

A Special Invitation to bring your students
for innovative and energizing theatre experiences
presented by the Department of Dramatic Arts at Brock University!

***Twelfth Night (or, what you will)* by William Shakespeare**

Friday, November 8, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

Group tickets start at \$12 each, discounts available

Twice a year our faculty and students present mainstage productions on the stage of our 535-seat theatre. Directed and designed by faculty and guest artists, performed and produced by students in our Honours BA program, these productions offer you an affordable opportunity to engage your students with original performances that examine provocative thematic ideas. Stimulating course-related content will animate and enrich your teaching curriculum. Our faculty and students bring you the very best of their work in professional-level productions distinguished by their verve and energy. This is a great opportunity to enhance your teaching and to bring excitement to your classroom with a visit to the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre of Brock University.



Photograph by Nitin Vadukul

***Twelfth Night (or, what you will)* by William Shakespeare**

Directed by Gyllian Raby and Danielle Wilson

Set Design by Nigel Scott

Costume Design by Kelly Wolf

Lighting Design by Kevin Lamotte

Music Direction by Max Holten-Anderson

November 7, 8, 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Student Matinee:

Friday, November 8, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

The Department of Dramatic Arts of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts at Brock University is proud to return to Shakespeare after a fifteen year hiatus. Some scholars describe *Twelfth Night* as Shakespeare's most beloved play; others love to parse its problems, to understand the dark undertow beneath the ebullient affirmation of love.

In the fantasy land of Illyria, fools, lovers, and shipwrecked souls grapple adverse fortunes and comic misunderstandings to find what truth and love might mean. “Ourselves we do not know, says the Countess Olivia, who rails at fortune over the death of her brother. “Nothing that is so is so”, observes her fool musician, Feste: he sees through everyone’s social machinations, whether they be Duke Orsino’s “high fantastical” protestations of love for the Lady Olivia, or Malvolio’s ambitions to wed her. Then the shipwrecked Viola washes up on Illyrian shores, and everything changes. As Viola meets the challenges of fortune head-on she must disguise herself as a man, but her recognition that, deep down, “Such as we are, such we be” enables her disguise to expose all other pretenses. *Twelfth Night*, a play of extremes, is rightly adored for its imagery, language and mystery.

Artistic Direction

Our production is set in a fantasy North America circa 1957, just before the Civil Rights movement. Boys are boys and girls are girls. Temporarily between wars, boys are still drafted into the army. Subterranean passions are starting to blow apart the rigid conventions of the civilized world: the homeless are getting restless, and the roots of popular music are seething. To meet Shakespeare’s demand that Illyria be a land where music is “the food of love”, we present Feste as leader of a country blues band that explores why Hank Williams is known as the “Hillbilly Shakespeare”.



Selected costume renderings for *Twelfth Night* by Kelly Wolf, costume designer.

Curriculum Ties

This production of *Twelfth Night* provides an opportunity to enjoy the full comic, sensual, passionate, staging of a play that is often read in the curriculum. The play explores what it is to belong, and to feel as if one belongs to one’s society—or not. The characters experience rejection, insufficiency, and social fear, in myriad disguises. Some fall from grace, some are tricked, and some embrace outsider status of their own free will. Shakespeare has composed characters who are at once primal archetypes and psychologically complex individuals who are altered by relationship. The comedy has a classical structure appropriate for Literature and Drama students, and a poignant undertow that speaks to everyone.

Student Matinee Booking

The student matinee for *Twelfth Night (or, what you will)* is Friday, November 8, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. held in the Sean O’Sullivan Theatre on the Brock University campus. Tickets for the student matinee start at \$12 for each student and teacher. To book your school, please telephone the Centre for the Arts Box Office, 905-688-5550 ext. 3257, long distance toll free 1-866-617-3257, and reserve your group tickets.

The deadline for reservation by telephone is **Friday, November 1, 2013**. Once you have made your booking through the Centre for the Arts, we will confirm your reservation by telephone on **Monday, November 4, 2013**.

Study Guide/School Outreach

Many brilliant books have been written on this famous play. For our production, we recommend Ralph Berry’s essay “The Messages of *Twelfth Night*” in *Shakespeare’s Comedies: Explorations in Form*. Princeton University Press, 1972, pp. 196-212, and “Notes on the Production”. Both can be downloaded after October 10, 2013 at www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/dramatic-arts/events-at-dart

Our next mainstage production at DART!

Plan now to bring your students to see ***Jehanne of the Witches***, premiering Thursday, February 13, 2014. The student matinee for ***Jehanne of the Witches*** is Friday, February 14, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

The Department of Dramatic Arts of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts is proud to present this play by Canadian playwright Sally Clark. Ms Clark was part of a wave of female playwrights in the 1980s who wrote plays about notable women from a female perspective. The play is mostly based on solid historical fact; Clark weaves her magic through unique interpretation and theatricality.



In *Jehanne of the Witches* Clark explores the relationship between Joan of Arc (Jehanne, an older form of the French Jeanne) and Gilles de Rais, the notorious Bluebeard - warrior, alleged mass murderer of young boys, scientist and one of France's first theatrical producers. It is historically accurate that Jehanne and de Rais fought together at the pivotal battle of Orleans and that after Jehanne's death de Rais staged a theatrical extravaganza in Orleans celebrating that victory. Clark's research into the period took her deep into the pagan worship that competed with the early Christian Church. An important element of that worship was of the Moon Goddess. When the Church failed to wean the populace from their Old Religion gods, it simply transformed them into Christian saints. In Clark's play Joan's voices are Old Religion goddesses, who are identified as saints. The playwright was drawn to the notion of the pagan feminine religion being overcome by the male Church. That transition was far from peaceful - Jehanne was among the first of millions of women to be burned at the stake, the vast majority for witchcraft (in Jehanne's case for heresy). A substantial number of men met the same fate, including Gilles de Rais. Both Jehanne and de Rais were later exonerated.

Artistic Direction

In her introduction to the play, Sally Clark writes, "This play is about Magic, Truth and Illusion: three themes to be juggled in the air and kept aloft". The play is very fluid, jumping back and forth between different time frames and mixing fact and fiction. We have therefore chosen a sort of flashback/flash forward approach. In our production Gilles de Rais is in a perpetual hell or purgatory where he is condemned to endlessly relive the events of his life from his first contact with Jehanne to his own death. The team has been influenced by gaming and fantasy media. The play is also something of a mystery, challenging the audience to question at every turn. The script was originally performed by 8 actors (4 women, 4 men), who played over 20 roles, with women playing both male and female roles. This is significant because the play also addresses questions of gender identity. Our cast of 10 performs the production in the same manner.

Curriculum Ties

This production of *Jehanne of the Witches* will provide an opportunity for corresponding study in the following curricular subject areas: Women's studies, Religious studies, Gender studies, Languages (French, English, Latin), Medieval and Renaissance studies, Theology, History, and Comparative literature.

Student Matinee Booking

The student matinee for *Jehanne of the Witches* is Friday, February 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. held in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre on the Brock University campus. Tickets for the student matinee start at \$12 for each student and teacher. To book your school, please telephone the Centre for the Arts Box Office, 905-688-5550 ext. 3257, long distance toll free 1-866-617-3257, and reserve your group tickets.

The deadline for reservation by telephone is **Friday, February 7, 2014**. Once you have made your booking through the Centre for the Arts, we will confirm your reservation by telephone on **Monday, February 10, 2014**.

Study Guide/School Outreach

Study guides contain background information and research articles that provide critical information for use in the classroom. A study guide prepared by the Director, Dramaturge and Assistant Director will be available online mid-January. The guide will be available for download from our website by the beginning of December, 2013: www.brocku.ca/humanities/departments-and-centres/dramatic-arts/events-at-dart

We look forward to engaging your students and providing provocative thematic ideas and stimulating course-related content to animate and enrich your teaching curriculum. Contact us now to become part of these remarkable theatrical presentations.

<p><i>the Mainstage performances are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appropriate for High School-Age Audiences• may contain mature language and situations• Post-performance Q&A with the actors and creative team are available for both productions.• Teacher Workshops are available• Audience Maximum: (535) in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre	<p>Prices:</p> <p>Single Student rate: \$15 Groups rates are available: 10-20=\$12.00 ea; 20-30=\$11.00 ea; 30-40=\$10.00 ea; 40-50=\$9.00 ea; over 50=\$8.00 ea.</p>
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