

# The Comedy of Errors

## Cast

*Antipholus of Syracuse*.....*David Tennant*  
*Antipholus of Ephesus* .....*Brendan Coyle*  
*Dromio of Syracuse*.....*Alan Cox*  
*Dromio of Ephesus*.....*Jason O'Mara*  
*Adriana* .....*Niamh Cusack*  
*Luciana* .....*Sorcha Cusack*  
*Egeon* .....*Trevor Peacock*  
*Duke of Ephesus*.....*Dermot Crowley*  
*Abbess* .....*Helen Ryan*  
*Courtesan*.....*Pauline McLynn*  
*Angelo*.....*Lloyd Hutchinson*  
*First Merchant*.....*Robert Donovan*  
*Second Merchant*.....*Robert Patterson*  
*Balthazar*.....*Tom Farrelly*  
*Luce*.....*Donna Ansley*

## Play description

### ACT I

Scene 1. Condemned to death for entering the enemy territory of Ephesus, Egeon, a Syracusan merchant, tells his life story to the Duke of Ephesus. Twenty years earlier his wife bore him identical twin boys; another set of identical twins had been born to a poor woman the same day, and Egeon bought these to raise as servants to his sons. Misfortune overtook them, however, when they were shipwrecked and Egeon, with one of his sons and one of the slaves, was rescued by a vessel from Epidaurus, whilst his wife, the other twin and slave were picked up by Corinthian fishermen. Egeon's son has gone in search of his brother. Moved at his story, the Duke gives Egeon until the end of the day to find ransom money.

Scene 2. Antipholus of Syracuse arrives at Ephesus. He sends his slave Dromio off to their inn, only to encounter Dromio's long lost twin brother, who, unbeknownst to them, lives in Ephesus. Seeing the man he believes to be his master, Dromio of Ephesus tells him that his wife is waiting to dine with him at home. Antipholus of Syracuse is angered at what he perceives to be nonsense and strikes Dromio, who flees.

### ACT II

Scene 1. Antipholus of Ephesus' wife Adriana is irritated by her husband's lateness. When Dromio of Ephesus returns and describes the extraordinary behavior of his supposed master, Adriana suspects her husband of infidelity.

Scene 2. Antipholus of Syracuse meets his Dromio before the home of Antipholus of Ephesus and beats him when he fails to understand what his master means by a summons to dinner. Adriana then emerges and accuses the man she takes for her husband of infidelity. Master and slave are convinced that they have been enchanted as Adriana and her sister order them into dinner.

### ACT III

Scene 1. Antipholus of Ephesus returns home with Angelo the goldsmith, who is making a necklace for Adriana. They are barred from entering by Dromio of Syracuse. Antipholus of Ephesus resolves to dine at the Porpentine, and to give his wife's chain to a courtesan.

Scene 2. Luciana urges Antipholus of Syracuse to treat Adriana kindly. To her horror, he declares his love not for her sister, but for her. Meanwhile, Dromio of Syracuse is being pursued by a kitchen wench who claims he is promised to her. Antipholus resolves to leave Ephesus immediately. Angelo enters and gives him the chain commissioned by the Ephesian twin. Antipholus of Syracuse knows nothing of it, but takes it nonetheless.

### ACT IV

Scene 1. Angelo is confident that he can pay off a longstanding debt as soon as he has the money owed him for the necklace. When Antipholus of Ephesus denies having ever received the chain, and refuses payment, Angelo and the merchant order his arrest. Dromio of Syracuse arrives and tells Antipholus of Ephesus that their ship awaits them in the port. Furious, Antipholus sends him to Adriana to fetch his bail.

Scene 2. Luciana tells Adriana of her (supposed) husband's declarations of love. Dromio of Syracuse arrives with news of the arrest and Adriana gives him bail money.

Scene 3. Dromio of Syracuse is astonished to find his master in the street, unattended by the sergeant of law. Convinced that they have all gone mad, Antipholus appeals for divine deliverance, whereupon the Courtesan appears, demanding the promised chain. Believing her to be yet another fiend, Antipholus commands her to disappear, but she refuses to go until she has received either the necklace or the diamond ring she gave him at dinner. She decides that he is insane and that she will tell his wife that he has taken her ring forcibly.

Scene 4. Adriana, Luciana, the Courtesan and Pinch the Schoolmaster meet Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus with their jailer. Pinch interprets Antipholus' behavior as possession by the devil. Confusion deepens when Antipholus denies Adriana's assertion that he has dined at home and then accuses her of barring him from his own house and instigating his arrest. Both master and slave are then bound and removed. When, seconds later, Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse enter, the sisters are convinced that they have eluded captivity, whilst Antipholus of Syracuse believes them to be witches.

#### ACT V

Scene 1. Angelo and the merchant see Antipholus of Syracuse wearing the very gold chain of which he has apparently denied all knowledge. Antipholus is adamant that he never made such a denial. They draw their swords, but Adriana stops them, explaining that he is mad and must be restrained. Antipholus and Dromio flee to a nearby priory. The Abbess questions Adriana and concludes that Antipholus has been maddened by his wife's jealousy; she refuses to permit her entry until he has been cured. Adriana calls out to the Duke as he passes by with the doomed Egeon and appeals for the release of her husband. The Duke listens to her sympathetically and summons the Abbess. At this point a messenger brings word that Adriana's husband and his slave have escaped and are running amok. When Antipholus of Ephesus enters, Egeon believes him to be his Syracusan son and is devastated not to be recognised. All is made clear however, when the Abbess appears with Antipholus of Syracuse. She explains that these are Egeon's sons and that she is Emilia, their mother, who was separated from her son soon after the shipwreck. The two sets of brothers are happily reunited and Antipholus of Syracuse resolves to court Luciana.

## *Track list*

### Disk 1

Track 1	Act I	Scene i
Track 2	Act I	Scene ii
Track 3	Act II	Scene i
Track 4	Act II	Scene ii
Track 5	Act III	Scene i
Track 6	Act III	Scene ii

### Disk 2

Track 1	Act IV	Scene i
Track 2	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 3	Act IV	Scene iii
Track 4	Act IV	Scene iv
Track 5	Act V	Scene i