

A very funny 'Twelfth Night' now performing at Parson's Nose Theater

MAY 24, 2018 BY [DENA BURROUGHS](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Parson's Nose Theater (PNT) opened "Clearly Classic: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night" last weekend. "Clearly Classic" is a new PNT series which includes a brief introduction to a classic play's characters, language, and themes, enhancing its enjoyment for modern audiences. This is an original 90-minute adaptation Lance Davis, who co-directs with Gary Lamb.

Shakespeare wrote *Twelfth Night* over 400 years ago, about a pair of twins (Sebastian and Viola) who were shipwrecked and each believed the other drowned. Viola disguises as a man to be employed by Duke Orsino, but she looks very much like her twin brother, capturing the heart of young Olivia. The confusion that ensues is entertaining, furthered by Olivia's silly house staff and her steward Malvolio.

At PNT the cast includes James Calvert as Orsino, Mary Chalon as Maria, Lance Davis as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Taylor Hawthorne as Olivia, Jordan Knapp as Viola, Gary Lamb as Sir Toby Belch, Cameron Molina as The Officer, Paul Perri as Antonio, and Jordan Wall as Sebastian.

Davis' adaptation condenses the story into two 45-minute acts, which seem to go by quickly as the story is delivered with humor, charm, and clarity. Every member of the cast is good, but John Rafter Lee shines as a hilarious Malvolio, adding priceless gestures and overall physical comedy. Barry Gordon, as Feste, gets to impress the audience with more than his acting, as his voice charms during a few Italian songs.

This is a lovely production of *Twelfth Night*. The introduction really helps to get one's mind prepared for the performance. The cast's conversational style makes the dialogue easy to understand, and there are plenty of times when the audience laughs heartily. PNT's space is intimate and comfortable, where you can just relax and enjoy this story written by one of the greatest minds of all times.