

CLASSICAL · ACTORS · ENSEMBLE



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2024

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PRESS IMAGE (available late May): classicalactorsensemble.org/press/

Classical Actors Ensemble returns to parks this summer with *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*

Free, Family-Friendly Performances June 14 – July 14

(Minneapolis, MN)—Classical Actors Ensemble (CAE) announces a 10th season of Shakespeare in Our Parks with a new production of *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*. Directed by Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke and longtime company member, Samantha Fairchild, this comedy will be performed in parks across the Twin Cities, June 14 – July 14, 2024, including partnership performances with Franconia Sculpture Park and the MN Humanities Center.

"We're very excited to once again share these plays with thousands of Minnesotans in their local parks," said Joseph Papke. "These plays are for everyone and we aim to make them as entertaining and accessible as possible."

Written circa 1601, *Twelfth Night* is an ensemble romantic comedy and one of Shakespeare's most popular plays. The plot centers on shipwrecked twins who separately wash ashore in a foreign land, each thinking the other dead, and soon become entangled in an unrequited love triangle of noble bon vivants. CAE last staged *Twelfth Night* in original Elizabethan pronunciation in 2014, in repertory with *The Duchess of Malfi* at the former Theatre Garage in Minneapolis.

CAE honors Shakespeare's work by making high-quality entertainment available for all at no charge through its annual Shakespeare in Our Parks program. CAE encourages audiences to bring a picnic to enjoy this free outdoor entertainment for the entire family. In keeping with CAE's aesthetic, this production will include live, modern music performed by the cast.

Previous Shakespeare in Our Parks productions: *Much Ado About Nothing* (2023), *Love's Labors Lost* (2022, 2014), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2021, 2016), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2019), *Romeo & Juliet* (2018), *The Comedy of Errors* (2017), and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (2015).

THE ARTISTS

The skilled cast is led by CAE stalwarts Leif Jurgensen as Toby Belch, Tom Conry as Malvolio, Alan Tilson as Antonio, and current U of M/Guthrie BFA student Nate Turcotte as Sebastian. Completing the cast are John Goodrich, Brandon Herring, Carin Leonard-Gorrill, David Michaeli, Noah Ratgen, Thomas Teeter, Gavin Webb; and featuring talented newcomers Vivian Kampschroer as Olivia and Bella West as Viola.

Scenic design is by Dietrich Poppen and costumes by Molly Smith. The production is directed by Joseph Papke and Samantha Fairchild.

(continued)

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, June 14, 7pm: [Lyndale Park Rose Garden, 4124 Roseway Rd, Mpls, MN 55409](#)
Saturday, June 15, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles \(Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls\)](#)
Sunday, June 16, 7pm: [Matthews Park, 2318 29th Ave S, Mpls, MN 55406](#)
Thursday, June 20, 7pm: [Tony Schmidt Park, 3500 Lake Johanna Blvd, Arden Hills, MN 55112](#)
Friday, June 21, 7pm: [North Loop Green, 350 North 5th St, Minneapolis, MN 55401](#)
Saturday, June 22, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles \(Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls\)](#)
Sunday, June 23, 3pm: [Cedar Lake East Beach, 2000 S Upton Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55405](#)
Thursday, June 27, 7pm: [Franconia Sculpture Park, 29836 St Croix Trail N, Shafer, MN 55074](#)
Friday, June 28, 7pm: [Newell Park, 900 Fairview Ave N, St Paul, MN 55104](#)
Saturday, June 29, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles \(Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls\)](#)
Sunday, June 30, 7pm: [Vermillion Falls Park, 215 21st Street East, Hastings, MN 55033](#)
Friday, July 5, 7pm: [Como Park Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Pkwy N, St. Paul, MN 55103](#)
Saturday, July 6, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles \(Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls\)](#)
Sunday, July 7, 4pm: [Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 W 84th St, Bloomington, MN 55438](#)
Thursday, July 11 7pm: [St. Clement's Church, 901 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104](#)
Friday, July 12, 7pm: [Wolfe Park Amphitheater, 3700 Monterey Dr, St. Louis Park, MN 55416](#)
Saturday, July 13, 7pm: [Lake of the Isles \(Newton Ave. S. and W. Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Mpls\)](#)
Sunday, July 14, 7pm: [MN Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55106](#)

Runtime: ~two hours

TICKETS

FREE and non-ticketed

Online pre-registration recommended for weather updates. Donations encouraged.

More information is available at classicalactorsensemble.org.

Questions may be directed to the box office at boxoffice@classicalactorsensemble.org or 651.321.4024.

ACCESSIBILITY

Contact the box office at boxoffice@classicalactorsensemble.org or 651.321.4024.

ABOUT CLASSICAL ACTORS ENSEMBLE

Classical Actors Ensemble is a Twin Cities theater company that performs plays of the English Renaissance as they were originally intended: as popular entertainment for everyone. Since its founding by Producing Artistic Director Joseph Papke in 2009, CAE has presented 27 works by Shakespeare, Ford, Middleton, Dekker, Webster, Jonson, and Marlowe. CAE annually produces a Shakespeare in Our Schools tour to secondary schools and the free Shakespeare in Our Parks summer tour. Recent indoor productions include *Othello* at Elision Playhouse in autumn 2022. CAE's goal is to demonstrate why these works of art are considered classics and to freshly prove their relevance in today's world.

To learn more about the company, please visit classicalactorsensemble.org.

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