

### **COVID-19 INFORMATION**

Please help us create a safe and welcoming place by:

- practicing safe social distancing
- wearing a mask if you are not vaccinated (masks are available at the tent behind the audience)

Dots, all 12 feet apart, have been marked in the audience area as a tool to help you determine the proper social distance of at least 6 feet between groups.

Thank you!

### **CONCESSIONS AND RESTROOMS**

Please support the Great Bridge Kiwanis Club, offering burgers, hot dogs, ice-cream, soft drinks and more in the concessions trailer in the rear of the seating area.

Restrooms are in a trailer just beyond concessions. More restrooms and accessible facilities can be found by following the signs. Please be aware that state regulations require anyone who enters a school building, however briefly, will be required to sign in for COVID contact tracing purposes only.



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to Tidewater Community College's Chesapeake Campus and the 24th season of Shakespeare in the Grove!

Tonight's performance is the culmination of the time, talent, and dedication of many individuals, but first recognition should go to our skilled volunteer actors and the production and artistic teams supporting them. Their work is a testament to the quality of this and every Shakespeare in the Grove production over the last 24 years.

Special thanks are due to theatre professor Matthew Gorris, Paul Lasakow, Executive Director of the Roper Performing Arts Center, and Dr. Kelly Gillerlain, Interim Dean of Student Life/Campus Dean at Chesapeake for their leadership in coordinating this complex event. I am also grateful for the volunteers, TCC staff and faculty members, and partners from our surrounding community whose selfless work brings "Twelfth Night" to life.

Tidewater Community College truly appreciates the ongoing annual financial support from the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission, without which tonight's adventure would not have been possible. Please join them in supporting Shakespeare in the Grove with a tax-deductible monetary donation so we may continue to create extraordinary experiences for the community through the art of theatre. Information on how to donate is included in this program.

Since the time of Aeschylus, humankind has gathered together before a stage to share the magic that is summoned upon it. I am so pleased that we are once again joining as a community to be delighted, transported and transformed by Shakespeare's timeless play. Welcome back to live theatre!

Kerry Ragno, Ed.D. Dean - Arts and Humanities



#### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to the Grove! We are thrilled to present the 24th offering of Shakespeare in the Grove with Twelfth Night or What You Will.

Like its title, this play is a celebration. It is a jubilant return to live theatre. I am overjoyed to present this to a live audience, so thank you all for attending. Your passion for the arts and continued support are what make this whole endeavor possible and worthwhile.

This year we set our story in Port Royal, Jamaica in 1692 during the Golden Age of Piracy. It was a wild town awash in grog and gold, where fortunes changed faster than the weather. Perched on the edge of the New World, populated by pirates, privateers and prostitutes, it was dubbed "The Wickedest City on Earth." On June 7th of that year, a massive earthquake struck, and Port Royal was swallowed by the sea.

The spirit of this play is just as unbridled and turbulent as Port Royal itself. The characters navigate through a tempest of emotions: love and grief, heartbreak and joy. Devastation and humiliation are mingled with a *joie de vivre* and raucous Dionysian revelry. Live music beautifully underscores the whole piece. Check this program for lyrics! There may be a sing-along.

So welcome aboard! Get your sea legs under you and hoist sail. The pirates are coming!

Our course is set for Twelfth Night or What You Will.

Logan Bennett Director



## **CAST**

Viola	Isabella Wisham
Olivia	Michelle Jenkins
Malvolio	John Cauthen
Orsino	Alina-Grace Whitmore
Feste	James "Manny" Manno
Sir Toby Belch	Patrick Rostock
Andrew Aguecheek	Gregory Dragas
Maria	Ed Palmer
Fabiana / Sea Captain	Taylor Durham
Sebastian	Cai Luzak
Antonio	Robin Petersen
Curio	Rue Quick
Valentine / Officer / Violinist /	Emoni Chaplin
Piano Player	
Flute Player	Amanda McCormick
Musician	Zoe Thompson
Understudy	Lynn Bright

Setting: Port Royal Jamacia, 1692

Act I: 60 minutes Act II: 55 minutes

Sing-a-long after intermission:

FRIGGIN IN THE RIGGIN FRIGGIN IN THE RIGGIN FRIGGIN IN THE RIGGIN

IT'S TWELFTH NIGHT OR WHAT YOU WILL



<sup>\*</sup>There will be one, 10-minute Intermission

# **CREW**

Artistic Director / Co-Scenic	Matthew Gorris
Designer	
Director / Co-Scenic Designer /	Logan Bennett
Scene Shop Manager	
Managing Director	Paul Lasakow
Stage Manager / Lightboard	Jay Murray
Operator	
Lighting Designer	Kate Mielish
Costume Designer / Supervisor	Lauren Ciampoli
Props Mistress / Hair Design /	April Pierce-Willetts
Production Assistant	
Sound Designer / Operator	Heather Williams
Production Assistant	
Props Assistant / Production	Lynn Bright
Assistant	
Production Assistant	Rue Quick
Sound Engineer	Christian Garthright
Shakespeare Crew	Sarah Delvers, Christian
	Garthright, Pat Ronaghan and
	Bob Ruiz
Poster Designer	Brant Powell



#### CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

\*Lynn Bright (Props Assistant / Production Assistant / Understudy) – Lynn is a huge lover of anything related to the stage and is so glad to be working with TCC's theatre department for the third time. She has also done some work at Smithfield Little Theatre, performing in both *Young Frankenstein* and *The Mousetrap*. She is currently attending the University of Kentucky as a theatre major.

Logan Bennett (Director / Shop Manager / Co-Scenic Designer) — While Logan has appeared in numerous Grove productions, this is his first time stepping into the role of director for the Grove. Hats off to Ed Jacob, Trey Clarkson and Laura Agudelo for the superb work they have produced over the years. Logan recently adapted and directed the radio plays A Princess of Mars and Measure for Measure for TCC. He also directed God of Carnage, The Seafarer and Doubt (Blackbox Theatre). Film and TV: The Avengers, Lincoln, John Wick, Boardwalk Empire, Daredevil, TURN, Veep, Good Lord Bird and Walking Dead: World Beyond. Lots of love and gratitude to Nicole Steele.

**John Cauthen (Malvolio)** - John's last TCC appearance was in 2019's The Seafarer. Previous Shakespeare in the Grove performances include *The Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, The Taming of the Shrew, and Hamlet.* Now a Williamsburg resident, John taught high school English for 18 years in Virginia Beach. Look for John this August in Newport News at Peninsula Community Theatre's production of *The 39 Steps*.

\*Emoni Chaplin (Valentine / Officer) - This is Miss Chaplin's first appearance with Shakespeare in the Grove. She is a student at TCC, majoring in Theatre Arts. Her previous Theatre experience includes Off Broadway productions of *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, and *A Princess of Mars*. Miss Chaplin's special interests include creating music on the violin, piano, flute, and voice.

Lauren Ciampoli (Costume Designer/Supervisor) - Lauren graduated from Catholic High School in 2009 and was Assistant Theatre Director from 2009 to 2015. She graduated from Old Dominion University with a B.S. in Communication (2013), as well as an M.A. in Digital & Lifespan Communication (2015). She currently works as an Education Manager for Junior Achievement of Greater Hampton Roads and teaches in the Comm department at ODU. Costume design credits at Catholic High include Rosie the Riveter, Leaving Iowa, Antigone, and The Velveteen Rabbit (twice!). She has costumed the 2015-2019 Shakespeare in the Grove productions, and she's so incredibly happy to FINALLY be back with Twelfth Night as her 6th Grove! Additionally at TCC, she's costumed Of Mice and Men, Dracula, God of Carnage, That Sinking Feeling, Animal Farm, The Seafarer, and Doubt. She's thrilled to be working with Logan and Matt again and sends love to her #theatrebesties April and Taylor!

**Gregory Dragas (Sir Andrew Aguecheek)** is pleased to be making his first appearance in a Shakespeare in the Grove production. Most recently, Gregory has been seen on the TCC stage in Quarantine Radio Theatre productions of *Measure for Measure*, *Little Women*, and *A Princess of Mars*. He also recently played to role of Macduff in CORE Theatre Ensemble's production of *Macbeth*.

Taylor Durham (Fabiana / Sea Captain) - Taylor is thrilled to be returning to the Shakespeare in the Grove stage for her fourth summer. She was previously seen onstage as Sister James in *Doubt*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and a variety of roles in productions of *Measure for Measure* and *Little Women* for TCC's Quarantine Radio Theatre. Taylor sends her gratitude to the wonderful production team, cast and crew of Twelfth Night for such a great experience.



Christian Garthright (Sound Engineer) – Christian's father, an RCA recording artist, inspired in him a passion for the recording arts as a child. Beginning his career in 1986, Christian has held lead audio positions with multiple recording artists as well as concert venues including The Vanguard, The Norva, and others. He has worked with Norfolk State University, Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts, the Virginia Stage Company and has served as Chief Audio Engineer at TCC's Roper Performing Arts Center for the last eight years. As an educator, he has taught MIDI and Recording Technology for Full Sail University and Mars Music and theatrical sound design for the Governor's School for the Arts. A multi-instrumentalist and composer, he is currently signed to Sacrifice Records under the name "The Stepgods."

Matthew Gorris (Artistic Director / Co-Scenic Designer) – This is Matthew's 17th year with Shakespeare in the Grove. His previous design credits include: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello, As You Like it, Hamlet and The Taming of the Shrew. He currently heads up the theatre program and Shakespeare in the Grove at TCC where he teaches a variety of classes, including lighting and sound, stagecraft and theatre appreciation. He holds an MFA from Kent State University. Matthew has also directed several TCC productions including The Water Engine, Bob: A Life in Five Acts and An Adult Evening of Shel's Shorts. Additionally, he has designed around town for The Little Theatre of Norfolk, 40th Street Stage and Generic Theatre. His design credits include Topdog/Underdog, Avenue Q, Dancing at Lughnasa, BOOM/or, and Hunting Julia, and recently, Little Shop of Horrors. He would like to thank you for your continual support of Shakespeare in the Grove and TCC Theatre.

Michelle Jenkins (Olivia) - An ancient veteran of the Grove (and life), this is Michelle's 7th time on the Shakespeare stage – most oft recognized as the Nurse in Romeo and Juliet, Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Gertrude in Hamlet. She recently lent her voice to Quarantine Radio Theater's productions of A Princess of Mars, Little Women, and Measure for Measure, but last appeared in human form as Veronica in God of Carnage. Some other favorite roles have included Alice Beineke in The Addams Family, Barbara/Nell Gwynn in boom/OR, Amy in Company, Lucy in Avenue Q, and Cheryl in Evil Dead: The Musical. Michelle is currently employed as Creative Designer for the City of Norfolk's SevenVenues, and can be spotted onstage at The Zeiders American Dream Theater, cavorting with Plan B Comedy.

Paul Lasakow (Managing Director) Paul is the Executive Director of TCC's Roper Performing Arts Center in downtown Norfolk. Now a career venue manager, during his four decades in theater and production he has served as a touring stagehand and show rigger, Master Carpenter at Atlanta's Academy Theater, a special effects technician for feature films, the Production Manager of Chrysler Hall, the General Manager of the Sandler Center for Performing Arts and as the Executive Director of the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts. As an actor, he has worked with the Virginia Stage Company, the Generic Theater and Shakespeare in the Grove, among others. He frequently partners with *The Thomas Jefferson Hour's* Clay Jenkinson in developing Clay's live performances and is the founding artistic partner of the emerging Wisdom Heart Theater.

Cai Luzak (Sebastian) - is thrilled to be part of his first Shakespeare in the Grove production. He is a rising Junior at Cox HS and the Musical Theatre Department at Governor's School for the Arts. Some theatre credits include, It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play (Foley Artist 2020), Spamalot (Sir Bors 2019), and Hairspray (ensemble 2018) all with the Little Theater of Virginia Beach. Cai would like to thank his parents and the creative team at TCC for this exciting opportunity.



James "Manny" Manno (Feste) - This is James' 6th appearance in the Grove and 11th overall on the TCC stage. He is a VCU Alumni with a BFA in Performance Theatre. His previous professional theatre experience from DC includes CB in Studio Theater's Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead. While living in Chicago for thirteen years, he co-founded the sketch comedy group !AWESOMONSTER!, and worked as a jingle & theme song composer on the AWSM Radio podcast. Under the artistic umbrella group Alluvium Group, James devised, wrote, and produced the play Happiness: The Pursuit and Other Tragedies in 2012 at the Oracle Theater. The creation of the band that was required for the 'Happiness' show led to the formation of the dork funk band, James Manno and the B.O.T's. James has performed as house band leader for late-night talk shows, What's Behind Door Number 3 and Tonight It's Live with Tom Bambara. He has composed and recorded children's musical arrangements for Compass Creative as well as playing lead guitar for the Chicago rock band, "Man Called Noon" on their latest album "Everybody Move." James just moved back to Hampton Roads last year and plans to get more recording opportunities for jingles, voice-overs, theme songs, and film/theater score compositions. There is the desire to produce Happiness 2.0 as his next passion project and it is highly likely that he will start a new band this year. James would like to send his love and thanks to Elyse, his parents, his nephew Deaglan, and his sibling Britt He dedicates his performance to his grandparents, Jim Jellison & Louise Manno. They are greatly missed and loved always.

Amanda McCormick (Musician) has worked on various productions at TCC from 2006 until 2010. She graduated from ODU with a degree in Music Education in 2010. Amanda is the band director at Kingdom Education for Young Scholars, the band director at St. Matthew's Catholic School, and the owner of Amanda McCormick's Flute Studio. She is thankful for all of the support from her fantastic husband and her two beautiful children.

Kate Mielish - (Lighting Designer) —began her professional career in Hampton Roads as the Assistant Technical Director for the Virginia Arts Festival at the TCC Roper Performing Arts Center in 2004. Since then, she has freelanced as a Production Assistant, Stage Manager, Tech Director, and Lighting Designer with many of the local professional and community players in the region including Todd Rosenlieb Dance, Virginia Ballet Theatre, The Hurrah Players, Virginia Musical Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, The America Theatre, The Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts, and the Governor's School for the Arts where she is also often called upon to guest-teach introductory lighting design classes. In her current position as the Roper Center's Production Manager, Kate has the pleasure of working closely with a variety of both professional and emerging artists. Kate holds a BA in Technical Theatre from Ohio Wesleyan University.

\*Jay Murray (Stage Manager) Jay has been working around Hampton Roads area since he was about 12 years old, mainly volunteering at Little Theatre of Norfolk and some at Little Theatre of Virginia Beach. Jay will be attending VCU in the fall to continue his education in theater management.

**Ed Palmer (Maria/Priest)** - This is Ed's 14th show with in the Grove. His last performance was in TCC's *A Princess of Mars*.

**Robin Petersen (Antonio)** - this is Ms. Petersen's second Grove show, having previously stage managed *The Tempest*. She is the Artistic Director of the Kellam High School Performing Arts Department. Ms. Petersen was recently named Kellam High School's 2021 Teacher of the Year. She has a BA in Theatre Education from Old Dominion University. Her favorite role is that of "Mama" to her daughter, Dale. She wants to thank her husband, Ezra, for his unwavering love and support.



**Brant Powell (Poster Design)** – Brant is an actor, director, and playwright. He received his BA in Theatre and Visual Art from Old Dominion University and teaches Studio Art and Art History for Chesapeake Public Schools. He is an original member of The Pushers Sketch and Improv Comedy group and for over a decade has been writing and performing comedy. His comedic play, *That Sinking Feeling*, had its world premiere at TCC in 2019. In his spare time he enjoys using his visual arts skills to design theatre production posters for various local venues. He extends his deepest gratitude to all who support local arts in any capacity.

\*Rue Quick (Curio / Production Assistant) This is Rue's first production with TCC. They're a student at Kellam High School and work at Farm Life. Their previous theatre experience includes productions of *The Tempest, Cinderella, Midsummer Night's Dream*, and more. Rue plans on continuing their education at TCC in the fall.

**Patrick Rostock (Sir Toby Belch)** - is excited for his fifth year in the Grove and for the return of live theatre in general. He recently played the role of John Carter in the TCC Radio Production of *A Princess of Mars* and Francis Flute / Thisbe in the Grove's 2019 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He would like to thank his incredible wife, Sarah, for being the best.

**Zoe Thompson (Musician)** - is excited to be part of Shakespeare in the Grove again. She last appeared as an ensemble member in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2019. She graduated Western Branch High School in 2020 where she participated in *Sweeney Todd, The Yellow Boat, Annie*, and *Poultry in Motion*. She is currently attending the University of Mary Washington where she hopes to study Anthropology. When she is not on the stage, Zoe likes to play one of her many, many instruments, eat Pringles and hopes to solve the Rubik's cube in under 30 seconds.

April Pierce-Willetts (Props Manager / Hair Design / Production Assistant) - This is April's fifth season with the Tidewater Community College Theater. She has worked on projects both in Virginia and Pennsylvania including *The Music Man, Othello, Pippin, Fiddler on the Roof, Annie, God of Carnage, Seafarer,* and *That Sinking Feeling.* December was her directorial debut at TCC with *Little Women* for the Quarantine Radio Theatre Series. She feels privileged to work with such a talented and awesome cast and crew. April especially wants to thank her husband and favorite traveling companion, Bob Willetts, for his constant encouragement to follow her dreams. HUGE shout out to her theatre besties, Lauren Ciampoli, Heather Williams and Taylor Durham the OG Golden Girls!! Love you guys a ton!!

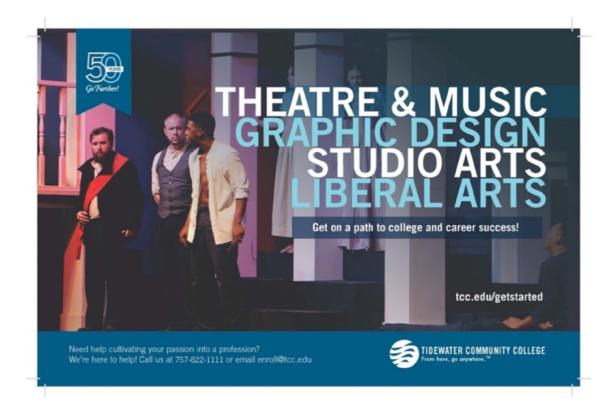
Alina-Grace Whitmore (Duke Orsino) - is appearing for her first time on the Grove stage. She is studying for her BFA in acting at Regent University. Her theater experience includes productions of *The Fantasticks*, *Miss Bennet, Brigadoon* and *Tale of Two Cities*, with Regent. She has also appeared on Zeiders American Dream Theater's stage in *The Flight of Katherine Fletcher*. Alina-Grace looks forward to auditioning for Regent's fall season in August.

Heather Williams (Sound Designer / Production Assistant) this is Heather's first Grove production and her sixth production at TCC. She is a TCC alumna and currently working as an Administrative Assistant for Grace Presbyterian Church. Her previous theater experience includes playing violin, glockenspiel and other instruments in musicals at the Little Theaters of Norfolk and Virginia Beach including *Into the Woods* and *The Secret Garden*. In her spare time, she can be found behind the lens of her camera, playing board games with her husband and friends, and getting in as many beach days as possible.



**Isabella Wisham (Viola)** - This is Miss Wisham's first appearance on the Grove stage. She is a student a Regent University, earning her BFA in Acting. Her previous theatre roles include Maria in *The Heiress*, The Seamstress in *A Tale of Two Cities*, and Puck in *Mid-Autumn's Night*. She is thrilled to be a part of this Shakespearean adventure and hopes you all have a devilishly good time!

<sup>\*</sup> indicates current or recent TCC student



### **UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS**

Please join us this fall and spring for TCC Theatre's annual fall and spring productions. In addition, please join us for our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Shakespeare in the Grove, from June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Please visit our website at artsattcc.org or call 757-822-5219 for more information.



#### ABOUT TCC THEATRE

TCC Theatre, once approved in the fall, will offer an A.S.: General Studies degree with a specialization in Theatre Arts. This specialization is a flexible degree that prepares students for performance and technical positions. As a result of this program, students are introduced to performance and technical aspects to prepared for positions as actors, directors' assistants, communications and public relations representatives, set designers, shop technicians, sound and lighting technicians, and comparable theatre-related roles; and demonstrate strong oral and visual communication. This degree will be transferable to a variety of in-state universities.

TCC Theatre also welcomes volunteers and college credit-seeking community members who want to become involved in our productions. Interested? Contact Matthew Gorris at 757-822-7041 or mgorris@tcc.edu. We will find a spot for you!

TCC does not discriminate in its programs or activities.

#### PLEASE SUPPORT SHAKESPEARE IN THE GROVE!

Welcome to Shakespeare in the Grove! This marks our 24th year of bringing high-quality, family friendly, and FREE theatre performances to the Hampton Roads region. Shakespeare in the Grove is the only performance of Shakespeare in the Hampton Roads area and has been featured in *Southern Living Magazine* as a "must-see" event. We are excited to share the Grove Theater with you. In the future, this space will be used as a year-round community venue – bringing you open-air movie screenings, lectures, concerts, and of course, more theatre! We also intend to re-vamp the space with landscaping, LED lighting, a picnic pavilion, and more benches. Your generous support can make all of this possible. Please consider supporting accessible arts in the Hampton Roads area by making a donation to the TCC Educational Foundation. Your contribution will benefit a space where TCC students and Hampton Roads community members alike can engage in the arts.

To make a donation online, please visit <a href="https://advancement.tcc.edu">https://advancement.tcc.edu</a>. For further information, please call 757-822-1040.





#### SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to The Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission and the following people at Tidewater Community College:

Dr. Marcia Conston - President of Tidewater Community College

Dr. Michelle Woodhouse - Vice President for Academic Affairs & Chief

Academic Officer

Dr. Kelly Gillerlain – Interim Dean Chesapeake Campus

Dr. Kerry Ragno - Dean of Arts and Humanities

Administrative Assistant of Arts and Humanities – Eleni Synder and Alice Robinson

The Office of Visual Communications

The Office of Institutional Advancement

The Educational Foundation

Bert Thompson and the TCC Facilities Management

Bobby Thomas and the Chesapeake Facilities Management

Bobby Jean James and the Chesapeake Housekeeping

Captain Ricks and the Chesapeake Security Staff

Paul Lasakow and the Roper Performing Arts Center Staff

Laura Sanford

Victoria Dignon

WCTV Channel 48 Chesapeake Television

The Stockbridge Foundation

Karen and Mike Howlett

Nicole Steele

Dave "Dollar" Uhrin

Brant Powell

Ed Jacob

Steven Schneider

Matt Williams

Matt Bennett

Bob Ruiz

Pat Ronaghan

Laura Agudelo and Grassfield High School

Robin Petersen and Kellam High School

Claude Blanchard, Patrick Rostock, Geri-Lynn Ewald and Ocean Lakes High School



On July 23-25, 2021 Shakespeare in the PLOT will take over Norfolk's NEON District with an interactive festival set in the Roaring Twenties!

The centerpiece of this three-day event will be a theatrical production of ROMEO and JULIET.

These performances will be free and open to the public.



# PAST PRODUCTIONS

1997	As You Like It
1998	A Midsummer Night's Dream
1999	The Tempest
2000	The Comedy of Errors
2001	Twelfth Night
2002	Much Ado About Nothing
2003	Love's Labour's Lost
2004	The Taming of the Shrew



2005	Two Gentlemen of Verona
2006	Romeo and Juliet
2007	A Midsummer Night's Dream
2008	The Merchant of Venice
2009	Macbeth





# PAST PRODUCTIONS

2010	As You Like It
2011	The Taming of the Shrew
2012	Hamlet
2013	A Midsummer Night's Dream
2014	The Tempest



THE RESERVE TO SHARE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	
2015	Romeo and Juliet
2016	As You Like It
2017	Much Ado About Nothing
2018	Othello
2019	A Midsummer Night's Dream



