



TWELFTH NIGHT

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

27 - 31 AUGUST 2026



TWELFTH NIGHT
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
FAITH TURNER

PRESENTED BY
OVO'S YOUTH ENSEMBLE

27TH - 31ST AUGUST 2026

SYNOPSIS

Set on a remote coastline, a band of misfit fishermen frame our story, keeping watch over the seas for fish and for a soulmate. Amidst a storm, they rescue the shipwrecked Viola from the rough waters and take her in, disguising her as a man—'Cesario'—so she can navigate this unfamiliar world and find employment with the eligible yet self-absorbed Orsino— new owner of Illyria's seaside circus.

Orsino has set his heart on the glamorous but vain showgirl Olivia. Surrounded by her fashionable entourage of mischievous ladies, she is Illyria's showstopper. However, following the deaths of her father and brother and perhaps recognising Orsino's shortcomings—she rejects his advances.

Changing tack, Orsino sends Viola to woo Olivia on his behalf, resulting in comic chaos as Olivia falls for Viola in disguise, while Viola is secretly in love with Orsino herself.

Meanwhile, the pompous Malvolio, Olivia's steward, is tricked by her drunken uncle Ringmaster Sir Toby, the itless yet affluent Sir Andrew, Feste a homeless entertainer, and the maid Maria, who seek revenge, exposing the darker side of disguise, upended hierarchy and misrule.

Viola's twin brother Sebastian, presumed dead, is washed ashore and found by a fisherman, Marge, who quickly takes a shine to him. When Sebastian is mistaken for 'Cesario', this leads to a sudden marriage with Olivia before all identities are revealed and order restored.

Ultimately, this production suggests that revelry and excess often mask deeper feelings of loneliness and longing, and that true connection lies not in romance alone, but in friendship and acceptance.

TWELFTH NIGHT

DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

FAITH TURNER



Can you tell us about your journey in theatre so far, and your history with OVO?

I've acted in many OVO productions over the years Little Women, The Crucible, Macbeth, Hedda — funnily enough, Twelfth Night was my very first OVO production back in 2007, where I was Viola, and I've since played Malvolia in 2019. It's hard to single out a favourite OVO production, Mosquitoes at Chichester is hard to top, but my heart will always hold a special place for Rosalind in As You Like It (2016), not only my first production after my daughter was born, but OVO's debut at The Minack.

Last year, the Ensemble delivered a powerful version of Lord of the Flies. What inspired the shift to a Shakespearean comedy?

Well, they do both involve crashes, coastlines, and chaos — but otherwise, yes, quite a departure from Lord of the Flies. Each year I'm keen to challenge the company and reach different young actors by exploring a range of genres and performance styles. I've always loved Twelfth Night — the mischief, the love, the pain, and the pointed humour of it all.

Though billed as a comedy it's not all frippery; there's an underlying human yearning for connection and a fear of being unloved which I'm keen to bring out. It is the hope for love; the ache of loneliness; the desire to be truly accepted for who you are; and the painful pleasure of falling for someone, which fuels the bonkers behaviours of these characters. And, who can't relate to doing something idiotic for love?

What can audiences expect from your interpretation of the play?

For a play so closely tied to the sea and to love, we're setting our adaptation in an unknown fishing village and viewing the story through the eyes of a band of outsiders —our ensemble: an eclectic haul of fishermen who keep constant watch over both the play and the tides hoping to find 'true love's catch'. Having an ensemble of awkward, yet kind-hearted fishermen, we hope to further highlight the vanity of the Count and Countesses' lovelorn households. This year we are also double casting our lead roles, which will further explore the impact of gender in a play of disguises, as well as getting to enjoy more of our local talent.

How would you describe your approach to directing?

I always like to work physically and collaboratively with a large devising element to create bold stage pictures. We play games, explore exercises and workshop ideas to discover what work we like and the style of this year's cast. Everyone in the company has been selected for their talent as a performer, but foremost for their interest in, and generosity with others in the room. I believe the best work comes from building a connected and committed company.

Why do you think having a Youth Ensemble is important, for young people and for the wider community?

Our Youth Ensemble is incredibly important and its impact goes far beyond putting on a show. It is a space to nurture creativity, empathy and dedication as well as building self-confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging. It's a privilege to witness these young people grow up; further their performance skills; increase their self-belief and forge friendships across different schools, backgrounds and ages.

CAST OF

THURSDAY, SATURDAY EVENING, MONDAY

Malvolia	BILLIE
Lady Toby	TILLY
Viola	ELENA M
Olivia	CAMILLA
Sir Andrew	SAM L
Orisino	SAM C
Fool	MEGAN
Marge	ARLA
Maria	PIPPA
Sebastian	ALEX
Alan	ELENA H
Olivia's Ladies	ALAYNA (Cancan Girl), ELLA (Contortionist), HANNAH (Mime Artist), SOPHIE (Knife Thrower)
Orsino's Gents	ALFIE (Curio), LEO (Security)
Fabian/Strongman	DEVAN
Priest / Valentine	ALLESANDRO
Fishermen	ALICE (Jo), ALMA (Lundy), FRED (Derek), IVAN (Viking), IVY (Lamorna), PATRICK (Jim)

CAST OF

FRIDAY, SATURDAY MATINÉE, SUNDAY

Malvolio	CLEM
Sir Toby	NOAH
Viola	ELEANOR K
Olivia	ELSIE
Sir Andrew	FREDDIE MG
Orisino	EVAN R
Fool	LILA
Marge	MARTHA
Maria	PIPPA
Sebastian	ALEX
Alan	ELENA H
Olivia's Ladies	ALAYNA (Cancan Girl), ELLA (Contortionist), HANNAH (Mime Artist), SOPHIE (Knife Thrower)
Orsino's Gents	ALFIE (Curio), LEO (Security)
Fabian/Strongman	DEVAN
Priest	ALLESANDRO
Fishermen	ALICE (Jo), ALMA (Lundy), FRED (Derek), IVAN (Viking), IVY (Lamorna), PATRICK (Jim)

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

Director	FAITH TURNER
Dramaturg	JANET PODD
Set Designer	SIMON NICHOLAS
Costume Designer	MADDIE POWELL, THEA PEACOCK
Stage Manager	MIRANDA THOMPSON
Assistant Stage Manager	KIRA TURNPENNY
Lighting Designer	ALEX VARNEY
Sound & Lighting Operator	OLLIE WELLAND
Producer	MARK O'SULLIVAN
Production Assistant	MILI BRANSTON

CAST BIOS

BILLIE – MALVOLIA

This is Billie's second OVO Youth Ensemble production after playing the role of Roger in Lord of the Flies. Other past roles include Verges, Much Ado About Nothing and Hermit, Young Frankenstein.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CLEM – MALVOLIO

Clem is thrilled to return to the OVO Youth Ensemble after Secret Garden in 2024 and Lord of the Flies in 2025. He enjoys performing and has taken part in many school productions.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

TILLY – LADY TOBY

Past roles with OVO Youth are The Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies. Other roles include Me and My Girl, The Amazing Adventures of Superstan and Hansel and Gretel.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

NOAH – SIR TOBY

Twelfth Night marks Noah's fourth performance with OVO Youth Ensemble following Jack in Lord of the Flies, Colin in Secret Garden and Jim in The Railway Children.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

ELENA – VIOLA

This is Elena's third OVO Youth production after Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies. Other productions include Richard III with Kernow Chamber Players. Elena is part of Shakespeare's Globe Youth Theatre and LAMDA Grade 7.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ELEANOR – VIOLA

Twelfth Night is Eleanor's third role in OVO's Youth Ensemble. Having previously performed in Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies. Eleanor is LAMDA Grade 4.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAMILLA – OLIVIA

Camilla is delighted to spend her second year as part of the OVO Youth Ensemble having previously been part of Ralph's Gang in Lord of the Flies in 2025.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ELSIE – OLIVIA

Twelfth Night marks Elsie's third performance with OVO Youth Ensemble: Secret Garden 2024 and Lord of the Flies 2025. Elsie is also a Grade 6 Ballet Dancer.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

SAM- SIR ANDREW

Twelfth Night marks Sam's first performance with OVO Youth. Previously he has starred in many school productions such as Peter Pan and We Will Rock You.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

FREDDIE – SIR ANDREW

Freddie's previous roles include Ugly Duckling in Shrek the Musical, Mr Tumnus in The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Luca in The Flare. This is Freddie's debut with OVO Youth.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

SAM – ORSINO

This is Sam's second performance for OVO Youth after playing Jack in Lord of the Flies. Other roles include Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Sherlock Holmes.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

EVAN – ORSINO

Evan is excited to take part in his first OVO Youth production. Previous roles include Billy in School of Rock and Michael in Elf (SAMTC), Young Pip in Great Expectations, Peter in Box of Delights (Abbey Theatre).



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

MEGAN – FESTE

Megan is delighted to be spending her fourth year with OVO, having played Simon in Lord of the Flies, Ensemble in Secret Garden and Ensemble in The Railway Children.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

LILA – FESTE

This is Lila's first performance with OVO Youth. Previously she has participated in school theatre productions including Emil and the Detectives, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and Frozen.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ARLA – MARGE

Twelfth Night is Arla's third performance with OVO Youth alongside Lord of the Flies and Secret Garden. Other productions include Midsummer Night's Dream and What a Knight!



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

MARTHA – MARGE

Twelfth Night is Martha's third OVO Youth performance following on from Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies. Other shows include Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz and Little Shop of Horrors.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

PIPPA – MARIA

Pippa is excited to make her debut performance with OVO Youth. She has always loved performing and has been in musicals such as Legally Blonde, Beauty and the Beast and School of Rock.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ALEX – SEBASTIAN

Alex's introduction to theatre was at Watersmeet Theatre performing in Peter Pan, High School Musical and Grease. Alex played Jim in OVO's The Railway Children. He is LAMDA Grade 5.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ELENA – ALAN

Twelfth Night is Elena's third OVO Youth show. Previously she was Piggy, Lord of the Flies and Dog, Secret Garden. She is also currently completing her LAMDA Grade 6.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ALAYNA – CANGAN GIRL

This is Alayna's second show with OVO Youth Ensemble after the Lord of the Flies 2025. She really enjoys acting and everything about stage life - and also performed in Standing at the Sky's Edge in London's West End.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

ELLA – CONTORTIONIST

This is Ella's debut with OVO Youth. Past productions include Peter Pan with RARE productions and various school shows such as Legally Blonde and Grease.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

HANNAH – MIME ARTIST

This is Hannah's third year working with OVO after productions of Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies. She also enjoys improvisation work and is active in school productions.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

SOPHIE – KNIFE THROWER

Sophie attends Best Theatre Arts Company and this is her third performance with OVO Youth Ensemble having performed in Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ALFIE – CURIO

Alfie has been doing shows with HTCC since he was three years old. Twelfth Night is his third with OVO Youth. Alfie has also taken part in the National Theatre Connections Festival.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

LEO – SECURITY

Leo is thrilled to be making his OVO Youth debut. Recent credits include The Addams Family as Lurch, Wind in the Willows, The Amazing Adventures of Superstar and The Greatest Showman. Leo has loved the laughter and being part of the OVO family.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

DEVAN – FABIAN

Devan has been in OVO's Lord of the Flies as Eric. Outside of OVO he has been in school productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream as Francis Flute. He is joining Emil Dale Sunday School.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ALESSANDRO – PRIEST

Alessandro has previously performed as Puck in Midsummer Night's Dream, How to get away with Murder and Romeo and Juliet with Best Theatre. This is his debut with OVO Youth.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

ALICE – JO

Alice has featured in National Theatre Connections' Ravers as Drew, Tuesday as Cam and a school production of Little Shop of Horrors.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS

ALMA – LIUNDY

Twelfth Night marks Alma's first production for OVO. Alma also starred as Rita, Educating Rita. She is Grade 6 LAMDA and Grade 4 Singing.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

FREDDIE – DEREK

This is Freddie's first OVO Youth. He's performed twice at the Minack Theatre in The Tempest and Peter Pan. He is Grade 3 piano and has a passion for singing.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

IVAN – VIKING

Twelfth Night sees Ivan in his first OVO Youth performance as Viking the Fisherman. Ivan has previously performed in A Christmas Carol and will be in his school production of Bugsy Malone.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

IVY – LAMORNA

Twelfth Night is Ivy's first show with OVO Youth. Past productions include Me and my Ron and Beauty and the Beast. Ivy is studying Grade 5 Drama.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CAST BIOS



PATRICK – JIM

This is Patrick's Debut OVO performance. Previous roles include Blind Pew, Treasure Island 2026 and Lord Sugar, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang 2025. Patrick is LAMDA Grade 4.



ADMIT ONE



Nº 6589636

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

FAITH TURNER

Faith's highlights include: Jenny in Mosquitoes (Chichester Festival Theatre); the title role in Hedda Gabler, Elizabeth in The Crucible and Emma in Contractions (Maltings Theatre); Jem in The Highwayman (Norwich Theatres); Viola and Malvolia in Twelfth Night (Rose Playhouse); Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing, Paulina in The Winter's Tale, Rosalind in As You Like It and Jenny in The Threepenny Opera (Minack Theatre); The Professor in Little Women, Lady Capulet in Romeo and Juliet and Witch / Porter in Macbeth (Roman Theatre of Verulamium). She directed OVO's Youth Ensemble productions of The Secret Garden and Lord of the Flies. Having worked with a range of contemporary theatre companies and performing arts schools, she is currently Deputy Director of Drama at St Paul's Girls' School, London, where directing highlights include Medea, Eurydice, The Permanent Way, The Chairs, Adolphus Tips and many original pieces of devised physical and verbatim theatre.

JANET PODD

Janet has directed numerous productions for OVO since 2012, including Playhouse Creatures, The Crucible and Hedda Gabler, as well as co-directing many classic plays with OVO's Artistic Director, Adam Nichols. She began her performing career in a number of roles in Oxford, including Sonya in Uncle Vanya at The Playhouse and Lika in The Promise at the Burton Rooms. Her directorial debut was Pinter's The Birthday Party, which toured Oxfordshire schools. She began the Drama Department at the North London Collegiate School where she directed over 40 plays, including two on the Edinburgh Fringe. Her work in opera includes Dido and Aeneas for the Scottish Music School and The Marriage of Figaro at Prior Park College, Bath.

SIMON NICHOLAS

As a Co-Founder of OVO, Simon helped get the ball rolling, playing the Friar in the company's inaugural production of Romeo and Juliet. He pioneered the innovative use of film in OVO's work, most recently for Mosquitoes. Simon has built OVO's theatre within the Roman Theatre since 2016. He has created the sets for over 30 shows including, most recently, A Christmas Carol, Les Miserables, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Great Gatsby and Lord of the Flies.

THEA PEACOCK

Thea is currently studying Costume for Performance at the University of the Arts, London. She made her OVO debut as Wardrobe Supervisor in last year's production of The Great Gatsby.

MADDIE POWELL

Maddie is a graduate of Bournemouth Arts University. Having spent the last year working in fashion retail, she has also been volunteering as a Costume Assistant on numerous community theatre projects. She is thrilled to be making her professional costume debut with OVO this summer.

MIRANDA THOMPSON

Miranda began her career in international event production before retraining as a teacher. Trained in both Montessori and primary education, she is passionate about empowering children to become the best they can be. This is the first OVO production Miranda has been involved in. She is also a Reiki practitioner and singer, with a deep interest in wellbeing, self-expression and human connection.

KIRA TURNPENNY

Kira Turnpenny has been ASM for OVO, taking a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' down to the Minack as well as assisting in the site and scenic get ins for the summer. She is excited to bring OVO's interpretation of Twelfth Night to the historic stage.

ALEX VARNEY

Alex has loved being part of the Roman Theatre Festival for the first time this year. Alongside his lighting work on OVO productions, he has helped with site construction and set building. He is excited to finish up the festival with lighting design for Twelfth Night.

OLLIE WELLAND

Ollie is a recent graduate of the School of Audio Engineering. He has recorded with independent artists, including Blank Xpression, Jeans for Julian, and Abbey Road Alumni & BBC Introducing artists kohzee. Ollie made his OVO debut with last year's Lord of the Flies.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM

MARK O'SULLIVAN

Mark is a writer, actor and producer. He is best known for his Channel 4 sitcom Lee and Dean which he wrote and played Dean. He created ITV drama Tell Me Everything, and his Channel 4 documentary, My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom won Best Arts programme at last year's Royal Television Society Awards. He continues to write alongside producing for OVO – his adaptation of The Great Gatsby debuted at the Roman Theatre Open Air Festival last year, and his version of A Christmas Carol was performed in St Albans and Hitchin last Christmas.

MILI BRANSTON

Mili graduated this year with a First in English and Drama from the University of Manchester. As President of the University's Drama Society – one of the largest in the UK – she has programmed and produced three seasons of theatre, leading a membership approaching 300 and forging collaborations with professional arts venues across the city. She conceived and managed Shake Your Speare, a Shakespeare festival staged at the historic Victoria Baths. This is her first season with OVO.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**With special thanks to
Charlie Clee, George Curry, Ian Cullen and
St Paul's Girls School.**

OVO YOUTH ENSEMBLE

OVO Youth Ensemble gives talented, local young people the chance to perform in high quality productions in a professional environment.

The initiative is part of OVO's education and outreach strand, which opens up participation and training opportunities for children and young people across St Albans and surrounding areas.

As part of the Youth Ensemble, young people will get the chance to be in three professionally produced productions each year, including at the Roman Theatre Open Air Festival, working alongside professional adult actors, directors, and creative teams.

If you'd like to find out more and join our Ensemble please contact us via our website:

ovo.org.uk/ovo-youth-ensemble



Lord of the Flies, 2025



The Secret Garden, 2024



OVO.ORG.UK