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TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

PRESENTS

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S CHERISHED COMEDY

TWELFTH NIGHT

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 6, 2016

AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Twelfth Night*, February 26-March 6, 2016 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

*If ever thou shalt love,
In the sweet pangs of it remember me.*

Following a shipwreck on a strange shore, Viola fears her brother dead and is forced to build a new life on her own. Masquerading as a man in order to procure a job with Duke Orsino, she finds herself in the midst of a topsy-turvy love triangle. Magic, mayhem and mistaken identities come to the stage in William Shakespeare's treasured romantic comedy of revelry, reunion and love.

"Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* is, at its heart, a story of love, of being lost and being found again," shares Samuel Blake, the play's dramaturg. "*Twelfth Night* has been performed the world over and continues to enchant audiences as it almost certainly did when it was first staged over 400 years ago. Perhaps this is because we have all experienced the order of our world being overturned at some point, whether it be from the desperate passion of unrequited love, the inconsolable grief of losing a loved one, the raucous exuberance of too much revelry, or the necessity of disguising oneself simply to survive."

Led by guest director Robynn Rodriguez, the creative team sets Shakespeare's island of Illyria in the stylized world of 1840s Croatia. Inspired by films such as *The Piano* and works by visual artist Maxfield Parrish, Viola finds herself thrust into a place of refuge, love and transformation.

"To find a way forward, Viola becomes her twin brother. She disguises herself while she tries to rise to the challenges of a new life. It is through the guise of her brother that Viola's genial nature, her strength of character and her quick wit begin to blossom," says Rodriguez. "As 'Cesario,' Viola begins to discover the essence of who she is."

Robynn Rodriguez made her directorial debut at the Utah Shakespeare Festival where she has directed *King John* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. For 22 seasons, Rodriguez was a member of the resident acting company at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. As an actor, her work has been seen at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Denver Center Theatre Company, Intiman Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse and many others. Rodriguez received her M.F.A. from the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. She will direct *Richard III* at Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA) in April.

Twelfth Night features an all-star cast of University of Texas at Austin students, including: Trey Curtis as Feste, Keith Machekanyanga as Orsino, Rama Tchuente as Olivia, Jake McDermott as Sebastian, Adolfo Lambert as Malvolio, Teddy Santiesteban as Valentine, Austin Greenwalt as Sir Toby Belch, Ian Price as Sir Andrew, Adriana Scamardi as Maria, Sam Kerner as Fabian, Jadon Hatley as Priest, Jose Alejandro Figueroa as Curio and Josh Cole as Musician.

Direction by Robynn Rodriguez • Technical Direction by Lawrence Bennett • Choreography by Andrea Beckham • Dramaturgy by Samuel Blake • Lighting Design by Yi-Tai Chung • Costume Design by Andie Day • Projection Design by Katherine Ducey • Sound Design by Billy Henry • Scenic Design by Teena Sauvola • Fight Choreography by Kevin Squires • Stage Management by Charlotte Campbell

For more information on *Twelfth Night*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Pre-Performance Conversation, February 26-28, March 1-6, beginning 30 minutes prior to curtain at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Patrons are invited to join members of the creative and community engagement team for a pre-performance conversation, which will offer insight into the history and themes of *Twelfth Night* as well as an introduction to the characters and the play's language.

Post-Performance Discussion, following the February 28 2:00 p.m. at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Patrons are welcome to join members of the creative team for a post-performance discussion focusing on the play's history and production.

CALENDAR LISTING

February 26-March 6, 2016 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Twelfth Night* at Oscar G. Brockett Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: utexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking

Performance times are February 26-27, March 1-5 at 7:30 p.m. and February 27, 28 and March 6 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets (\$23-26 adult, \$18-21 UT faculty and staff, \$15-17 student) are now on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO.

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

ALSO THIS SEASON

Tomás and the Library Lady

Presented in co-production with ZACH Theatre
By José Cruz González
Based on the Book by Pat Mora
ZACH Theatre's Whisenhunt Stage
January 15-February 14, 2016

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

Bodies & Souls

B. Iden Payne Theatre
April 8-17, 2016

UTNT (UT New Theatre)

Presenting new plays by Lydia Blaisdell, Joanna Garner, Gia Marotta and Tegan McLeod
Curated by Steven Dietz and Hannah Wolf
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre
April 14-24, 2016

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