Twelfth Night, or, What you Will, by William Shakespeare.

Director Gyllian Raby

Acting Coach Danielle Wilson.

<u>Cast</u>: (8-9m; 5-6 w.) (Sea Captain might be female, pending auditions.)

Viola /Cesario, a young noblewoman, shipwrecked, survivor.

Sebastian, Viola's twin brother, shipwrecked, survivor.

Sea Captain, helps Viola.

Antonia, another Sea Captain given to piracy; Orsino's enemy, helps Sebastian, survivor.

Orsino, a powerful nobleman in Illyria, in love with Olivia. Self obsessed, a tad cruel.

Olivia, a rich noble woman of Illyria, in mourning for her brother. Self obsessed, a tad cruel.

Feste, a blue country-western musician, plays with the Born Fools. Itinerant, works for Olivia's household as well as giving 'command performances' chez Orsino. May be male or female.

Valentine, an old school friend of Orsino's, plays with the Born Fools. Actor doubles as the **Watch**.

Curio, a sychophant at Orsino's Court, plays with the Born Fools. Actor doubles as the **Watch**.

Sir Andrew Ague-Cheek, friend to Toby Belch, courting Olivia for her fortune, ill-educated, pretends to speak French, dance and fence.

Sir Toby Belch, uncle to Olivia, an impoverished nobleman, educated, speaks French, dances, fences.

Malvolio, Olivia's chief of staff; a Puritan, "ambitions above his station".

Maria, Olivia's maid; bold and uppity. Also has ambitions above her station. Masterminds plan to humiliate Malvolio.

Fabiane, Maria's sister, uppity. Assists in plot to humiliate Malvolio. Actor also plays the **Priest**.

There are possibilities available to work as a Dramaturge, a Music Director, an Assistant Designer, and an Assistant Director. We have received some enquiries already and thank you! We'll be contacting applicants next week.

About Twelfth Night

This well-known play was probably written around 1601 for Elizabeth I's Court Christmas celebrations. It combines melodramatic and comic elements in celebrating the popular "themes" of fortune-seeking, love-melancholy, disguise, mistaken identity, loyalty, ambition, and madness.

Twelfth Night explores political, economic and sexual power and the ways in which they combine to include some and exclude others. The social tensions and sexual undercurrents of the play can be emphasized if the title is taken as an invitation to explore winter rituals of misrule and inversion.

Our production will be set around 1958, pre US Civil Rights Act of 1964; between 1956 Equal Pay Act and Charter of Rights 1982. It's about the cultural importance of music and of imagination in balancing materialist attitudes to develop multiple intelligences. The play positions the liminal population of down-at-heel artists, misfits, alcoholics, as seers who provide, often at their own cost, an alternative vision and guidance for the dogmatic enthusiasms of the mainstream.

Through the representation of Malvolio's character, the play critiques the Puritan threat to social stability (or the threat of any dogma). The role of suffering and endurance in achieving fulfillment is emphasized by Feste who, in our production, is an itinerant musician.

An emphasis on a more woman-centred story than Shakespeare usually provides is enabled a) by the fact that the plot is driven by Viola's actions;b) that the pedestal of traditional beauty on which Olivia is placed is destroyed (through her own actions); c) through the representation of Antonia as a female pirate and of Maria as a real authority in Olivia's house.

Feste's blue Country and Western band will be a constant presence on stage. Some of the music could be acoustic, however: guitar, blues slide guitar, ukelele, violin.... you could also surprise us with something else.

Band rehearsals will take place	
Auditions are open to any students in the Marilyn I. Walker School and	
Music students are welcome. Please contact Gyllian Raby graby@brocku.c	a
for any more details.	

At the band music audition we would like to hear something simple: a blues, country, or folk piece-- as well as a short classical piece of your choice. If you want to audition for the role of Feste we welcome both male and female Actors to come sing at the auditions.