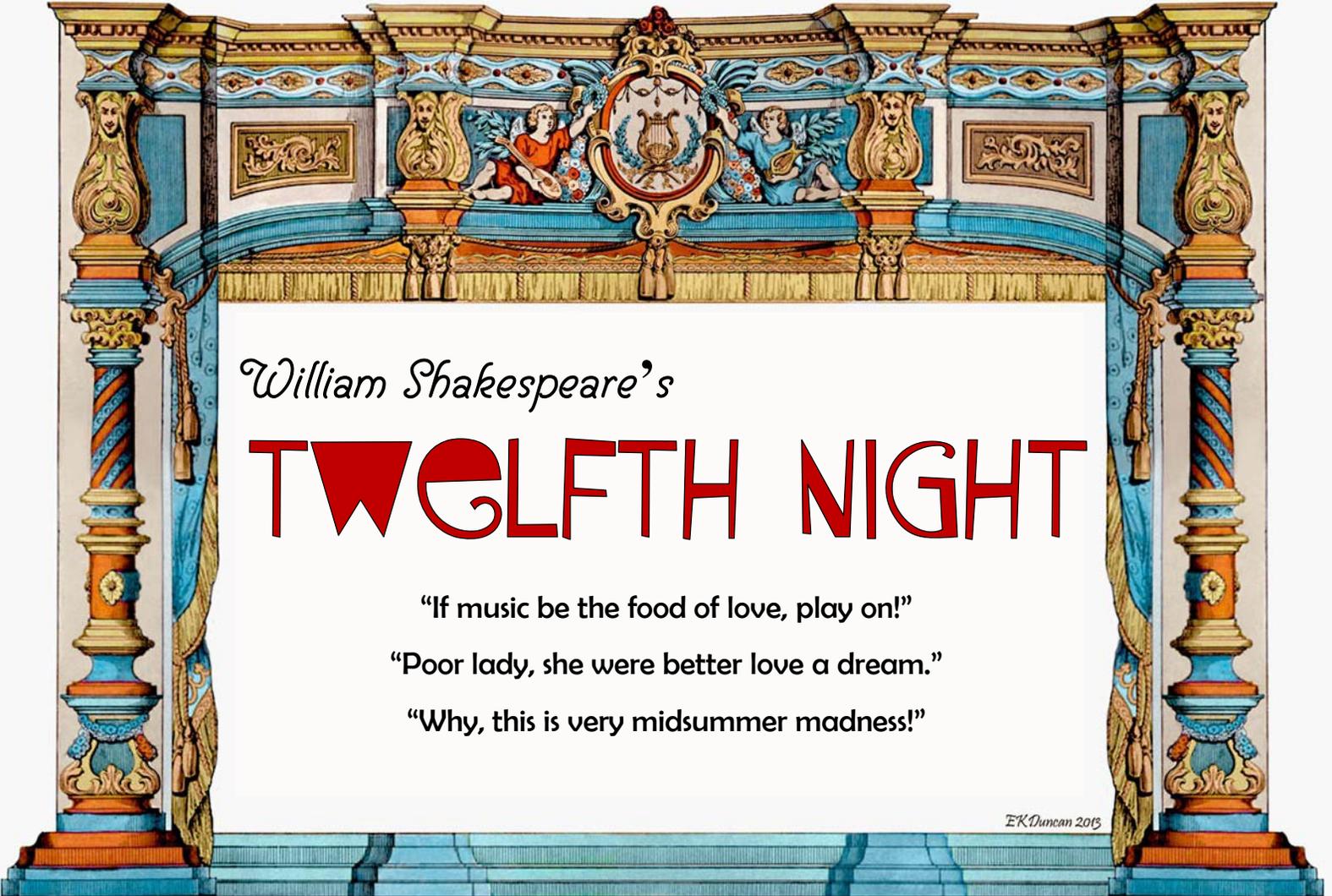


APPLAUSE! CARY YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS



William Shakespeare's

TWELFTH NIGHT

"If music be the food of love, play on!"

"Poor lady, she were better love a dream."

"Why, this is very midsummer madness!"

EK Duncan 2015

Learn more about Applause!'s upcoming production.

***Twelfth Night* features actors ages 8-18 years old,
and is appropriate for all audiences.**

PLAY SUMMARY

Viola is shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, believing her twin brother Sebastian to be dead. With the help of a Sea Captain, she disguises herself as a young man named Cesario and goes to work for Duke Orsino. Orsino is in love with Olivia, who refuses to see any suitor while she mourns her father and brother. Orsino sends "Cesario" to woo Olivia on the Duke's behalf. Olivia immediately falls in love with "Cesario", forgetting her mourning and not realizing "he" is Viola in disguise. In the meantime, Viola has fallen in love with the Duke.

At Olivia's house, Olivia's uncle, Sir Toby Belch; a silly knight named Sir Andrew Aguecheek; Olivia's servants Maria and Fabian; and her fool, Feste, are engaged in noisy revelry. They disturb the peace until late into the night, and are scolded by Olivia's uptight **steward** Malvolio. They get back at Malvolio by planting a fake love letter from Olivia for him to find. The letter asks Malvolio to wear a ridiculous outfit and act like a lunatic, and describes how he should do this. Malvolio is delighted and starts acting out the contents of the letter for Olivia, who thinks he has gone mad and turns him over to Maria's care. As part of the prank, Malvolio is locked in a dungeon and tormented by Feste.

Meanwhile, Sebastian – alive after being rescued by Antonio – arrives in Illyria, adding confusion of mistaken identity; he looks exactly like "Cesario". Thinking he is "Cesario", Olivia asks Sebastian to marry her, and they are secretly married, causing even more confusion. Finally Viola reveals she is a woman and that Sebastian is her twin brother. The play ends with a declaration of marriage between Orsino and Viola, and we learn that Sir Toby has married Maria. Malvolio threatens revenge on them all, but the play ends with a song from Feste and three happy couples.

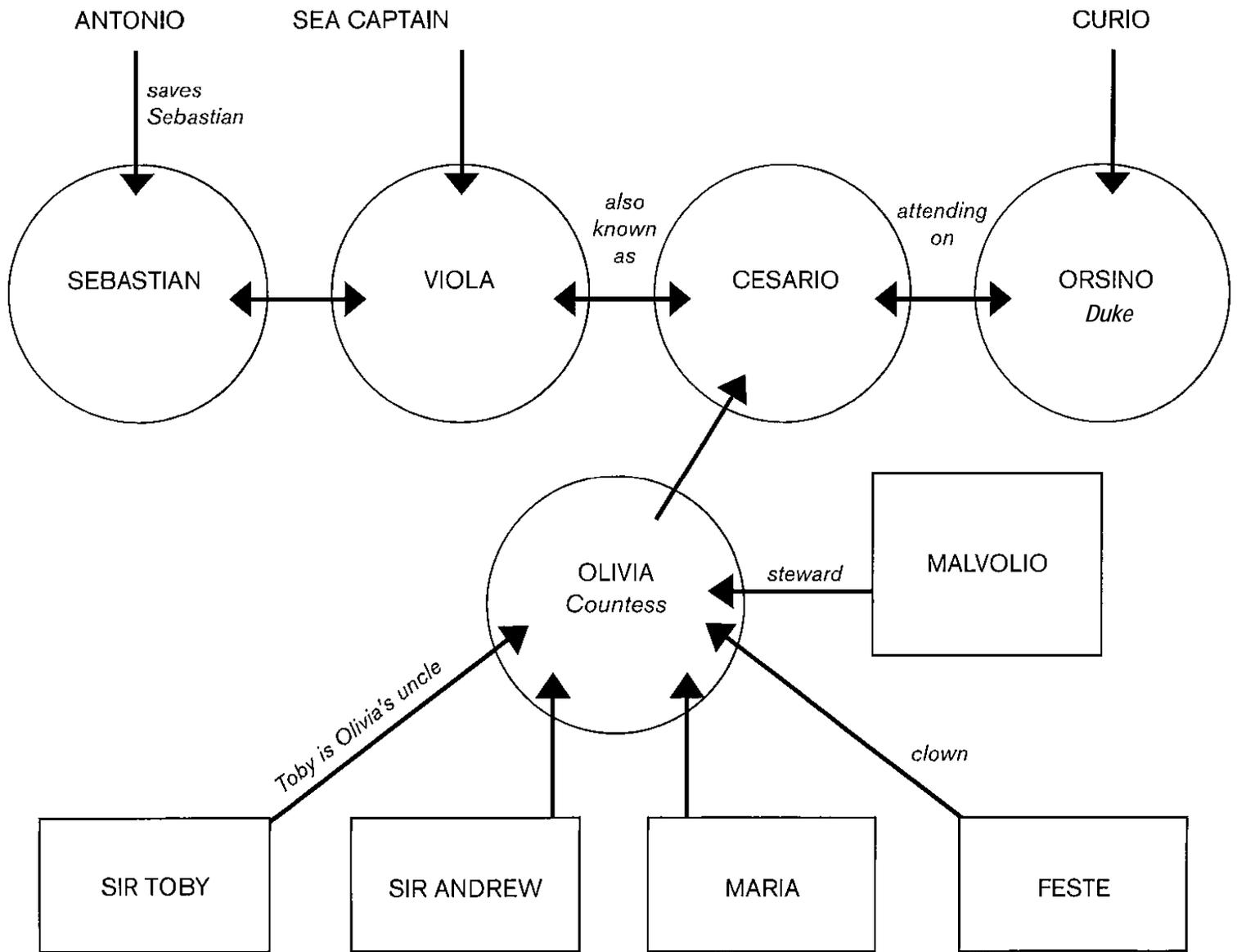
Activity: Sink or Swim!

Have you ever noticed that you can float more easily in the sea than you can in a swimming pool? The explanation is simple: **density!** Saltwater is denser than fresh water, so objects – like Viola and Sebastian? – float more easily. Try this experiment to see for yourself.

MATERIALS: table salt ♦ 2 containers ♦ a Tablespoon ♦ tap water ♦ 2 raw eggs

- ❖ Fill both containers with tap water. Add about 6T of salt in one container and stir until completely dissolved.
- ❖ Place one egg in each container and see what happens. The egg in the saltwater container should float!

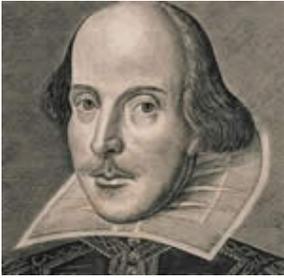
MEET THE CHARACTERS



Activity: Love Letters

Write a love letter in the voice of a character in the play to the person he or she loves (ex: Orsino might write to Olivia). Think about the writer's personality and get creative. Would that character write a traditional love letter? Maybe a poem? A song?

WHO'S THE BARD?



William Shakespeare

For unfamiliar words you'd like to learn,
Our Glossary is where you need to turn!

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely considered one of the greatest playwrights of all time. He is often called "The Bard of Avon" or England's national poet.

Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. Very little is known about his life, but by 1592 he was in London working as an actor, writer, and part-owner of a theater company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. In 1613, Shakespeare retired from the theatre and returned to Stratford-upon-Avon, where he died in 1616.

Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays and collaborated on several more. His **comedies** include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*. Among his **history plays** are *Henry V* and *Richard III*. The most famous among his **tragedies** are *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *King Lear*. Shakespeare's best-known poems are *The Sonnets*, first published in 1609.

Shakespeare was a respected poet and playwright in his own time, and his plays remain highly popular today. Shakespeare's works have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Activity: Lost in Translation

In addition to a rhythmic writing style called **iambic pentameter**, Shakespeare used many words and phrases that seem unfamiliar to our modern ears. Here are some original quotes from *Twelfth Night*. Can you match them to their modern-day translations?

O Time! Thou must untangle this, not I;
It is too hard a knot for me to untie!
Viola, Act II, Scene 4

If music be the food of love, play on;
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken, and so die.
Orsino, Act I, Scene 1

Make me a willow cabin at your gate,
And call upon my soul within the house...
Viola, Act I, Scene 5

I would live outside your house, and call
out to you, my true love.

Only time can work out this problem!
It's too hard for me!

Music makes me feel my love intensely.
If you give me a lot of music, maybe I will
feel my love so much that I'll get sick of it.

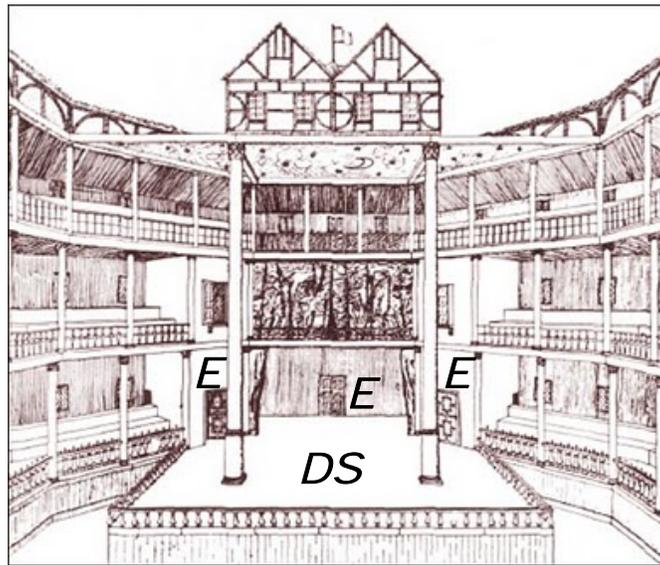
PAGE TO STAGE

Twelfth Night takes place during festivities on the last day of the twelve days after Christmas, and uses themes of FUN, CONFUSION, and REVELATION throughout the play. Music, merry-making, mistaken identities, and more – plus scenery and costume inspiration from the bright colors of **Vaudeville** – it's a great big, funny, fantastic experience!

Shakespeare's plays were originally performed in the Early Modern theatre style, which had some distinct characteristics. Today, we call those characteristics Original Practices.

ORIGINAL PRACTICES (watch for some of these in Applause!'s production!):

- ❖ *Theatres had three stories, with audience galleries facing a Discovery Space ("DS").*
- ❖ *Three openings at the rear of the stage were used as entrances/exits for the actors ("E").*
- ❖ *Actors were males only! Female parts were played by young boy actors in women's costume.*
- ❖ *Actors often played more than one role in the production.*
- ❖ *Actors often interacted with the audience during the play.*
- ❖ *Actors usually wore contemporary clothing, using costume pieces for different characters.*
- ❖ *Instead of using lighting effects, plays were performed under natural light or candlelight.*
- ❖ *No fixed or elaborate scenery was used, only set pieces like a throne, table, or chair.*



Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

Activity: A Case of Mistaken Identity

There are lots of deceptions in *Twelfth Night*, including mistaken identities, misrepresentations, and changes of mind. Can you think of a character from another story or play who pretended to be someone they were not, misrepresented him/herself to impress someone, or changed his/her mind to please others?

Having trouble thinking of an example? HINT: Think DISNEY!

GLOSSARY

- Bard:** Poet or storyteller
- Comedy :** A play that is light and amusing, with a mixture of humor and sadness; ends happily.
- Density:** How heavy something is, in relation to its volume or size.
- History Play:** A play based on an historical story or person, often set sometime in the past.
- Iambic Pentameter :** A metered style of writing in which each line has 10 syllables: 5 stressed, and 5 unstressed. This form of writing is very close to the pattern of everyday conversation, making it helpful for actors trying to memorize lines. Each 2-syllable section of a line is called a "foot".
- Steward:** Chief servant
- Tragedy:** A play dealing with serious or somber themes, often about a great person with a character flaw or conflict; ends in downfall or destruction.
- Vaudeville:** A theatrical genre of variety entertainment popular from the early 1880s-early 1930s. Performances offered a variety of short, comedic acts including scenes, songs, acrobats, magicians, and more.

Can you find 4 examples of Iambic Pentameter somewhere in this guide?

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Tickets are on sale now at the CAC Box Office or eTix.com!