

Twelfth Night



The Radio Show!

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Director's Note

When my nervous, innocent second-year self initially proposed *Twelfth Night* as a mainstage production in Fall 2019, there was no way I could have anticipated the evolution this project would undergo over the next year. My initial proposal aimed to mimic the aesthetics of 1950s advertisements in order to highlight the strict heteronormativity and gender roles that the characters of Shakespeare's play challenge and break. This plan leaned heavily into the visual: a multi-leveled stage, which I drew on the blackboard at the beginning of every rehearsal; brightly colored costumes, lights, and backdrops; and extensive physical comedy and blocking.

In March, when the pandemic threatened to cancel this production altogether, something in me refused to let go of the project until the cast, the crew, and I had something to show for all the work we had done. After realizing there was no version of *Twelfth Night* that could be done safely as a mainstage production, I reluctantly parted with the visual elements of the play. Thus, the radio play version was born, and the show took on a completely new life that — dare I say — I might like even more than my initial mainstage concept. We were still able to maintain a sense of 1950s advertisements, incorporating cheesy sound effects, fun musical interludes, and narrations modeled after the radio and television sitcoms of the mid-twentieth century. Trust the process, as the kids say.

I could not have finished this project without the practical and emotional support of Stage Manager Charlie Mooz and Assistant Director Tanaka Muvavarirwa. These two were by my side from the beginning, before we even had a full artistic staff or cast. They helped me phrase my notes in a way that made sense outside of my head, they called me out when I fixated too much on specific details (ahem, the blocking of Toby and Maria's exit in 4.2), and most importantly, they kept me sane.

This production now symbolizes the resilience of the arts even in the most difficult of times. My lovely team provided me with a sense of community and purpose despite our isolation, and I hope I have provided the same to them. Many cast and crew members have been involved at various points throughout the process, and each and every one of them brought new and exciting ideas that influenced this play's final iteration. I could not be prouder of the work we have done, and even though it hurts to say goodbye to a project that has been a huge part of my collegiate life, it is my honor to present to you *Twelfth Night: The Radio Show!*

Cast

Viola..... Lex Schwartzman
Orsino.....Silas Hayes
Olivia.....Ingrid Kenyon
Sebastian.....Ryder Sadler
Feste..... Will Clemons
MalvolioMia Shaker
Sir Toby.....Bob Lynch
Maria..... Grace Handakas
Sir Andrew.....Shannon Hughes
Antonio..... C-T Cordero
Fabian.....Alex Figueroa
Valentine, Second Officer.....Autumn Routt
Curio.....Ria Kharosekar
First Officer.....Casey Breneman
Conductor, Servant, Priest..... Wilf Wheatley
Narrator..... Maille-Rose Smith

Artistic Staff

Director..... Avery Erskine
Assistant Director.....Tanaka Muvavarirwa
Producer.....Emma Camp
Stage Manager.....Charles Mooz
Sound Designer..... Eirian Crocker
Composer..... Michael McNulty
Music Director.....Pam Beardsell
Dramaturg..... Grant King
Dramaturg.....Sav Maive
Editor.....Avery Erskine
Narrations WriterAvery Erskine
Narrations WriterTanaka Muvavarirwa
Narrations WriterMaille-Rose Smith
Publicity... .. Ingrid Kenyon
Publicity.....Max Tankersley
Publicity..... Emma DeMartino

Cast and Crew Bios

Alex Figueroa (Fabian) not only is a talented actor, she's also the dealer if you're ever looking for a sound designer. Stream "Heartbeat" by Beckah Shae. UVA '24 undeclared.

Autumn Routt (Valentine, Second Officer) is on a side quest to find an ancient soup recipe that's been lost to time. Stream "HIT EM WHERE IT HURTS" by PawPaw Rod. UVA '23 Biomedical Engineering.

Avery Erskine (Director) asks you to please consult the director's note, as there is no way she is writing both a director's note and a bio. Stream "1950" by King Princess. UVA '22 English.

Bob Lynch (Sir Toby) joined this production in a futile attempt to distract himself from the fact that he is a Detroit Tigers fan. Stream "4'33'" by John Cage. UVA '21 English and Ice Cream Truck Driving.

Casey Breneman (First Officer) is a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious nanny! Stream "A Spoonful of Sugar" by Julie Andrews. UVA '19 English, Spanish & Drama.

Charlie Mooz (Stage Manager) is the kind of person you go to when you need help. When you need a line reading, he'll monotonously recite it! When you're losing a dance battle, he'll be sure to let you know! And when you need to know what the purpose of water is, he'll give you a far-too-complicated explanation! Stream "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" by Aretha Franklin. UVA '23 undeclared.

C-T Cordero (Antonio) is fluent in French and was apt to give line readings for the French portions of the play. He thoroughly enjoyed working with the entire cast but the connection between Antonio and Sebastian will always be in his heart. Stream "Obsessed" by Mariah Carey. UVA '22 Economics and French.

Eirian Crocker (Sound Designer) is delighted to sit alone in her room behind a computer screen playing around with sound effects. When she is not doing that, you likely can find her sitting alone in her room behind a computer screen

working on physics. She enjoys variety. Stream “Hey There Delilah” by Plain White T's. UVA '24 Engineering

Emma Camp (Producer) misses the extra 'm'. Stream “I Wanna be a Producer” by Matthew Broderick. UVA '22 English and Philosophy.

Grace Handakas (Maria) is now an official UVA alum and, with that, an adult. While the inevitability of aging is terrifying to us all, the entirety of SotL wishes her only the most wonderful of experiences in whatever comes next. We'll miss you! VCU '22 History, UVA '20 History and Media Studies.

Grant King (Dramaturg) is a lifelong literature lover and certifiable Shakespeare addict. When they're not reading (for fun or for their thesis on queer theory and pedagogy) they can be found teaching a first year writing course, talking about the evils of the canon in their grad classes, or working on on the denim vest they've been covering with patches, embroidery, and random sewn-on memorabilia for two years. Stream “Flamboyant” and “Man to Man” by Doran Electra, and wear a mask! UVA '21 Master's Candidate in English.

Ingrid Kenyon (Olivia) is perfect. How, you ask? Not only does she crush Shakespeare's classic works, she is also a goddess of artistic wood burning, fantasy egg scrambling, cheating at dance battles and neighborly hammer lending. She's the kind of person who will lend you a hammer whenever you need one. Stream “Dogs Laying Around Playing” by My Bubba. UVA '21 Neuroscience.

Lex Schwartzman (Viola) plays Viola in *Twelfth Night*, the sister who pretends to be a man, and cause inadvertent chaos and confusion (not least for Orsino's sexuality). Alexa has adapted to the radio format fast, learning not to see people or be able to convey emotions through her ever expressive face. Alexa will also sorely miss practicing an act 5 twirl with Silas Hayes (Duke Orsino) that audiences will have to keep in their imagination, however the radio show has its own surprises in store. Stream “You Belong with Me” by Taylor Swift. UVA '23 undeclared.

Maille-Rose Smith (Narrator) is a member of the fey, stolen away from her home in a magical woods because this production needed her. She loves eggs, cute lil bugs, and her friends. Stream “She's an Angel” by They Might Be Giants. UVA '21 Drama and English.

Mia Shaker (Malviolo) is a lifelong actress who does in fact rock yellow stockings and can do amazing impressions with her voice, from British Snape to French Snape. There's no limit to the range of her voice acting. She's a very vibrant person who will always make you laugh. Stream "Michael in the Bathroom" by George Salazar. UVA '21 Math and Computer Science.

Michael McNulty (Composer) is from Greenwich, CT. A lifelong musician, Michael studies jazz guitar and bassoon, performing with both the UVA Jazz Ensemble and Charlottesville Symphony. While at UVA Michael has discovered his love of composition in addition to performance and has composed several pieces that have been performed by the UVA Jazz Ensemble. During his remaining time at UVA Michael hopes to perform, compose, and grow as a musician as much as he can. Michael aspires to pursue music performance and composition after school and is incredibly grateful to SotL and everyone who made this production possible for giving him this opportunity to grow as a composer. Stream 'The Groove Merchant' by Thad Jones Mel Lewis Orchestra. UVA '23 undeclared.

Pam Beardsell (Music Director)

Ria Kharosekar (Curio) is a star - plain and simple. When she's not on stage or on the air she's quietly making witty remarks about the people around her, brightening their days and bringing laughter. Stream "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton for a look into Curio's world! UVA '23 undeclared.

Ryder Sadler (Sebastian) is a renowned cornhole champion and speed shoelace un-knotter. Ryder dabbles in not only theatre, but can also be seen rocking the international Just Dance and Wii Bowling leaderboards. Ryder's love of Sasquatch, quiches, and decorative orbs brought a spicy edge to our virtual world. Stream "Fruit Salad" by The Wiggles. UVA '21 Mechanical Engineering.

Sav Maive (Dramaturg). Live, laugh, love. Stream "Heart of Glass (Live from the iHeart Festival)" by Miley Cyrus. UVA '20.

Shannon Hughes' (Sir Andrew) performance in this production could only be improved by one thing- finally allowing her cat to record under the blanket alongside her. UVA '22 Elementary Education.

Silas Hayes (Orsino) is by far the most likely to _____ (verb) a Mad Libs out of his _____ (noun) to the shock, joy, and utter bafflement of all who _____

(verb) it. But now that we are _____ (verb ending in -ing) in a thrilling _____ (adjective) format, he couldn't possibly _____ (verb) that! Could he? UVA '23 Statistics and Government.

Tanaka Muvavarirwa (Assistant Director) believes the most important thing she did as AD was build a blanket fort in solidarity during recording. It was a...learning experience, to say the least. Stream "Positions" By Ariana Grande. UVA '22 English.

Wilf Wheatley (Conductor, Servant, Priest) has created in-depth back stories for each of his characters. Be on the lookout for a *Twelfth Night* sequel from the perspective of the priest. Stream "London Boy" by Taylor Swift. University of St Andrews '21 Philosophy, UVA '20 Philosophy.

Will Clemons (Feste) is a professional clown both as an actor and in real life. Nine out of ten doctors would recommend his singing as a cure for the Sunday Scaries. The tenth doctor simply has not heard his singing. Stream "Oh Mistress Mine" by Will Clemons (or "Sonsick" by San Fermin)! UVA '23 Anthropology.

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This Semester in SoTL:

King Lear directed by Emma Camp