

Twelfth Night

Cast

<i>Olivia</i>	<i>Amanda Root</i>
<i>Orsino</i>	<i>Jonathan Firth</i>
<i>Viola</i>	<i>Niamh Cusack</i>
<i>Malvolio</i>	<i>Julian Glover</i>
<i>Sir Toby Belch</i>	<i>Dinsdale Landen</i>
<i>Sir Andrew Aguecheek</i>	<i>Richard Cordery</i>
<i>Feste</i>	<i>Paterson Joseph</i>
<i>Sebastian</i>	<i>Will Keen</i>
<i>Maria</i>	<i>Maggie McCarthy</i>
<i>Antonio</i>	<i>Alex Lowe</i>
<i>Fabian</i>	<i>Peter Gunn</i>
<i>Curio</i>	<i>Scott Cherry</i>
<i>Valentine</i>	<i>Neil Stuke</i>

Play description

Act I

Scene 1. Orsino, Duke of Illyria, is in love with Olivia, a wealthy noblewoman. She, however, is in mourning for her brother and rejects him.

Scene 2. A young woman, Viola, has been shipwrecked on the Illyrian coast, having been separated from her twin brother Sebastian, whom she fears dead. A Captain tells her about the lovelorn Duke and she decides to dress as a boy and seek employment with him.

Scene 3. Olivia's uncle, Sir Toby Belch, does not approve of her prolonged mourning. Her maid Maria warns him that Olivia is displeased with his debauched behavior. Maria is also critical of Sir Andrew Aguecheek, a foolish but wealthy knight whom Sir Toby supports as a candidate for his niece's hand in marriage.

Scene 4. The Duke urges Viola (now disguised as Cesario), to woo Olivia in his name. Viola, however, reveals in an aside that "Whoe'er I woo, myself would be his wife."

Scene 5. Olivia is with her clown Feste and her steward, the dour Malvolio, when Viola/Cesario is announced. Olivia tells Maria to dismiss the Duke's envoy, but Viola persists and Olivia agrees to see him. Olivia rejects the Duke's suit, but is so charmed by the youth that she invents an excuse for giving him her ring.

Act II

Scene 1. Sebastian tells his friend Antonio of his twin sister (Viola), whom he believes dead at sea. He is bound for the court of Orsino.

Scene 2. Malvolio gives Olivia's ring to Viola. Viola guesses that Olivia has fallen for her, and muses on the irony of the situation: "My master loves her dearly;/And I (poor monster) fond as much on him;/And she (mistaken) seems to dote on me."

Scene 3. Sir Toby, Sir Andrew and Feste are carousing; Maria arrives, complaining about their "caterwauling." She is followed by Malvolio, who tells them that Olivia will evict Toby if he does not mend his ways. Once the sanctimonious steward has left, Maria suggests that they play a trick on him by faking a letter from Olivia, leading him to believe that she has fallen in love with him.

Scene 4. Undeterred, Orsino instructs Viola to renew his suit to Olivia. He scoffs at her suggestion that a woman could be as deeply in love with him as he is with Olivia: no woman could feel as intensely as he.

Scene 5. Sir Toby and his fellow conspirators are furious when they overhear Malvolio imagining marrying Olivia and lording it over them. As they watch from a hiding place, Malvolio comes across the letter forged by Maria. He is convinced that he is the unnamed man to whom it is addressed and resolves to follow its instructions for winning Olivia's favor: to be surly with the servants, to smile in her presence, and to wear yellow stockings cross-gartered.

Act III

Scene 1. Viola/Cesario pays another visit to Olivia, who is infatuated and begs him to come again.

Scene 2. Sir Andrew is offended by Olivia's favors to Cesario. Sir Toby and Fabian, another of Olivia's servants, persuade him to challenge the youth; they are convinced, however, that neither has the courage to fight the other.

Scene 3. Although Antonio is sought by the Illyrian authorities for a past offense, he insists on accompanying Sebastian, and gives him his purse.

Scene 4. A smiling Malvolio, dressed in yellow stockings, comes to Olivia and archly quotes passages from her letter. She is convinced that he is mad. Sir Andrew writes a letter challenging Cesario, but Sir Toby, finding it too weak, says he will deliver the message himself, verbally. Viola is puzzled by the challenge and protests that she is no fighter. Sir Toby, however, reports that Cesario is a skilled swordsman, throwing the timorous Sir Andrew into panic. Just as the reluctant duelists have drawn their swords, Antonio arrives and tries to end the dispute, but is himself arrested by some officers. Mistaking Viola for Sebastian, he asks for his money and is deeply upset when she claims not to know him.

Act IV

Scene 1. Outside Olivia's house, Feste mistakes Sebastian for Cesario. Sir Andrew appears and strikes the young man, who retaliates with enthusiasm. Olivia arrives and invites Sebastian into her home.

Scene 2. Maria gets Feste to disguise himself as Sir Topas the curate. He goes to Malvolio, who has been locked in a dark cellar. The steward begs him to fetch Olivia; finally, Sir Topas/Feste agrees to find him a light and writing materials.

Scene 3. Olivia enters with a priest and asks Sebastian to accompany her to the chapel so that they can be married. Confused but enchanted, he agrees.

Act V

Scene 1. While the Duke and Viola are waiting to see Olivia, the officers return with Antonio, who accuses Viola of gross ingratitude. Olivia compounds Viola's confusion by reproaching her for faithlessness. When the priest confirms that Olivia is Cesario's wife, even the Duke rejects Viola. Sir Andrew and a drunken Sir Toby burst in; they claim that Cesario has beaten them. The mystery is explained when Sebastian enters and he and Viola recognize each other as brother and sister. Malvolio shows Olivia the faked letter; she guesses that it was written by Maria. Fabian explains that Maria was put up to it by Sir Toby, who has married her in recompense. Malvolio vows revenge on them all. Orsino predicts that when he sees Viola in feminine clothes, she will become "Orsino's mistress and his fancy's queen."

Track list

Disc 1

Track 1	Act I	Scene i
Track 2	Act I	Scene ii
Track 3	Act I	Scene iii
Track 4	Act I	Scene iv
Track 5	Act I	Scene v
Track 6	Act II	Scene i
Track 7	Act II	Scene ii
Track 8	Act II	Scene iii
Track 9	Act II	Scene iv
Track 10	Act II	Scene v

Disc 2

Track 1	Act III	Scene i
Track 2	Act III	Scene ii
Track 3	Act III	Scene iii
Track 4	Act III	Scene iv
Track 5	Act IV	Scene i
Track 6	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 7	Act IV	Scene iii
Track 8	Act V	Scene i