

DEWSBURY ARTS GROUP

(Registered Charity No. 504612)

“TWELFTH NIGHT” by William Shakespeare

Auditions - Thursday, 22nd October, 2009, - 7.30 p.m.

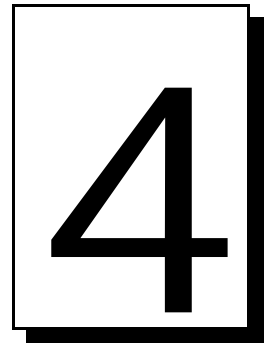
At the Lower Peel Street Premises

Pre Audition Workshop - Tuesday, 13th October, 2009, - 7.30 p.m.

At the Lower Peel Street Premises

Production Dates: Thursday, 11th March, to Saturday, 13th March, AND
Monday, 15th March, to Saturday, 20th March, 2010.

At D.A.G. STUDIO THEATRE



Director - Richard Brook (Mob: 07968950178) (number in 2009/2010 Printed Programme is **not** correct)

Mr. Shakespeare needs no introduction however that doesn't mean we should undersell what is arguably his best comedy. Historians say it was written for a royal performance upon the twelfth night however let's not dwell on the bland reference of the title for 'the play's the thing' here. Of course it has the Bard's trends of mistaken identity, farcical pace, witty wordplay and timeless romance but it's all carried by a great breadth and depth of characters who create a blend of comedy and tragedy. The main plot centres around the shipwrecked twins Sebastian and Viola, who are separated after the storm casts them on to different shores of Illyria. Viola disguises herself as a man so that she can serve Duke Orsino, with whom she ultimately falls in love. Orsino puts his trust in his new 'boy' servant to woo his beloved Lady Olivia on his behalf only to have his love unreturned. This is complicated further when Olivia falls in love with Viola forming a love triangle that even Pythagoras would be proud of. Meanwhile, Olivia's pompous steward Malvolio is starting to annoy Sir Toby and no level of drink or japey with his gullible companion Sir Andrew can remedy that. Fortunately (for Sir Toby) Malvolio becomes the target of a trick devised by the cunning Maria which not only brings more confusion to the mistaken identity theme but also an air of tragedy to the story. It's tied together though with the arrival of Viola's twin brother Sebastian (looking remarkably like his sister) and all of which is observed, steered and accompanied by the witty and musical Feste – the unfoolish fool. In short, it's a beautiful fusion of humour, pathos with an interwoven plot and hosted by a smorgasbord of characters which everyone can relate to. Shakespeare at his best!

Period: Mid 1920s.

Set: Open, large space with the flexibility to adapt to a Court, Gardens and Manor House lounge. Furniture and design would be suitable period – upper class, art deco, **Le Corbusier influences etc.**

Properties: Period pieces such as gramophone, telephones, glassware etc as well as period swords.

Costumes: An array of period dress such as post world war uniform, maids, butler and upper class, ladies potential flapper fashion with the added bonus of a girl dressed up like a man – a lot of fun!

Sound: Scope to have original 1920s style music to fit Shakespeare's lyrics amongst the amazing backdrop of the roaring twenties era – Al Johnson, Swing and of course Jazz!

Lighting: Good warm full stage and blue cold (night) effect. Special - jail bars gobo.

Characters

Audition Pages

Orsino: Age - Late 20s to 40s - Duke of Illyria, pines for the love and attention of Olivia. A strong, commanding yet romantic role with an almost whimsical and dreamy approach to love. P. 5-6
P.36-37

Viola: Age - Mid 20s to mid 30s - Female romantic lead (although she's dressed as a man for most of the play), disguised as Cesario she falls for her master - Orsino who sends her on a quest to woo Lady Olivia on his behalf with dangerous consequences. A spirited, intelligent character and the protagonist of the main plot. P. 7-9
P.20-23

Continued overleaf

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Audition Pages</u>
Sebastian: Age - Late 20s to mid 30s – Twin brother of Viola, equally spirited and strong. Naive to the land he's in and as such is guided by Antonio. Would ideally like Sebastian to be approx. same height and build as Viola.	P.74-75 P.83-85
Antonio: Age - 30s plus – Companion of Sebastian after saving him from the shipwreck, who is nervous to be in Illyria due to past crimes. Faithful to Sebastian to the end, he acts as a guardian but very aware of the risks it brings.	P.25-26 P.65-67
Olivia: Age - Late 20s to 40s - The Lady of the manor who's mourning the recent death of her brother and as such is in no mood to be humoured with the company of men. She ignores the attention of Orsino and later falls for Viola dressed as a man. A strong character, confused with love.	P.47-50 P.55-57
Maria: Age - 30s to 50s - Servant to Olivia, cunning and commanding role. Leads Sir Toby and Sir Andrew into tricking Malvolio and is later married to Sir Toby, hinting at more trickery afoot. A woman who's in full control.	P. 9-11 P.31-33
Sir Toby: Age - 40s to 60s – Olivia's uncle – a drunken playful character who scorns at the way he's looked down upon, particularly by Malvolio. He plays Sir Andrew his companion for a fool, leading him astray and generally making a mockery of him. His drunkenness in the end though gets the better of him.	P. 9-11 P.62-64
SirAndrew: Age - Late 20s to 40s - A friend of Sir Toby's visiting on the idea of wooing Olivia on Toby's recommendation. Dim witted, slow on reaction and a physical fool on every level – In summary: An upperclass twit.	P.10-13 P.50-52
Malvolio: Age - Late 30s to 60s - Steward to Olivia's house. A pompous self righteous character who believes he's above his station. Constantly riles against Sir Toby and his gang but bitterly and tragically pays the price.	P.30-31 P.41-43
Fabian: Age- Early 20s to 40s - Servant in Olivia's house, gets involved with the trickery of Malvolio but in the end shows his true colours as the honest one of the pack.	P.50-52 P.89
Feste: Age - Late 20s to 50s - The fool and wit provider of the play who floats between plots – engaging and disengaging as he pleases. This part is a musical role and will involve some singing.	P.45-46 P.72-74

As you can see the age range of most characters is wide spread and will ultimately depend on the casting and who they play alongside.

There will be call for some actors to play more than one part due to there being several small roles (e.g. Valentine, Curio, Captain), this will be fully defined after auditions are completed.

Reading Copies available from Richard Brook (Mob: 07968950178).