

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

Cast

Proteus *Michael Maloney*
Valentine *Damian Lewis*
Silvia *Saskia Wickham*
Julia *Lucy Robinson*
Launce *John Woodvine*
Sir Thurio *Desmond Barrit*
Speed *Nicholas Murchie*
Lucetta *Sarah-Jane Holm*
Duke of Milan *Trevor Martin*
Antonio *Arthur Cox*
Panthino *James Greene*
Sir Eglamour *Andrew Alston*
Other parts played by members of the cast

Play description

ACT I

Scene 1. Valentine prepares to leave Verona for Milan. He is exasperated by his friend Proteus who remains “dully sluggardized at home,” unwilling to leave his beloved Julia. Proteus has charged Speed, Valentine’s servant, with delivering a letter to Julia, but has received no reply.

Scene 2. Julia’s waiting-woman, Lucetta, favours Proteus among her mistress’s suitors. Although Julia claims to have no interest in Proteus, once alone, she reveals that she is far from indifferent to him.

Scene 3. Concerned at Proteus’s lack of experience of the world, his father Antonio orders him to leave for the Emperor’s court at Milan the following day.

ACT II

Scene 1. Much to Speed’s disgust, Valentine is passionately in love with Silvia, the Duke of Milan’s daughter. She has asked Valentine to write some verses for one she loves, but when she tells him that they are meant for him, he does not believe her.

Scene 2. Proteus is leaving for the Emperor’s court; he and Julia exchange rings as a token of fidelity.

Scene 3. Launce, Proteus’s servant, is unhappy about leaving Verona. Panthino urges him to hurry aboard his master’s boat.

Scene 4. In the Ducal palace at Milan, Valentine taunts Thurio, another of Silvia’s suitors. Proteus arrives at court and is greeted warmly by Valentine, who tells his friend of his love for Silvia. He reveals that, despite the Duke’s preference for the wealthier Thurio, he and Silvia have already planned their elopement, using a corded ladder. But no sooner has Valentine left, than Proteus declares he no longer cares for Julia, and has fallen in love with Silvia.

Scene 5. Speed and Launce meet in the street.

Scene 6. Proteus treacherously decides to tell the Duke of Silvia’s plan to elope with Valentine.

Scene 7. Julia informs Lucetta that she intends to follow Proteus to Milan, disguised as a page.

ACT III

Scene 1. Proteus tells the Duke about Silvia’s elopement. The Duke manages to trick Valentine into revealing the corded ladder he has hidden under his cloak. He also appropriates a compromising letter written to Silvia, and banishes Valentine from his territories. Proteus waylays Valentine as he leaves, suggesting that his friend send all letters for Silvia to him in order to ensure their safe passage.

Scene 2. Thurio says that Silvia despises him more than ever since Valentine’s banishment; the Duke is, however, confident that his daughter will soon forget her erstwhile lover. When Proteus arrives, the Duke asks him to speak ill of Valentine to Silvia, saying that such slander will only have an impact coming from her lover’s friend. Proteus also undertakes to approach Silvia on Thurio’s behalf. Finally, Proteus advises Thurio to write “wailful sonnets” and sing them outside Silvia’s chamber.

ACT IV

Scene 1. Valentine and Speed are ambushed by outlaws as they travel through a forest. The quick-witted Valentine, however, claims that he has been banished from Milan for murder, and the outlaws ask him to join them as their leader.

Scene 2. Proteus waits beneath Silvia's window for Thurio, and ponders how Silvia's beauty and purity put him to shame. Julia, dressed as a boy, witnesses Proteus's wooing of Silvia. Silvia accuses Proteus of falsity both to Julia and to Valentine.

Scene 3. Silvia enlists Eglamour's help in escaping from Milan and seeking Valentine in Mantua.

Scene 4. Julia, still in her masculine disguise, has been employed by Proteus. Handing her the ring she previously gave to him, he instructs her to take it to Silvia. Unaware of the true identity of Proteus's messenger, Silvia expresses her sorrow and pity for Julia.

ACT V

Scene 1. Eglamour and Silvia meet, as planned, at a friar's cell.

Scene 2. Thurio questions Proteus eagerly about Silvia's response to his suit. Julia, aside, gives a sarcastic commentary on their conversation. The Duke arrives having gathered that Silvia has fled with Eglamour; he asks them all to join him in pursuing the fugitives.

Scene 3. Silvia is captured by the outlaws, who prepare to take her to their captain. Eglamour has managed to make his escape.

Scene 4. Valentine sits alone and melancholy in the forest. Proteus enters with Julia (still in disguise) and Silvia, whom he has rescued from the outlaws. When Silvia still refuses to accept his love, Proteus threatens to ravish her. Valentine leaps to Silvia's rescue and accuses Proteus of treachery.

Proteus immediately begs his forgiveness and Valentine pardons him, offering to surrender Silvia to him. At this, Julia swoons and then reveals her true identity, berating Proteus for his fickleness. Conceding his inconstancy, Proteus observes that Julia is as attractive as Silvia. The outlaws now enter with two more captives: the Duke and Thurio. When Valentine angrily warns his rival not to touch Silvia, Thurio swiftly renounces her. The Duke is disgusted at Thurio's cowardice and offers Silvia to Valentine. Having requested and received pardons for all the outlaws, Valentine then leads them all back to Milan, planning a double wedding for the couples as he goes.

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 II	Scene i
Track 5	Act II	Scene ii
Track 6	Act II	Scene iii
Track 7	Act II	Scene iv
Track 8	Act II	Scene v
Track 9	Act II	Scene vi
Track 10	Act II	Scene vii
Track 11	Act III	Scene i (up to line 187)

Disk 2

Track 1	Act III	Scene i (from line 188)
Track 2	Act III	Scene ii
Track 3	Act IV	Scene i
Track 4	Act IV	Scene ii
Track 5	Act IV	Scene iii
Track 6	Act IV	Scene iv
Track 7	Act V	Scene i
Track 8	Act V	Scene ii
Track 9	Act V	Scene iii
Track 10	Act V	Scene iv