

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

The following is a list of characters that appear in this cutting of Twelfth Night.

Twenty-three actors performed in the original production. This number can be increased to about thirty or decreased to about twelve by having actors share or double roles.

For the full breakdown of characters, see Sample Program.

FESTE: Jester to Countess Olivia

MARIA: Olivia's waiting gentlewoman

OLIVIA: An Illyrian countess

VIOLA: A lady of Messaline shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria
(disguised as Cesario)

MALVOLIO: Steward in Olivia's household

ORSINO: Duke of Illyria

CURIO: Gentleman serving Orsino

SIR TOBY BELCH: Olivia's kinsman

SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK: Sir Toby's companion

ATTENDANTS

MUSICIANS

NARRATORS

#9 Narrator, "Twelfth Night"

* SCENE 1. (ACT I, SCENE V)

Olivia's house.

STAGEHANDS set bench stage right, chair stage left, and table center stage.

Enter NARRATOR from stage rear.

As NARRATOR introduces the roles, players enter from stage rear, cross the stage in character, and exit stage right (see Performance Notes).

NARRATOR

Our story takes place in Illyria, an ancient (and mythical) country in Southern Europe on the Adriatic Sea. Two twins, Sebastian and Viola are separated in a shipwreck. Viola, believing her brother Sebastian to be dead, disguises herself as a man and takes a position as a page in the Court of the Duke Orsino, who is romantically pursuing the wealthy Countess Olivia, still mourning the sudden death of her brother. Living at Olivia's household is her drunken cousin Sir Toby, with frequent visits by his goofy party friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Also at Olivia's house are the puritanical and fun-hating Malvolio, the maid, Maria, and the court Fool, who comes and goes as he pleases, Feste: So, our tale begins, with Viola being sent to Olivia's estate to deliver a love message from the Duke Orsino, (*whispering to audience*) whom Viola herself secretly loves. The scene takes place in the courtyard of the estate of Countess Olivia.