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# UCLA stages Twelfth Night in a dance hall at Hollywood Fringe

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Set in according to the program "Now" BruinBard (UCLA) closed a run of "Shakespeare's Twelfth Night this week that delivered the traditional language but with modern technology and music. Delivered in the Hollywood Dance Center this gave an intimacy to the production that lent new meaning to the original work. The actors broke the fourth wall and the audience had to be in on the secrets and truths being told.



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2016 closing night of UCLA BruinBard's "Twelfth Night." Opening dance.

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Director Will Brock wrote in the program that a central issue of Twelfth Night "identity in isolation, or ... need to connect to each other to define ourselves." The audience was placed in rows while the actors were in the center of the room but had free access to wander in front of and behind the audience. It made for a forced a communal connection to the players and their trials. From the beginning Feste (Shayna West) stands in the room with her guitar making requests for songs to play, for as the clown she represents the connection to the people. Her character is also the one who sees through the illusions in the play.

The opening of Twelfth night is a movement sequence with the entire cast portraying the shipwreck that leads to the characters Viola (Madison Dham) and her brother Sebastian (Roger Hernandez) being separated and thinking the other is lost. Please note these actors do not look alike but the

audience accepts that they are as their performance is convincing.

This is followed by the traditional opening scene in which Orsino, (Daniel Kim) declares he loves the lady Olivia (Julie Lanctot), but informed by his attendant Valentine (Dayne Fernandez), she wants none of him. Sir Toby (Matt McLaughlin) Olivia's uncle and a would be suitor to Olivia, Andrew Aguecheek (Kelsey Kato) reveal they are the partiers and trouble makers of the play and Maria (Lauren Buangan), Oliivia's attendant, their helper.

Other players to this comedy include Sebastian's rescuer and friend Antonio (Robert Arriago) who looks and seems the tough sailor on the run but determined to ensure Sebastian's safety. Fabian (Pranshu Mishra) a participant to the antics of Sir Toby and his merry band of hooligans. Malvolio Ian Runge) who is convinced by a false letter written by Maria that Olivia loves him, to the extent of dressing himself in ridiculous yellow stocking for all to see close-up. Finally Peter Carman plays the Captain of the shipwrecked ship who aides Viola, and servants and officers during the course of the performance. One odd addition, during some of the revelry, Dayne Fernandez dresses in a red Einstein hair wig and tries to peddle dirty books to the audience and cast.

This adaptation, as characters and scenes have been changed and cut, demonstrates that Twelfth Night still rings true to the audience of today. Just as in Shakespeare's time, people sometimes put on disguises to get by, but it is only when they are their true selves can true friendship and love arise.

For more information about the Hollywood fringe show, see [their site](#). See the productions [Facebook page](#) or the [Bruin Bard at UCLA](#) .

## SUGGESTED LINKS

- [Shakespeare's 'MacDeth' political commentary as farce at Hollywood Fringe](#)
- ['The Bard Gets Hard' new Rogue Shakespeare at the Hollywood Fringe](#)
- [Gangster "Hamlet" at the Hollywood Fringe](#)
- ['Winter is Coming' the musical adaptation of 'Game of Thrones' Hollywood Fringe](#)
- [Shakespeare four hundred plays at the Hollywood Fringe](#)



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