Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Dramatis personae

Viola (later disguised as Cesario)
Sebastian (Viola's twin brother)
Duke Orsino (Duke of Illyria)
Countess Olivia
Malvolio (Olivia's steward)
Feste (Olivia's jester)
Sir Toby Belch (Olivia's drunken uncle)
Sir Andrew Aguecheek (a foolish knight)
Maria (Olivia's waiting woman)
Antonio (a sailor)
A sea captain
Valentine (a servant of Duke Orsino)
A Priest
Sailors
Courtiers

Scene 1

The scene opens on a boat – diagonally placed center stage- with a captain and the twins Viola and Sebastian on board. Waves are gradually moving stronger- upstage.

Music: Violin Concerto in F Minor & sound of waves/seagulls

Shipwreck (mime) Viola and Sebastian try desperately to hold on one other but the shipwreck parts them for good.

The sea shore.

Enter Viola and the ship's captain, exhausted.

VIOLA:

What country, friends, is this?

CAPTAIN:

This is Illyria, lady.

VIOLA:

And what should I do in Illyria? My brother, he is in Elysium.

Perchance he is not drowned. What think you, sailors?

CAPTAIN:

It is perchance that you yourself were saved.

VIOLA:

Who governs here?

CAPTAIN:

A noble Duke, in nature as in name.

VIOLA:

What is his name?

CAPTAIN:

Orsino.

VIOLA:

Orsino... I have heard my father name him.

He was a bachelor then.

CAPTAIN:

And so is now, or was so, very late.

For but a month ago I went from hence,

And then 'twas fresh in murmur

That he did seek the love of fair Olivia.

VIOLA:

Conceal me what I am, and be my aid.

Music: Let's Dance (Bowie)

Enter the make-up team. Viola is addressing the make-up team, turning Viola into a man. (Drawing a moustache, stripping her off her dress)

For such disguise as haply shall become

The form of my intent. I'll serve this Duke.

And my name shall be Cesario.

The captain nods his agreement

VIOLA: (turned to the make-up team)

I thank thee. Lead me on.

Scene 2

The court of Duke Orsino. Courtiers enter the scene, arms in arms, bow to the audience and start dancing.

Enter Duke Orsino.

Music plays

DUKE ORSINO (looking at all the women around him and he sighs the name of Olivia):

If music be the food of love, play on!

Music & song: O Mistress Mine (everybody on stage sings the song)



Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,

The appetite may sicken, and so die.

They all listen

Enough, no more!

'Tis not so sweet now as it was before.

The music stops. The courtiers, disappointed, leave the stage, each gentleman taking a lady at his arm.

O, when mine eyes did see Olivia first,

Me thought she purged the air of pestilence.

Enter Valentine, a servant of Duke Orsino.

ORSINO:

How now! What news from Olivia?

VALENTINE:

So please my lord, I might not be admitted.

ORSINO:

Who saw Cesario, ho?

Enter Viola disguised as the boy Cesario.

VIOLA:

On your attendance, my lord, here.

ORSINO (To Viola)

Cesario, good youth, address thy gait unto Olivia.

Be not denied access; stand at her doors,

And tell them, there thy fixed foot shall grow

Till thou have audience.

VIOLA:

Say I do speak with her, my lord, what then?

ORSINO:

O, then unfold the passion of my love.

Prosper well in this,

And thou shalt live as freely as thy lord,

To call his fortunes thine.

VIOLA:

I'll do my best

To woo your lady. (Aside to the audience) Yet, a barful strife!

Whoe'er I woo, myself would be his wife.

Scene 3

Olivia's house.

Enter Maria and Feste the clown.

MARIA:

Where have you been? My lady will hang thee for thy absence.

Exit Maria

Enter Olivia and Malvolio her steward.

OLIVIA (seems pleased to see Feste):

Feste! What think you of this fool, Malvolio?

MALVOLIO:

I marvel your ladyship takes delight in such a barren rascal.

Enter Maria.

MARIA (to Olivia):

There is a young gentleman at the gate much desires to speak with you.

OLIVIA ·

From the Count Orsino, is it? Give me my veil. (She throws the veil over her face)

We'll once more hear Orsino's embassy.

Enter Viola.

VIOLA:

The honourable lady of the house, which is she? (Olivia comes forward, Cesario/Viola bows)

Good madam, let me see your face.

OLIVIA (removing her veil):

Is't not well done?

VIOLA:

Excellently done. If god did all.

Lady, you are the cruellest she alive,

My lord and master loves you.

OLIVIA (*stares at Cesario/Viola showing signs of love at first sight*):

Get you to your lord.

I cannot love him. Let him send no more –

Unless... perchance...you come to me again...

VIOLA:

Farewell, fair cruelty.

Exit Viola.

OLIVIA (aside to the audience):

Not too fast! Soft, soft -

Even so quickly may one catch the plague?

Methinks I feel this youth's perfections,

To creep in at mine eyes. Well, let it be!

Scene 4

Olivia's house. Midnight.

Enter Feste, Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek.

SIR TOBY:

Let us eat and drink. Maria, I say! A stoup of wine!

SIR TOBY:

Welcome, ass! Now let's have a song.

SIR ANDREW:

A mellifluous voice, as I am a true knight.

SIR TOBY:

A contagious breath.

But shall we make the welkin dance indeed? Shall we rouse the night-owl in a catch? Shall we do that?

SIR ANDREW:

Come begin!

They sing and dance, making a lot of noise.

Enter Maria.

MARIA:

For the love of god, peace!

Enter Malvolio (in his pyjamas and night cap)

MALVOLIO:

My masters, are you mad? Is there no respect of place, persons, nor time in you?

SIR TOBY (singing):

Shall I bid him go?

FESTE (singing):

What an if you do?

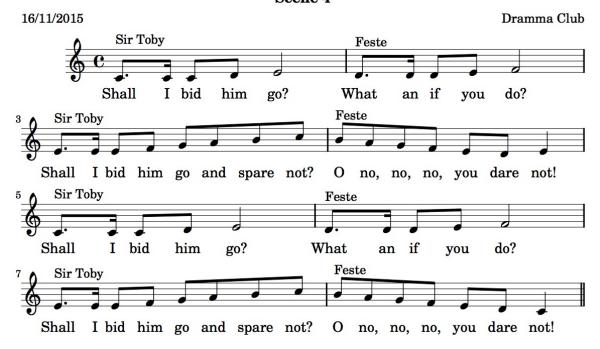
SIR TOBY (singing):

Shall I bid him go and spare not?

FESTE (singing):

O no, no, no, you dare not!

Twelfth Night Scene 4



MALVOLIO:

My lady shall know of this!

Exit Malvolio.

MARIA (shouting after Malvolio):

Go shake your ears!

We will have revenge. I will drop in his way some obscure epistles of love. I can write very like my lady...

SIR TOBY:

He shall think by the letters that they come from my niece, and that she is in love with him.

SIR ANDREW:

O, 'twill be admirable!

MARIA:

For this night, to bed, and dream on the event. Farewell.

SIR TOBY:

Good night. Come, come, I'll go burn some sack, 'tis too late to go to bed now. Come, knight; come! Music: Benny Hill show.

The three drunkards leave the stage pretending to be knights riding their horses.

Scene 5

Olivia's garden

Enter Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, Feste and Maria.

MARIA (holding a letter):

Get ye all three into the box-tree. Malvolio's coming. Observe him for the love of mockery, for I know this letter will make an idiot of him.

The men hide. Maria throws down the letter.

Exit Maria.

MALVOLIO (daydreaming):

'Tis but fortune, all is fortune.

Ah! to be Count Malvolio...

SIR TOBY:

Ah, rogue!

SIR ANDREW:

Pistol him, pistol him!

SIR TOBY:

Peace, peace!

MALVOLIO (picking up the letter):

What employment have we here?

By my life, this is my lady's hand.

(reading, pacing up & down the stage)

"To the unknown beloved this, and my good wishes."

Her very phrases!

(reading)

"Jove knows I love;"

"But who?"

If this should be thee, Malvolio!

(reading)

"M.O.A.I. doth sway my life."

(repeating, perhaps scratching his head) M.O.A.I., M.O.A.I. let me see, let me see....

FESTE:

What a dish of poison has she dressed him!

SIR TOBY:

Peace, peace!

MALVOLIO:

M... Malvolio! M! Why that begins my name!

SIR TOBY:
Yes!
FESTE:
Did I not say he would work it out?
SIR ANDREW:
Peace, peace!
MALVOLIO:
M! A should follow, but O does.
SIR TOBY:
I'll make him cry O!
MALVOLIO:
But soft! Every one of these letters is in my name!
SIR TOBY, SIR ANDREW, FESTE:
Yes! Stupid!
(reading)
"Thou canst not choose but know who I am. If you love me, let it appear in your smiling, thy smiles
become thee well. And remember who commended thy yellow stockings. Farewell, dear, my sweet."
I will smile! I will do everything that thou wilt have me do.
Exit Malvolio.
Enter Maria.
MARIA:
Does it work on him?
SIR TOBY, SIR ANDREW, FESTE:
Yes!

MARIA:

If you will see the fruits of this sport, mark his first approach before my lady. He will come to her in yellow stockings, a colour she abhors! And he will smile which will now be unsuitable to her disposition. If you will see it, follow me.

Scene 6

Enter Sebastian (dressed exactly like Cesario/Viola) and Antonio, a sailor.

ANTONIO:

Will you stay no longer? Shall I go with you?

SEBASTIAN:

By your patience, no. My stars shine darkly over me.

ANTONIO:

Let me know of you whither you are bound.

SEBASTIAN:

You must know of me then, Antonio, my name is Sebastian. My father left behind him myself and a sister, both born in an hour. But some hour before you took me from the breach of the sea was my sister drowned.

ANTONIO:

Alas the day!

SEBASTIAN:

A lady, sir, though it was said she much resembled me, was yet of many accounted beautiful. She is drowned already, sir, with salt water (*he weeps*). I am bound for Count Orsino's court. Farewell.

Scene 7

Olivia's house.

Enter Olivia and Maria.

OLIVIA:

Where is Malvolio?

MARIA:

(stifling laughter) He's coming, madam, but in very strange manner. He's sure possessed, madam.

OLIVIA:

Does he rave?

MARIA:

No, madam, he does nothing but smile.

OLIVIA:

Go call him hither.

Exit Maria.

Re-enter Maria (still trying not to laugh) with Malvolio.

MALVOLIO:

Sweet lady, ho! ho!

OLIVIA:

Smil'st thou? I sent for thee upon a sad occasion. What is the matter with you?

MALVOLIO:

Not black in my mind, though yellow in my legs.

OLIVIA:

Wilt thou go to bed, Malvolio?

MALVOLIO:

To bed! Ay, sweetheart, and I'll come to thee!

MARIA:

Why appear you with this ridiculous boldness before my lady?

OLIVIA:

Why this is very midsummer madness.

Good Maria, let this fellow be looked to. Let some of my people have a special care of him.

Exit Olivia

Enter Sir Toby and Feste

SIR TOBY:

Which way is he, in the name of sanctity? We must deal gently with him. How do you, Malvolio?

MALVOLIO:

Go hang yourselves all. I discard you. Go off!

SIR TOBY:

Come we'll have him in a dark room and bound. My niece is already in the belief that he's mad. We may carry it thus for our pleasure and his penance.

They seize Malvolio and tie him up and carry him off.

Song & Music: Come away Death

Come away death

Twelfth Night, II,4 (Original tune Eb Minor)

William Shakespeare

Roger Quilter



Scene 8

Enter Sebastian, looking at the sights of the town.

Enter Sir Toby and Sir Andrew. Sebastian bumps into them. Sir Toby and Sir Andrew start a fight. They fight.

Enter Olivia.

OLIVIA:

Hold Toby! On my life, I charge thee, hold!

SIR TOBY:

Madam!

OLIVIA:

Will it be ever thus? Ungracious wretch,

Fit for the mountains and the barbarous caves

Where manners ne'er were preached, out of my sight!

Exeunt Sir Toby and Sir Andrew.

(to Sebastian) Be not offended, dear Cesario.

Go with me to my house. Do not deny.

SEBASTIAN:

Or I am mad, or else this is a dream.

If it be thus to dream, still let me sleep!

Enter a priest

OLIVIA:

Now go with me and with this holy man

Into the chantry by; there before him

Plight me the full assurance of your faith.

SEBASTIAN:

I'll follow this good man, and go with you;

And having sworn truth, ever will be true.

Scene 9

Olivia's house.

Enter Orsino and Viola/Cesario

ORSINO:

Here comes the Countess; now heaven walks on earth!

OLIVIA:

Cesario, you do not keep faith with me.

VIOLA:

Madam?

OLIVIA (to Orsino)

What would my lord – but that he may not have.

ORSINO:

Still so cruel?

OLIVIA:

Still so constant, my lord. **ORSINO** (to Viola/Cesario): Come, boy, with me (they make to leave) **OLIVIA:** Where goes Cesario? **VIOLA:** After him I love. **ORSINO** (to Viola/Cesario): Come away! **OLIVIA:** Cesario, husband, stay! **ORSINO:** Husband?! **OLIVIA:** Aye, husband. Can he that deny? **ORSINO:** Her husband, sirrah? VIOLA: No, my lord, not I. **ORSINO:** Thou dissembling cub! Enter Sebastian. **ORSINO** (looking at Sebastian and then Viola/Cesario): One face, one voice, one habit, and two persons! **OLIVIA:** Most wonderful! **SEBASTIAN**(*looking at Viola*): Do I stand there? I never had a brother. I had a sister Whom the blind waves and surges have devoured. What countryman, What name? What parentage? **VIOLA:** Sebastian was my father. Such a Sebastian was my brother too.

So he went suited to his watery tomb.

SEBASTIAN:

Were you a woman, I should say,

'Thrice welcome, drowned Viola.'

They embrace.

SEBASTIAN:

So comes it, lady, you have been mistook.

ORSINO:

I shall have share in this most happy wrack.

(to Viola) Give me thy hand,

And let me see thee in thy women's weeds.

Enter Malvolio.

MALVOLIO:

Madam, you have done me wrong.

OLIVIA:

Have I, Malvolio? No!

MALVOLIO:

Lady, you have; pray you peruse that letter.

You must not now deny it is your hand.

OLIVIA:

Alas, Malvolio, this is not my writing.

MALVOLIO (*leaving the stage*):

I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you!

Exit Malvolio.

ORSINO:

Pursue him and entreat him to a peace.

(To Olivia) Meantime, sweet sister,

We will not part from hence. Cesario, come;

For so you shall be, while you are a man.

But when in other habits you are seen –

Orsino's mistress, and his fancy's queen.

Exeunt.

Everybody on stage sings « When that I was and a little tiny boy »

When that I was and a little tiny boy... Twelfth Night - Scene 9

