

Twelfth Night a story of love and chaos

By ASHLEY GOODFELLOW

July 1, 2011

A scaled-down version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* will open the Rose Theatre's Shakespeare in the Square series and promises to be funny, entertaining and easy to follow.

Cut back to roughly one hour, the production doesn't rely as heavily on the Bard's language as it does on entertaining its audience— and will perhaps draw new viewers in. However, producers guarantee that Shakespeare enthusiasts will still enjoy all the fundamentals of the story— gender confusion, love, madness and comedy.

The play follows a set of twins, Sebastian and Viola, as they are shipwrecked and separated and find themselves in a reality that is more akin to fantasy. It runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in Garden Square from July 12 to 28.

Ryan Jeffrey, who takes on the role of Sebastian, said this modified play is a wonderful introduction to Shakespeare for newcomers.

"Everything that is in the play is reduced to about an hour, but it still has everything that goes on— mistaken identities, the tricks played on one another," he said. "It's a chance for people who haven't read Shakespeare or experienced it to have an easy way of slowly getting into it."

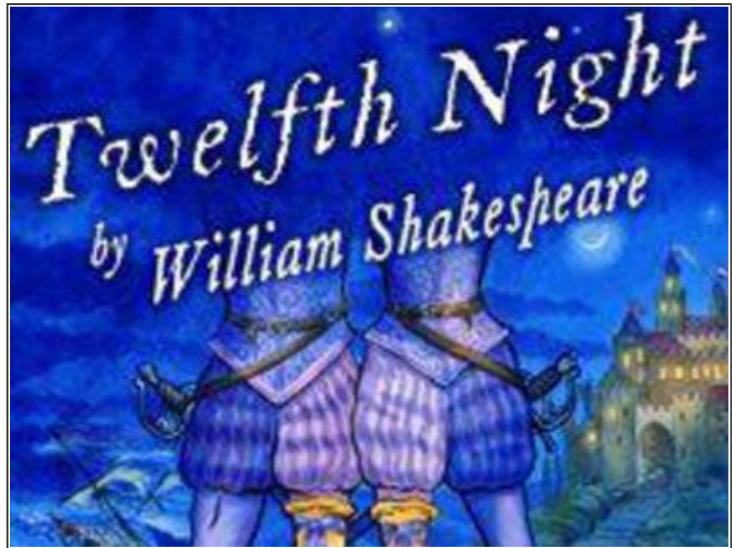
And, bringing the production outside to the Lorna Bissell Fountain in Garden Square makes it even more accessible to the community.

Playing the role of Sebastian's twin sister Viola, is Katie Leamen. She encourages residents to come out for an evening of outdoor theatre.

"It's much more kid-friendly (than the original stage version)," she said. "And it's free, it's pay-what-you can, so it's not like you are making a big investment...in something you're not quite sure you are going to like."

Leamen also suggests the event would make a romantic "date night".

For more information visit www.rosetheatre.ca.



Twelfth Night.