

LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS...

William Shakespeare's Romantic Comedy

TWELFTH NIGHT



SHOW DATES & TIMES:

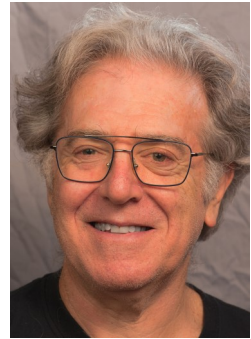
Friday - July 12th @ 8pm
Saturday - July 13th @ 8pm
Sunday - July 14th @ 2pm

Thursday - July 18th @ 8pm
Friday - July 19th @ 8pm
Saturday - July 20th @ 8pm
Sunday - July 21st @ 2pm

508 MAIN ST. LAUREL, MD, 20707

Director's notes

Thank you so much for coming to our production of *Twelfth Night*! We're so glad you're here and we hope you have a wonderful time! We very much appreciate that Laurel Mill Playhouse is producing this beautiful classic comedy by William Shakespeare.



This acting company has risen beautifully to the challenge of my edited version of Shakespeare's text. We are so proud of them! I have been ably assisted by a small stack of talented and dedicated co-conspirators. This production is "Neo-Elizabethan." Actors will play in the aisles. There will be lots of music and the costumes will not be specific to any particular era. The actors will use swords and mobile phones. We are going to leave the house lights on.

Why are we doing that? In part because this is live theatre, and awareness of the audience is critical to the structure of the event.

This is one of those plays where a woman dresses up as a man. The nobly-born twins Viola and Sebastian are on a ship that is destroyed in a storm, and each is rescued separately, believing the other is dead. Viola ends up in Illyria and she wants to seek the protection of the Lady Olivia. However, Olivia won't see anyone because she is in mourning for both her father and her brother, both dead within the last year. When Viola learns that Olivia won't admit any suits, she resolves to disguise herself as a man to serve the bachelor Duke Orsino instead. Soon, the lovesick Duke dispatches "Cesario" (the disguised Viola) to woo Olivia on his behalf. Olivia falls in love with Cesario, and confusion ensues. You can probably guess that Sebastian eventually shows up, and things get even *more* confusing. It's not a spoiler to say that it all works out in the end, for almost all of the characters.

For fun, you might try to keep track of how many kinds of love can be found among the characters' various configurations. There are quite a few.

There is also some wonderful poetry. I hope that you will allow the music of the words to sweep you away.

In classic theatre, comedies end in marriage, contrasting with tragedies, which end in death. There will be three marriages or engagements before the end of the show. At the opening, Duke Orsino says, “If music be the food of love, play on... .” We have that music for you, and we expect you to do your part as well. Plan to sing. While there are laughs and awkward moments, that doesn’t mean there aren’t very serious things afoot for the characters as well. Loyalty is tested in several relationships, two people are tricked into a duel that neither wants or is capable of fighting, and a man is deceived into believing his boss is in love with him, and is then locked up as mad-man. Most issues are resolved before the end.

Shakespeare seems to suggest that the answer to death is love and that everyone needs love. And that we ought to have a good time while we can, because none of us will be here forever. Those are serious ideas for a comedy, and this one has been celebrated for the last 420 years. Thanks again for joining us!

—Nathan Rosen

Nathan Rosen (Director) is delighted to return to Laurel Mill Playhouse, this time as the director of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*. Last fall he was Mr. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*. Recently he was seen at Spotlighters (Richfield Hawksley in *Laughing Stock* and Vanya in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*), Cockpit in Court (Albert in *The Dinner Party*), and with The Rude Mechanicals (Mr. Hardy in *The Belle’s Stratagem*). He played Montague and directed *Romeo & Juliet* with Bard’s Wagon. He has directed 150 plays. His full-length Shakespeare directing projects include *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Hamlet*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Nathan has also acted with Maryland Classical Theatre and Howard County Summer Theatre, roles including Maurice in *Beauty and The Beast*, Brannigan in *Guys and Dolls*, and Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man*. Nathan will soon be a retired high school teacher. Special thanks to the cast, staff, and all who support us. He is married to Doris and is devoted to his dog. There are many children and some grandchildren.

TWELFTH NIGHT CAST

DUKE ORSINO - Joseph Downs
CAPTAIN/FABIAN - Chris Carothers
VIOLA - Kira Simmons
CURIO/1st OFFICER/PRIEST - Sal Robertson
VALENTINE/SERVANT/2nd OFFICER - Vijay Dev
SIR TOBY Belch - Paul Ballard
MARIA - Erin Klarner
SIR ANDREW Aguecheek - Sean Eustis
FESTE - Marianne Virnelson
OLIVIA - Dana Fleischer
MALVOLIO - Wes Dennis
ANTONIO - Bill Kohlhoff
SEBASTIAN - Nik Henle

PRODUCTION CREW

Directed by Nathan Rosen
Produced by Maureen Rogers
Costumes by Marge McGugan
Stage Managed by Barbara Moorman
Fights by Erin Klarner
Accompanist/music supervisor -Sean Eustis
Graphic by Jaila Desper
Technician -Patrick Pase
Photography by John Cholod
Program—Marge McGugan

Meet the cast



Paul Ballard (Sir Toby Belch) has played many comedic and dramatic roles in the Maryland theatre community and is grateful to the director Nathan Rosen for the opportunity to play this terrific role with this very talented cast. Paul was last seen as the Baker in the Woodbrook Players' May, 2024 production of *Into the Woods*. Other favorite roles include Emile de Becque in *South Pacific*, George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha* and Professor Bhaer in *Little Women*. Paul thanks his wonderful wife, Jan Danek, for all her love and enduring support of his many theatrical endeavors.



Chris Carothers (Captain & Fabian) is happy to once again be performing on stage at Laurel Mill. Chris has appeared in many shows including *Hellbent* (Ophistopheles), *The War of the Worlds* radio play (Orson Welles), *Trial of the Catonsville Nine* (Philip Berrigan), *Moon Over Buffalo* (George Hay), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Freddy), *A Christmas Carol* (The Ghost of Jacob Marley), *1776* (Colonel Thomas McKean), and *A Christmas Story* (The Old Man). Outside of acting, Chris enjoys reading, playing games (video & board), doing voice impressions, & watching movies. Chris would like to first thank the entire cast and crew of this show who have been supportive and amazing and have made the work on this show an absolute joy. Most importantly, Chris would like to thank his family & friends for their support and patience as he continues to pursue his passion for acting.



Wes Dennis (Malvolio) is glad to be able to perform despite his "obstruction in the blood" from a very different and decidedly less entertaining sort of cross-gartering! He can most often be found performing Shakespeare and contemporary works with the Rude Mechanicals at the Greenbelt Arts Center (his most recent roles include Puck in *Ill Met by Moonlight/A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Doricourt in *The Belle's Stratagem*; catch him at GAC this August-September as Snake in *The School for Scandal*!) and haunting GAC in various other capacities. Thanks to Nathan and the rest of the Twelfth Night group -- and to LMP, GAC, the Rudes, and YOU (friends & audiences matter!) -- for patience, support, and encouragement during a difficult time.



Vijay Dev (Valentine/ Servant/ 2nd Officer) is excited to be making his community theater debut at LMP. He has enjoyed Shakespeare ever since performing the speech of Marcus Brutus from '*Julius Caesar*' for his high school theater class. He has experience performing as a gymnast for 22 years, competing throughout middle and high school, and as an acro performer on the University of Maryland Gymkana Troupe (2015-2020). He has also been involved in the DC Stunt Coalition, and currently coaches parkour at Bolt Parkour and Freerunning Academy. He thanks his parents and his girlfriend for their support and encouraging him to audition and hopes everyone enjoys this fantastic production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* with this amazing cast and director.



Joe Downs (Duke Orsino) is glad to be returning to the Laurel Mill Playhouse for his first staged performance of Shakespeare's work. He has recently trod the boards at LMP in *Pride & Prejudice* (Mr. Darcy) and *Towards Zero* (Neville Strange). Joe has also had wonderful experiences working with Bowie Community Theatre (*Absence of a Cello*, *Wait Until Dark*, *One Slight Hitch*) and the Rude Mechanicals (*Romeo & Juliet*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*). He applauds this cast and crew for bringing wonderful creativity and fun to this production, and he thanks his family for serving as living examples of the food of love - play on!



Sean Eustis (Sir Andrew Augecheek) is amused to be making his LMP debut with this particular play and this peculiar ensemble. Favorite other foolish roles have been as the Porter in *Macbeth*, Fluellen in *Henry V*, and the Gravemaker in *Hamlet*. Other recent theatrical work has been at Spotlighters Theatre in Baltimore, the Rude Mechanicals of Greenbelt, and the Baltimore Shakespeare Factory.



Dana Fleischer (Olivia) is pleased to return to the LMP stage, this time working on Shakespeare. You may have seen her most recently as Belinda in *Noises Off*, Foreman in *12 Angry Jurors*, or Elizabeth in *Pride & Prejudice*, all here at LMP. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their love and support, and you, all the lovely audience members who help support this space that gives us the opportunity to do what we love.



Nik Henle (Sebastian) is thrilled to be back at Laurel Mill Playhouse, where he most recently appeared as Juror #6 in *12 Angry Jurors*. Favorite roles include Craig in *Laughing Stock* (Spotlighters Theatre), Edward in *The Hollow* (Kentlands Community Players), Lawrence in *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* (LMP), Howard in *Moon Over Buffalo* (LMP), Flute in *Dreamer/Seeker* (Capital Fringe Festival), and Steve and Dave in *Almost, Maine* (Rockville Little Theatre). He has also worked with Montgomery Playhouse, Endangered Species Theatre Project, and Charm City Filmmakers, among others. He has taken acting and improv classes at Maryland Ensemble Theatre's Ensemble School and The Actors' Center.



Erin Klarner (Maria) is glad to return to the stage with some old friends, and to make new ones also. Everybody can do with a little more Shakespeare! Erin can usually be found at theaters throughout the Maryland/NoVa area in various capacities, and she hopes you will join her at future productions.



William Kohlhoff (Antonio) appeared as a sailor in *South Pacific*, as Captain McNaught in *Murder on the Nile*, and as Uncle Henry in the *Wizard of Oz* for St. Gabriel Maricle Players. I also was in Spotlighters production of *Laughing Stock* as apprentice Ian.



Barbara Moorman (Stage Manager) participated in *The Nutcracker* which sparked her interest in the theatre when she was in the first grade at St Hedwig's Private Catholic School in Milwaukee, WI. Moved to tears by the overwhelming emotions evoked in her by the performers on stage, she knew that she desperately wanted to be able to do the same. Fast forward a few years, and Barbara would have her first opportunity to perform when a librarian in Tabor City, NC spotted Barbara urging a friend to join her at an event at the library, and suggested she audition for the local community theater production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Barbara won a bit part in that production, confirming once and for all that she had indeed been bitten by the Theater Bug. After performing in school and community theater productions for the remainder of her school years, Barbara joined the US Navy upon graduation, and went on to perform *Ragged Old Flag* by Johnny Cash at the US Army Birthday Ball in Okinawa, Japan after an Army officer saw her audition for a small production on base. After leaving the Navy, Barbara moved to Wilmington, NC and spent some time doing extra work for DeLaurentis Studios, including the television show *Dawson's Creek*, and the movie *Black Knight*. After taking some time to raise a family, then relocating to Maryland, Barbara is thrilled to be able to pursue her passion for acting once again, making her return to the stage in this year's production of *Pride and Prejudice* at the Laurel Mill Playhouse.



Sal Robertson (Curio/First Officer/ Priest) is thrilled to be back at Laurel Mill Playhouse appearing in three roles in *Twelfth Night*, her first Shakespeare show! She previously appeared at LMP in last year's production of *Pride and Prejudice* as Sir William Lucas, marking the end to her long absence from the stage. Prior to *P&P*, she studied ballet and tap dancing under Nancy Sauer (a genuine Vaudeville performer!) from 1968-1976 and from 1979-1980, and was first addicted to applause at the age of three when she performed in her first spring recital with Nancy Sauer's School of Theatrical Dancing in the spring of 1969. She appeared in Terre Haute North Vigo High School productions of *Harvey* (fall of 1982, Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet), *Mame* (winter of 1981, chorus), *The Boy Friend* (winter of 1982, chorus), *Gypsy* (winter of 1983, chorus); and the spring one-acts each year (1981, 1982, 1983). While a student at Butler University, she appeared in the one-act play *Dust of the Road* (An old woman, Prudence's aunt) and played cello in the pit orchestra for the performance of *West Side Story*.



Kira Simmons (Viola) is thrilled to be taking on a Shakespearean dream role in the ambitious, cross-dressing Viola. With a recent MFA in Classical Acting through The George Washington University (in affiliation with the Shakespeare Theatre Company), she has made it something of a life goal to work on and create classical theatre that is inclusive and accessible to everyone who wishes to participate, whether as an actor or an audience member! Previous favorite roles include Tilly Evans in *She Kills Monsters* at Montgomery Playhouse, Pompey in *Measure for Measure* at Academy at STC, Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists* with Globe Openstage, and Fabiana Cunningham in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* with the Mason Players. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unending love and support, and hopes you enjoy!



Marianne Virnelson (Feste) was last seen on the LMP stage last year in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre), and is delighted to make her return! A graduate of Randolph College (B.A., Music & Theater), she has enjoyed working at the University of Maryland in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by day, and getting to know the local community theatre scene by night since moving to the DMV just shy of 2 years ago. Recent roles include Petra in *A Little Night Music* (MAD), Scraps the Patchwork Girl in *The Patchwork Girl of Oz* (GAC), and Mrs. Marsha Bountiful in *The Belle's Stratagem* (the Rude Mechanicals). *Twelfth Night* is the show that made her fall in love with Shakespeare and--if you're not already a Bard enthusiast--she hopes you may have a similar experience! She is ever grateful to her fiancé, Zack, for his love and support.

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Chesapeake Harmony Chorus loves to sing and invites you to visit a rehearsal. We are a women's singing group based in the greater **Annapolis MD**, area. We sing four-part acapella harmony in the barbershop style and are a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. We rehearse at Historic Baldwin Hall in Millersville, Md, every Wednesday night at 7:pm. For more information about visiting a rehearsal or joining the chorus, please contact us at **Membership1@ChesapeakeHarmony.org**.



LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE

508 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Reservations - Visit us at: www.laurelmillplayhouse.org

OUR HISTORY

Burtonsville Players Inc., doing business as Laurel Mill Playhouse, is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) status, community theater group. Originally organized thirty five years ago as the Burtonsville Players Inc., Laurel Mill Playhouse recently bought and completely renovated a 100 year old building in the middle of historic Laurel, Maryland. This makes Laurel Mill Playhouse one of the few community theater organizations to own their own facility.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the community with the opportunity to expand the cultural base of the quad-county area. We do this through theater arts, combining music, art, dance, youth, and senior activities.

Our group has the determination to provide space and resources to foster a creative environment.

Our encouragement of individuals to be challenged by new works and skills will lead to discovery and expansion of creative potential in the community.

Our goal is to provide training and initiate outreach opportunities within the counties we serve.

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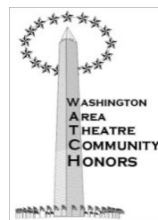
Marge McGugan – Costumes

**Maureen Rogers – Artistic Director
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