

**BROCK UNIVERSITY  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**Oct. 21, 2013**

**Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts  
905.688.5550 x4765**

**If music be the food of love, play on!**

**“Twelfth Night, (or what you will)” presented on stage at the Sean O’Sullivan Theatre**

The Department of Dramatic Arts’ rendition of **Twelfth Night** gives this classic Shakespearean comedy a 20th century twist, setting it in the 1950s and taking audiences to the era of soul-searching country blues. This production runs November 7, 8 and 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., and November 8 at 11:30 a.m., held at the Sean O’Sullivan Theatre, Brock University.

The magical fictitious kingdom of Illyria is a modern world where boys are boys and girls are girls and subterranean passions blow apart rigid conventions. Fools, lovers, and shipwrecked souls grapple adverse fortunes and comic misunderstandings to find what truth and love might mean. To meet Shakespeare’s demand that Illyria be a land where music is “the food of love,” we present the fool musician Feste as the leader of a country blues band.

The production is a directorial collaboration between Dramatic Arts faculty Gyllian Raby and Danielle Wilson, assisted by Keavy Lynch. Raby states, “We are performing **Twelfth Night** using music rooted in contemporary culture, so although this production is not a musical, music is threaded throughout the play.” Wilson adds, “The play has many of the elements common to Elizabethan romantic comedy, including the devices of mistaken identity, separated twins, and gender-crossing disguise, and its plot revolves around whether one can manage betrayal, and overcome the obstacles to truth and love.”

Set design is by Nigel Scott, costume design by Kelly Wolf, and music direction by Max Holten-Andersen. This first main-stage production of the Department of Dramatics Arts’ 2013-14 Season showcases the talents of students in the undergraduate program. Under the stage management of Stephanie Baxter and Derek Ewert we present Bri Lidstone as Viola, the shipwrecked lady who must disguise herself as Cesario; Alexander Canaran as Sebastian, Viola's twin brother, thought lost at sea; Evan Russell Bawtinheimer as Antonio, and Nick Leno, as Captain of the wrecked ship, who befriend Sebastian and Viola respectively; and Omar Al-Aufy as Orsino, Duke of Illyria with whom Viola falls in love. Marcus Schwan plays Feste, the musician who divides his time between the courts of Orsino and Olivia. He is accompanied by Brent Cairns as Curio, on bass guitar; Sean Cottrell as Valentine, on trumpet; Sean McClelland on piano; and Rob Grady (who also plays the Priest) on percussion. Rachelle Lauzon is the Countess Olivia, with whom Orsino is romantically obsessed.

Her wily maids-in-waiting are portrayed by Kristy Bird as Maria, and Sean McClelland as Julia. Olivia's unruly cousin Sir Toby Belch is played by Sean Rintoul; his carousing friend Fabian by Taylor Shannon; and her unwanted wooer Sir Andrew Aguecheek, by Chris Chapman. Malvolio, the ambitious steward who disapproves of them all, is played by Colin Bruce Anthes.

Performances for **Twelfth Night** will be held in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University on Nov. 7, 8 and 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinée performance on Nov. 8 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults; \$15 for seniors and students; \$12 for groups; and \$5 for the eyeGo high school ticket program. Available from the Centre for the Arts Box Office: 905.688.5550 x3257, or visit: [Arts.brocku.ca/](http://Arts.brocku.ca/) For more information about this production and the Department of Dramatic Arts visit: [brocku.ca/dramaticarts](http://brocku.ca/dramaticarts)

Productions from the Department of Dramatic Arts are an integral part of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts' mandate to build connections between the community and the breadth of talent and creativity at Brock University.

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**Media Day: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 6 p.m., held at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University.**

For interviews please contact:

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