

**VIOLA**, *a castaway*

*Female, Under 30*

Intelligent, passionate, honest and open hearted.

Disguised as Cesario – a young gentleman and servant to Orsino, Viola has a freedom she never experienced as a woman. Her confidence and intellect are assets which she had to hide as a woman, but as a man they help her gain respect. Honest at heart, her disguise becomes a torment as she can't be open about her love for Orsino, nor can she prevent Olivia falling in love with her. She can't abide cruelty and fears she may be hurting those around her.

**SIR TOBY BELCH**, *Olivia's Uncle.*

*Male, Over 40. **Must have a flair for comedy***

Self indulgent, larger than life, fun loving, often drunk.

Sir Toby is Olivia's uncle who has moved into her house due to lack of funds. He lives for pleasure and doesn't care who knows it. Life is a game and he plans to live it to the full. However, he is not as young as he was and suffers for his excess.

**OLIVIA**, *a Countess.*

*Female, 30 – 40*

Wealthy aristocrat. Proud and reserved, but secretly passionate and yearning for life.

Olivia has taken a vow of chastity to honour her dead brother. She has no feelings for Orsino, but instead falls in love with Cesario. She struggles with her feelings but eventually gives in to them and loses her inhibitions.

**MALVOLIO**, *Olivia's steward.*

*Male, Over 40 **Must have a flair for comedy***

Olivia's chief servant – Proud, disdainful, morally absolute.

Malvolio considers himself to be the moral and intellectual superior to everyone around him (including Olivia). He is secretly on love with Olivia and when it seems she has feelings for him he abandons all reserve and gives himself wholeheartedly to her. When it turns out he has been fooled, he is crushed.

**FESTE**, *Olivia's fool.*

*Any gender, any age. **Must have a strong singing voice and a flair for comedy.***

Flamboyant, intelligent, cynical, warm hearted, fantastical

Feste is perceptive and insightful and sees through all disguises and pretences. This, coupled with an open minded approach to life, ensures Feste always has the upper hand.

**ORSINO**, *Duke of Illyria.*

*Male, 30 - 40.*

Wealthy aristocrat. Ostentatious, generous, poetic, prone to introspection.

Orsino is tortured by love for Olivia, but starts to have feeling for his servant Cesario. He can be self absorbed and unaware of the feelings of those around him. He is also aimless and lacks purpose.

# TWELFTH Night



**MARIA**, *Olivia's maid.*

*Female, Over 30. **Must have a flair for comedy***

Olivia's personal maid. Intelligent, mischievous, practical minded.

Maria is a very clever and resourceful woman with a mischievous side and a barbed tongue. In love with Sir Toby despite his faults, she wants nothing more than to be Lady Belch.

**SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK**, *Sir Toby's friend.*

*Male, Over 40. **Must have a flair for comedy***

Simple minded, well meaning, enjoys a drink.

Devoted to Sir Toby, Sir Andrew is naïve and optimistic – convinced that he can make Olivia love him through sheer perseverance. He enjoys the high life with Sir Toby, but is easily lead and sometimes regrets his life choices.

**SEBASTIAN**, *a castaway.*

*Male – Under 30*

Viola's twin brother – honest, open minded, adventurous.

Sebastian is open hearted to a fault. He is both confident and modest, qualities that endear him to everyone he meets. He takes life at face value and accepts what fate throws at him.

**ANTONIO**, *a pirate.*

*Male, Over 30*

A rough diamond with a chequered past, Antonio is honest and loyal. He is in love with Sebastian, so much so he risks his life for him. He has lived a tough life and values loyalty and honesty above all things.

**FABIAN**, *Olivia's housekeeper.*

*Female, any age. **Must have a flair for comedy***

Fabian is practical minded, if a little hot tempered. She enjoys practical jokes and getting the better of her "superiors". She sees Sir Toby as a friend despite her low status.

**CAPTAIN**, *a ship's captain*

(could double with Officers or Priest).

*Male, Over 40*

A salty old sea dog, with a soft spot for waifs and strays. He rescues Viola from the shipwreck and helps her disguise herself.

**VALENTINE**, *Orsino's steward.*

*Male, Under 40*

Valentine was once Orsino's favourite servant, but Orsino's affections moved on and now he is just his steward.

# TWELFTH Night



1st OFFICER, *a policeman*  
(could double with Captain).  
*Male, any age*  
Chief of Police, authoritative and inflexible

PRIEST, *the local clergyman*  
(could double with Captain).  
*Male, any age*  
Conventional but not a puritan.

2nd OFFICER, *a policeman*  
(could double with Captain or Servant 1).  
*Male, any age (younger than 1st Officer)*  
Policeman, keen to do good.

CURIO, *servant to Orsino.*  
*Male, Under 30*  
Curio is a good looking young man and Orsino's personal attendant and favourite, until Cesario turns up and supplants him.

## **NON- SPEAKING PARTS:**

SERVANT 1 (could double with 2nd or 3rd Officer),  
*Male, Under 30*  
Servant to Orsino. Young and good looking, hopes to become Orsino's next favourite.

SERVANT 2  
*Female, any age*  
Olivia's household servant. A drudge – while Maria and Fabian are off partying with Sir Toby, Servant 2 does all the work.

3rd OFFICER, *a policeman*  
(could double with Captain or Servant 1).  
*Male, any age*  
A "heavy" – the strong silent type.