

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY



SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY

**TWELFTH  
NIGHT**

**TUES 25 - SAT 29 JANUARY 1994**  
**Box Office: 0703 671771**

**NUFFIELD THEATRE**  
**SOUTHAMPTON**

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## The Story of the Play

Viola is shipwrecked and thrown onto the shores of Illyria. She has lost everything and fears that her twin brother, Sebastian, has drowned. She disguises herself as a man, takes the name "Cesario", and goes to work for the Count Orsino.

Orsino, "a noble duke", is in love with the beautiful Olivia, a Countess, but Olivia is in mourning for her brother and father and will have nothing to do with him. Orsino sends "Cesario" (that is, Viola) to plead his suit. Olivia begins to fall in love with "Cesario" (Viola) who has meanwhile fallen in love with Orsino. Her passion seems hopeless while she is disguised as Cesario ...

Sir Toby Belch, Olivia's uncle, revels in riotous living - largely paid for by Sir Andrew Aguecheek. After a particularly drunken evening, Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, Fabian and Feste the jester are rebuked by Malvolio, Olivia's straightlaced steward. Maria, Olivia's gentlewoman, devises a plan to turn the tables on Malvolio. She writes a letter, imitating her mistress' handwriting, which suggests Olivia loves Malvolio. Malvolio is utterly taken in. He follows the commands in the letter. Olivia thinks he has taken leave of his senses and entrusts him to the care of her uncle. Malvolio is locked up and tormented.

Meanwhile, Sebastian has been rescued by Antonio, and turns up in Illyria. Cesario/Viola and Sebastian look so alike (use your imagination!) that thereafter they are frequently mistaken for one another. Antonio rescues Cesario (Viola) from a duel thinking him to be Sebastian but is then taken prisoner and is horrified when Cesario won't recognise or help him.

Olivia, delighted that she is no longer being cold-shouldered by the man she thinks is Cesario, peremptorily carries Sebastian off to church and marries him. Sebastian can't believe his luck ... Later when Olivia claims Viola/Cesario as her husband, Orsino is furious and Viola desperate and bewildered. Sebastian turns up just in time. The twins are re-united. Malvolio is freed but vengeful. All that remains is for Orsino to realise that the strange attraction he has felt for "Cesario" can easily be converted into love for Viola.





## **Twelfth Night or What you will**

By setting Twelfth Night in the 1930's I have been able to incorporate a lively cafe bar setting with a jazz piano and singer adjoining the street in which we also find Olivia's house and garden.

I wanted the opening scene with Orsino 'If music be the food of love' speech to be lively and vigorous and to see the other activities which could be going on during his speech. Thus Orsino arrives at the end of a song and asks for more. We see Valentine sent off to request an interview with Olivia, and although Orsino is still in retrospective mood, we are aware of Valentine's rejection and subsequent humiliating return with bad news to Orsino.

Throughout the play we catch glimpses of the previous scene or the lead in to another and the interest of the cafe proprietor and his waitress in all the comings and goings!

Mark Ponsford who plays Feste, has written the original music in 1930's style which he performs during the play.

Philippa Taylor

### **"I hope you haven't ruined the final song"**

The above quote was hurled at me by a close friend (who very nearly wasn't, thereafter), on learning that Philippa had asked me to provide the musical settings for this production. Although I had written music for Clive Butcher's production of Twelfth Night at Romsey, several years ago, it became clear that I would have to rethink completely the musical structures, given the period in which tonight's version is set. Working on the settings has been a most pleasant, if daunting, challenge, and I never expect to serve a more celebrated lyricist!

Mark Ponsford

### **Acting Shakespeare**

Acting Shakespeare is a very rewarding experience. As with any play, you must discover the character - its moods, habits and emotions. There are advantages and disadvantages in playing Shakespeare's characters. On the plus side, there is plenty of research material to delve into. On the down side, the audience will very often have preconceived ideas on every aspect of every character and indeed on how every line should be spoken, so as an actor your interpretation must be credible.

As for delivering words written 400 years ago, obviously some are now obsolete so I found it essential to look up every detail or word I was uncertain of - after all, if the actor is not confident in what he is saying - how will the audience believe it?

Karen Upfield



## THE COMPANY

**Director:** Philippa Taylor

Orsino, Duke of Illyria  
Valentine - a lord  
Curio - a lord  
A lord  
Viola  
Captain  
Maria  
Sir Toby Belch  
Sir Andrew Aguecheek  
Feste  
Olivia  
Malvolio  
Fabian  
Antonio - friend of Sebastian  
Sebastian - twin of Viola  
A Priest  
Waitress  
Waiting woman  
Waiting woman  
First Officer  
Second Officer  
Waiter

Pianist  
Nightclub Singer

Stage Manager  
Lighting  
Sound  
Props  
Costumes  
Set Building  
Set Design/Painting  
Poster Design  
Publicity  
Technical Co-ordinator  
Production Assistant  
Stage Crew

Sean McCann  
John Lanasis  
Roger Mallock  
Jim Plumridge  
Katrina Dowding  
Mike Turner  
Hazel Burrows  
David Jupp  
Robbie Carnegie  
Mark Ponsford  
Karen Upfield  
Ken Spencer  
Graham Buchanan  
Michael Antram  
Simon Wills  
Albie Minns  
Rebecca Danby  
Christina Marsh  
Jacky Pearce  
Tony Bull  
Kevin Mitchell  
James Portman

Michael Patterson  
Jan Ward

Angie Barks  
Clive Weeks, Nicky Caveney  
Lawrie Gee, Martin Caveney  
Ella Lockett  
Christine Baker  
Chris Finbow, Douglas Shiell, Geoff Cook  
Ken Spencer, Fran Morley  
John Hamon  
Jan Ward  
Ron Tillyer  
Louisa Booth  
Steve Clarke, Jean Durman



Musical arrangements: Mark Ponsford

There will be one interval of 15 minutes



It is a tribute to the Maskers that although many of the founder members are still active in the company 25 years on... an open door policy encourages new younger members some of whom weren't even born when the company began. This mixture is reflected in the pen-portraits of some of tonight's cast - written by themselves or in some cases by their "friends"?

**Michael Antram - Antonio**

Following previous appearances in lighter contemporary plays, Michael is now making his debut in both Shakespeare and a straight acting role. By day he teaches Spanish and Theology in a secondary school in Southampton.

**Graham Buchanan - Fabian**

A founder member who likes to be known as a "mummer of this parish!" Does he ever take anything seriously?

**Tony Bull - First Officer**

Last seen in "The Devils" here at the Nuffield last January. He has been a Masker for three years and previously appeared in several plays as a member of Studio Players in Salisbury. His next small role is in "Man of Mode" at Winchester Chesil Theatre next month.

**Hazel Burrows - Maria**

A Masker for 20 years who says, "It's amazing what a little stage make-up can do!" She may be better known to some of you as a local artist, painting flowers on silk.

**Robbie Carnegie - Sir Andrew Aguecheek**

One of the Maskers' farthest-flung members, living in Chichester, and working there for a firm of legal publishers. For the Maskers, he has appeared in "A Penny for a Song", "Season's Greetings", "The Recruiting Officer", "Amadeus", "The Canterbury Tales" and "A Small Family Business".

**Becca Danby - Waitress**

The youngest member of the cast. This is her first appearance in a Shakespeare play, even though she has enjoyed previous stage experience in contemporary plays such as "The Evacuees" and "Confusions".

**Katrina Dowding - Viola**

Working in a male environment is nothing new for Katrina who spends her days on building sites as a Quantity Surveyor. She joined the Maskers in 1992 and has appeared in 'Waltz of the Toreadors', 'A Phoenix too Frequent', 'Joseph Andrews' and 'A Small Family Business'.

**David Jupp - Sir Toby Belch**

Well known to Maskers and Southampton Operatic Society audiences for his



"large" roles. After playing Sir Toby in Twelfth Night, he takes to the Guildhall stage in March as The Pirate King in SOS's production of Pirates of Penzance.

### **John Lanasis - Valentine**

A singer/songwriter currently engaged in the early stages of writing and recording his debut album. He has previously appeared as Basil in Zorba the Greek. John has only recently returned from living on Corfu in Greece and is married with two small boys.

### **Sean McCann - Orsino, Duke of Illyria**

Knight Errant, practitioner of rakish charm and iambic enthusiast, would like to say hello to his parents, who will answer questions from the audience after the show.

### **Roger Mallock - Curio**

Well travelled Southampton businessman, he is 29, lives at Ocean Village, and not surprisingly has a keen interest in leisure activities! It is his first appearance with Maskers.

### **Christina Marsh - Waiting woman**

This is Christina's first show with the Maskers, having previously performed at Warwick Arts Centre in several minor roles. She keeps fit by teaching 30 five-year olds in a primary school in West End.

### **Albie Minns - a Priest**

Albie became a Masker in 1986, since when he has played numerous character parts. Well remembered for his portrayal of the bookshop manager Frank Doel in "84 Charing Cross Road" and as Bernard the puppeteer in "Seasons Greetings", both at The Plaza, Romsey, his most recent performance at the Nuffield was as Father Barre in "The Devils". Now as Father McGuinness in Twelfth Night - Albie says 'the "Father" the better!'

### **Jacky Pearce - Waiting woman**

New member of the Maskers who has previously played a punk Genie in Aladdin and a robot-cum-spaceman in Jack and the Beanstalk. She considers it's high time she went straight as .... a serving maid.

### **Mark Ponsford - Feste**

This is Mark's first appearance in a Shakespeare play, and his second principal role with Maskers (the first being Mozart in Amadeus). After five years' work throughout England as actor, M.D., composer, lyricist (including work for D'Oyly Carte's 1992 tour), and performer of eccentric one-man shows, he is now working full-time at the Mayflower Theatre.



**Jim Portman - Head waiter**

Chairman of JLP Business Machines Ltd, Southampton, this is Jim's first appearance with the Maskers. "Indeed first venture into Amateur Dramatics since his teen ages. At least ten years ago", says Jim!

**Ken Spencer - Malvolio**

Founder chairman of the Maskers, Ken has been involved in just about every production for the past 25 years. The list of his achievements would need a programme of its own.

**Mike Turner - The Sea Captain**

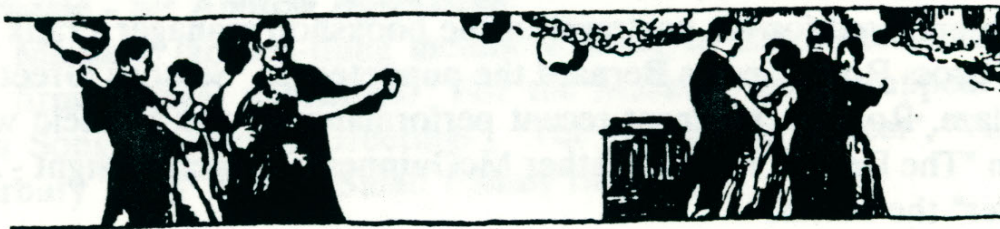
ex Stage Manager for tatty left-wing theatre companies, ex-school teacher, ex-jetty hand, ex-factory worker. And ex Head Boy. Actually.

**Karen Upfield - Olivia**

Karen joined the Maskers 3 years ago playing Izz Hewitt (Tess), Constanze (Amadeus) and The Pardoner, May and a chicken in 'The Canterbury Tales'! She established the Merlin Theatre Company last year writing, directing and touring her comedy "Stranger Danger" play: "Mr Grimey's Trick in the Tale" to over 20,000 children throughout Hampshire. Karen is currently researching her next project, a play exploring another facet of Shakespeare which will be taken to Art Centres throughout the region.

**Simon Wills - Sebastian**

Simon qualified as a hospital pharmacist in 1988. He has appeared in several Maskers' productions including most recently, The Canterbury Tales in 1992.

**Acknowledgements:**

Patio Furniture from: The Patisserie, Southampton Bargate Centre

Gates: made and supplied by Robert Faulkner 0703 870250

Boxing Gloves from: Southampton Amateur Boxing Club

Fencing Masks from: D. Henton, 'Something Collectable' 37 Northam Road

Lamps from: A.K. Taylor Antiques of Wickham

Glasses from: P.H. Cowpertwaite, Ophthalmic Optician of Chichester

Buon Gusto Restaurant, 1 Commercial Road, Southampton for photo venue

Jim Plumridge: Photographer

Derek Sealy: for music research

The Maskers thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this production and in particular the staff of the Nuffield Theatre and Southampton Arts Council.



REG. CHARITY NO. 90067



In this, the Maskers 25th year, we have at last purchased our own Workshop, Rehearsal and Storage facility. Situated in Shirley, the building is in immediate need of refurbishment and repair and we are looking for new members and well wishers who will help us with their skills, services, gifts of materials and funds. A major appeal is about to be launched.

If you would like to be associated with The Maskers Theatre Workshop venture, or in any other way, please contact our membership

secretary, Betty Riggs on 0703 472619 or the appeal co-ordinator, Michael Patterson on 0794 884774.

New members are always welcome. We are always pleased to receive enquiries from those who modestly prefer to work 'behind the scenes', particularly in set building, painting and design.

The Maskers Theatre Company are often available for play reading evenings or recordings, cabaret items, special events lighting and limited costume hire, subject to the demands of their own programme and resources. Contact Philippa Taylor on 0703 449995.

# NUFFIELD THEATRE

## S O U T H I M P T O N

### Staff

Artistic Director: Patrick Sandford  
Administrative Director: Mark Courtice  
Assistant Administrator: Jackie Green  
Accountant: Peter Grinyer  
Marketing Manager: Tracey Shaw  
Press & Marketing Officer: Jane Seaton  
House Manager: Lori Dorman  
Production Manager: Simon Courtenay-Taylor  
Chief Electrician: Greg Head  
Stage Co-ordinator: Mark Raggett  
Firemen: Charles Cunningham  
Paul Hatherley, Ken Walker



Dates for your diary:

Southampton University Theatre Group

**"TROILOUS & CRESSIDA"**

Shakespeare's bizarre black comedy of love, war and swearing.

Nuffield Theatre

Tues. 1st March to Sat. 5th March at 7.30 pm Sat. mat. at 2.00 pm

Tickets £5.00 (£3.50 for OAP's/students/disabled)

0703 671771

Southampton Operatic Society

**"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE"**

W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

Southampton Guildhall

Wed. 9th to Sat. 12 March at 7.30 pm Sat. mat. at 2.30 pm

Tickets £4, £6, £7 (with good discounts)

0703 632601

Maskers Theatre Company

**HEDDA GABLER**

Henrik Ibsen

On tour during week of 17 April

See local press for details

Maskers Theatre Company

**"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"**

Oscar Wilde

in the Open Air at Mottisfont Abbey

Thurs. 21st to Sat. 30th July

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The use of cameras or tape recorders in the theatre is forbidden. The Management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alterations in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority:

1. The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
2. All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
3. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in the numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
4. The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

The Nuffield Theatre is administered by an independent Trust representing financial local and theatrical interests. The Nuffield Theatre Trust acknowledges financial assistance from The Arts Council of Great Britain, Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, the University of Southampton, Eastleigh Borough Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, The Nuffield Theatre Club.