



TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare



Programme

16 - 20 July

2019

In the beautiful grounds of
Townhill Park House

Maskers at Townhill Park House

Welcome to Maskers' open-air production of *Twelfth Night*.

This is our first production at this beautiful location and we hope you enjoy the beauty of the location and get a chance to look around the Gertrude Jekyll garden. We are very grateful to The Gregg School for allowing us to perform here and for all their help in ensuring that the preparations for the show went smoothly.

This is Maskers' 38th outdoor summer production and we are very proud of our record of bringing award-winning, quality theatre to audiences and locations in the area. Maskers was formed over fifty years ago. During that time we have performed and been based in a number of different places in Southampton but we have had our own studio theatre in Shirley, Southampton, for a good many years now. Do come and see a show there. A performance in its small, intimate space is a very different experience compared with an open-air show. Details of Maskers' next production are on the back page of this programme. See our website for full details: www.maskers.org.uk.

We respectfully request that you take all your picnic leftovers and empties home. You may remain to finish your picnics at the end of the play but we ask that you vacate the grounds by 10.30pm (5.45pm for matinée). Thank you!!



Please take care when moving around the grounds as steps and paths may be uneven and slippery if wet.

Provision for smoking has been made in the parkland. Please use the sand buckets provided. Thank you!

There will be one interval of 20 minutes

Director's Notes

I started to write a synopsis of the story but then I thought, if you're anything like me, you won't read this till you get home and by then, hopefully, you will have got the story and, if not, it will be a bit late! So, let's just say there's a shipwreck and some twins and a lot of mistaken identity, themes not exclusive to this particular Shakespeare play, and a Fool and some mischief and a lot of falling in love, also not exclusive to this particular play, and a (largely) happy ending. The Lord of Misrule definitely has the upper hand. Illyria in this case turns out to be Shakespeare's London with The Elephant a pub near The Globe and St Bennett's (Benedict's) a church just across the Thames from that theatre. There is a smattering of well-known phrases or sayings, including Viola's cry of "Westward Ho!", typical of London boatmen of the period, Sir Toby's "Dost thou think because thou art virtuous there shall be no more cakes and ale?", Malvolio's "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them." and, of course, Orsino's opening line, "If music be the food of love, play on."

We have explored the full gamut of emotions from grief to hope, deception to revelation, despair to happiness and madness to poignancy. In addition to having a good, meaty play to perform, we have had a glorious open-air venue (Flybe notwithstanding!). Our rehearsals have been observed by deer and commented on by tawny owls and green woodpeckers, to name but a few of Townhill Park's residents; the former somewhat bemused by our antics, the latter getting the jokes and hooting and yaffling their appreciation (at least that's what we tell ourselves).

It has been a pleasure to work with this talented and committed company, newcomers and old hands alike. We hope you enjoy the design and music of our 80s setting, a period that was busy addressing self-expression, individuality and sexual identity with originality, gusto and verve. We have avoided the dodgy perms and platform shoes with an eye to dignity and self-preservation, though Malvolio may beg to differ where dignity is concerned!! Pace Madonna, Annie Lennox, Toyah Wilcox, Adam Ant, David Bowie, Rick Mayall, Lord Bath, Enoch Powell et al (whoever s/he is.)

Fran



Directed by Fran Morley - Fran is returning to direct for Maskers after an absence of about 25 years. Long ago shows include *Womberang* and *The Accrington Pals* at The Gantry, *Flare Path* and *Noises Off* at The Plaza in Romsey, and *Canterbury Tales* and *The Three Musketeers* at Mottisfont Abbey. She was Youth and Community Director at the Nuffield Theatre for many years and only retirement (and a long rest!!) have brought her happily back into action with *Twelfth Night*.

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The Cast



Viola played by **Suze Avery** — Following roles as a mouse, an androgynous fairy, and a succession of boys, Suze was delighted to be cast in a straightforward female role; only to discover that (spoiler alert!) Viola dresses as a man, falls in love with a man, who thinks she's a man, and has a woman fall in love with her! Who was it who said that the course of true love never did run smooth?!



Sebastian played by **James Fairley** — James joined Maskers to play Pip in *Great Expectations*. He was previously a member of Applause Youth Theatre in Dorking, where his greatest stage memory is receiving a standing ovation from Sir Michael Caine at the Leatherhead Festival. Previous roles include Jack in *Vinegar Tom*, Laurence in *Abigail's Party* and Haemon in *Antigone*. James is very excited to be working with a great crew and cast in bringing this classic to life.



Olivia played by **Ruby Tansey-Thomas** — Ruby has been a member of the Hampshire theatre scene since the age of ten when she joined the Nuffield Youth Theatre. Since then she has been in many productions of Shakespeare's greats, including *Much Ado About Nothing*, a version of *The Tempest* rehearsed in under 24 hours, and an adaptation of *Macbeth*, among others. She is very excited to make her debut for Maskers in one of her favourite EVER shows.



Duke Orsino played by **Ruben Sanchez-Garcia** — Ruben joined Maskers in 2010 and has appeared as a pirate in *Treasure Island*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Passepartout in *Around the World in 80 days*. Other acting credits include Soldier in *Chair*, Peter in *Zoo Story* and Andrey in *Afterplay*. He directed *Butterfly Kiss* at the Maskers Studio in 2013 (mentored by Fran Morley) and *Don Quixote* for Maskers' production at Hamptworth last year. He's looking forward to going back to the 80s and putting an exotic accent to Orsino.



Malvolio played by **Alec Walters** — Alec hasn't appeared with The Maskers for some years, so he is delighted to be back once again. Notable roles from the past include: The Duke of Buckingham in *The Three Musketeers*, Macduff in *Macbeth*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Hans in *Ondine*, Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest*; plus various other open-air plays including: *Wild Oats*, *The Hypochondriac*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Alice*, *Lysistrata*, and *Thieves' Carnival*.



Sir Toby Belch played by **Adam Taussik** — Since joining Maskers 15 years ago, Adam has played characters of many ranks, from peasants to kings (with a smattering of vicars and soldiers), but never before a knight (though Don Diego in last year's *Don Quixote* was almost there). For this show, Adam will also be renewing the Shakespearian tone of *A Bunch of Amateurs*, in which Dennis was keen on his food and drink, and channelling the spirit of Dionysus into the hard-drinking Sir Toby's 'cakes and ale'. He hopes his Belch lives up to the name...

The Cast



Sir Andrew Aguecheek played by **Sam Hussey**—This is Sam's first show with Maskers and only his second foray into the world of Shakespeare, having previously played Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. More usually found performing in musicals, his previous roles include Bill in *Made in Dagenham*, Joe Casey in *Our House*, *Dick Whittington*, and numerous ensemble parts. He's very much looking forward to his first open air production!



Maria played by **Sarah-Jayne Wareham** —The last time SJ performed in the open air for Maskers, she was a parrot in *Treasure Island*. Definitely more lines to learn for this one but she still gets to flap around causing mischief and mayhem! Her most recent productions for Maskers include *Comfort Me with Apples*, *An Edwardian Christmas Soiree*, Magrat in *Wyrld Sisters* and the title role in *Antigone*.



Feste played by **Hazel Slawson** —Since joining the Maskers in 2017, Hazel has appeared in *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Wyrld Sisters*, performing in a variety of roles including a Guard, a Sailor and Robber #3. This is her second outdoor show and she is delighted to appear in *Twelfth Night* with a character that not only has a name, but also has a guitar!



Fabian/Sea Captain played by **Sue Dashper** - During Sue's time in Maskers, she has been involved in a number of productions, including *Contractions* and *Metamorphosis* in the Studio and *Sitting Pretty* and *An Italian Straw Hat* at the Nuffield Theatre. She has been in many outdoor productions including: *Don Quixote*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *The Jungle Book*, *Ann Boleyn* and *Treasure Island*. She is currently enjoying the challenge of Shakespeare in the outdoors and is excited to be playing in this new venue.



Antonio/Valentine played by **Jez Minns** —Thinking he would never act again, Jez took a few years off from the theatre to write poetry and paint watercolours. But he missed the Maskers so much that two years ago he came back and since then has been in every show he can. He is delighted to be in *Twelfth Night* and the 1980s theme brings back many embarrassing memories from his teenage years!



Curio/Officer/Priest played by **Angela Stansbridge** —Angie has been a member of Maskers since 1973 and has enjoyed playing a wide range of parts in plays including: *Room at the Inn*, *Ten Times Table*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Treasure Island* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Angie won Maskers' Award for Best Supporting Actor for her multiple roles in last year's summer show, *Don Quixote*! She is also part of the hardworking Marketing Team and is rarely seen without flyers and posters to pass around. Angie is enjoying playing multiple parts again in *Twelfth Night* and seems to have become typecast as a man!

The Production Crew

Director
Production Managers
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Lighting and Production Engineering
FoH Sound and Electrical Engineering
Lighting and Sound Operators
Properties
Costumes
Assisted by
Music Selection
Original Music Composition
Set Construction
Set Painting

Illyria Sign
Front of House Manager
Car Park Manager
Catering Manager

Fran Morley
Chris Baker, Eric Petterson
Robert Osborne
Anna Hussey
Clive Weeks
Jamie McCarthy
David Cowley, Oliver Trojak
Adam Taussik
Serena Brown, Susan Wilson,
SJ Wareham
James Norton
Isaac Treuherz, Hazel Slawson
Brian Stansbridge
Hazel Burrows, Katie Knight,
Sonya Greene
Tom Foyle, James Norton
Eric Petterson
Brian Stansbridge
Chris Baker

Acknowledgements

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Emphasis Event Productions for hire of Trilite, radio microphones and van hire
Express Yourself of Netley for the Adam Ant costume
SJ Wareham for video trailers
National Tool Hire for access tower hire.

Why not join Maskers?

Maskers are keen to welcome new members with an interest in any aspect of theatre - all things technical, directing, costumes, props, set design and construction, front of house, marketing and, of course, acting!

Enjoy the challenge of making theatre happen.

To find out more about Maskers Theatre Company, go to

www.maskers.org.uk or speak to any of the Front of House staff



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Townhill Park House



From early Norman times until the dissolution of the monasteries, Townhill was held by the Bishop of Winchester. In 1536, it was granted to Sir William Paulet and became known as Townhill Farm. Nathaniel Middleton of the East India Company acquired it in 1787 and turned it into a private home. The estate became known as Townhill Park. Middleton enlarged the farmhouse and it was later remodelled following a fire. For twenty years, from 1820, it was home to William Hallette and then, in 1842, it was purchased by the Gator family, who also owned Gator's Mill, near Mansbridge.

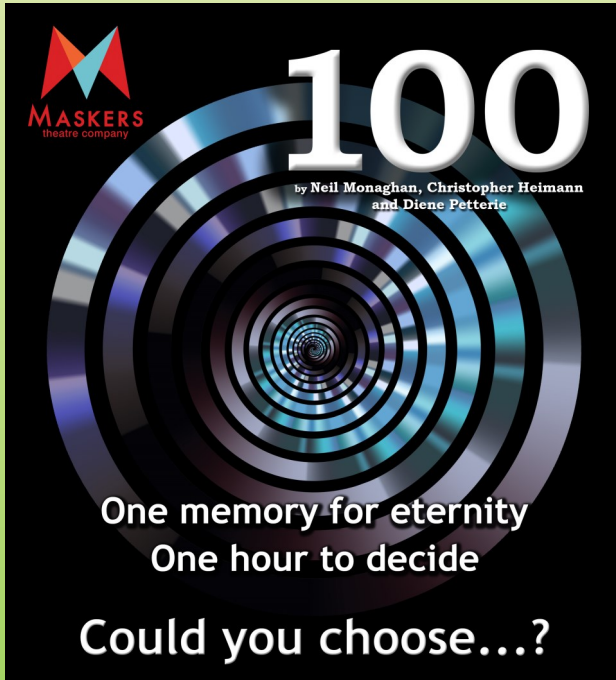
Townhill Park was bought by Samuel Montagu, 1st Baron Swaythling, in 1897 as a residence for his newly-married son, Louis. Extensive modifications took place in the Italian style under the architect Leonard Rome Guthrie. He and Gertrude Jekyll were asked to design the gardens to complement the new style of the house and the arboretum.

Her Majesty Queen Mary visited the house in the 1920s. Stuart Montagu became 3rd Baron Swaythling in 1927 and began hybridising rhododendrons with his gardener, the aptly named Mr Rose.

During World War II, the estate was loaned to the Red Cross as a convalescent home for British soldiers, after which the house was sold to Middlesex County Council and became a boarding school for underprivileged girls. The rest of the land became the housing estate known as Townhill Park. Southampton City Council took over the house and grounds in 1969 as a hostel for merchant navy cadets. In 1994, it became The Gregg School, as you see it today.

In 1997, The Friends of Townhill Park Gardens volunteer force was formed to restore the Gertrude Jekyll Garden, the Herb Garden and the Herbaceous Borders. More recently, work has been done to restore the Arboretum and Orchard. The gardens are open to the public free of charge on advertised dates through the year. The next is Heritage Day on Sunday 15th September.

Our Next Production



21-26 October 2019

at The Maskers Studio

Emsworth Road, Shirley, Southampton SO15 3LX

BOOKING: Via link on our website or 0333 666 3366

For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy; **Lighting Consultant:-** Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

Marketing Director: Peter Court; **Marketing Team:-** Angela Stansbridge, Sarah Russell, Clive Weeks, Anna Hussey, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker, Rob Davis; **Front of House and**

Box Office Manager: Chris Baker; **Photography:-** Clive Weeks, Stuart Gray, Ian Wilson

