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Mariano Castillo

Photos by **Guy Rogers**



resurgence of Shakespeare is the latest trend in the entertainment

business. In the past few months, Shakespeare has been in love, modernized in the movie Ten Things I Hate About You and now will be featured by the theater arts department in the production of "Twelfth Night, or What You

This timeless tale is a tangled web of love and deception that revolves around Viola, who gets shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria and assumes her identical twin brother, Sebastian, is dead. Once she situates herself in Illyria, she hears of Olivia, a woman who was saddened over the loss of her own brother. Moved by Olivia's mourning, Viola gets the desire to live with her and share the pain of losing a brother.

Viola's plan to meet Olivia is to disguise herself as a man and work as one of Orsino's pages because they were the only people Olivia would allow to

Laurie White, Viola in the play and a senior theater arts major, said this is the first lead performance she has played and found the hardest thing was to portray Viola's masculinity.

"It was challenging to play a guy," she said. "I had to see how they stand and other gestures.

To execute her plan, Viola enlists help from the captain of the sunken ship, who has a fancy for her. He buys her a wardrobe similar to what Sebastian wore and feigns the name Cesario.

Once Viola secures work with the duke, she falls in love with him, but cannot express it because of her disguise. Viola finally gets a chance to visit Olivia, only to find that Olivia has no said. "The romantic plot and comic

feelings for Orsino and instead is in love with Viola, err, Cesario.

This story is complicated further when Sebastian arrives in Illyria with Antonio, a sea captain who saved him from the shipwreck. Antonio encounters Viola and confuses her with Sebastian, and, after a misunderstanding, almost gets into a fight. Later, Antonio bumps into the real Sebastian and fights with him as a result of the earlier confrontation with Viola.

The fight is stopped by Olivia, who confuses Sebastian with Viola and invites him inside her home, where they are eventually married the same day. The play climaxes as the entire set

of characters end up in the same place at the same time, with everyone wondering how this web was spun.
Joshua Cuttill, a sophomore theater

arts major, plays the role of Sebastian, Viola's twin, in the play. Cuttill said learning his role certain-

y had some challenges, since this is the first Shakespeare play he has acted in. "The toughest part was getting past the language," he said. "Once I got the Shakespearean language down, it was

Cuttill said his experience with "Twelfth Night" is one of the best he's

This cast is by far the overall most talented," he said. "As far as skill lev-

el, this group is up there with the best I've worked with. Dr. Michael Greenwald, director of the play and a theater arts professor,

"Twelfth Night" is his favorite Shakespeare work for several reasons. 'It has good roles for 14 actors," he

plot is good for student ac-

This performance marks the second time Greenwald has directed "Twelfth Night" at A&M. Fourteen years ago, it served as a stepping-off point for the newly found department.

The setting has been changed slightly to Spanish-New World surroundings to better complement some of the Hispanic actors being featured. The play also highlights an original score by Penelope Kosztolinyik that includes a tango and oth-Latin beats

White said the different setting adds

an interesting angle to the play.
"I think Shakespeare wrote plays that can be adjusted to any time period," White said. "[The Spanish setting] enhances the play and makes it more fun."

Dr. James Harner, editor of the World Shakespeare Bibliography, said "Twelfth Night" is very typical of

Shakespeare's style.

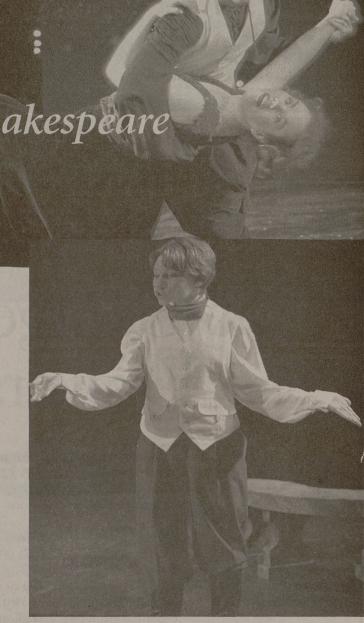
"['Twelfth Night'] is one of the romantic comedies very frequently performed," he said, "but it doesn't get written about too often.

Harner said behind the comedy of the play, it aims at showing not to judge on the basis of appearance.

There will be a pre-show tonight at 8 p.m. at the Rudder Forum, featuring

a Latin American/Tango bar. The cast will be there to meet patrons.

Performances will be April 15-18 and April 28 to May 1. General admission tickets are \$8, and tickets for students and seniors are \$5.



"Twelfth Night" will be performed April 15-8 and April 28-May 1 at Rudder Forum. The play by William Shakespeare has been given a Spanish-New World touch.

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