



Clayton Community Theatre livens up the summer calendar with Shakespeare's classic comedy, *Twelfth Night*

Clayton Community Theatre (CCT - www.placeseveryone.org) presents *Twelfth Night or What You Will* by William Shakespeare, directed by Heather Sartin July 11-21, 2024. This production will be distinguished by an ALL-FEMALE CAST, the music of the Reveler's Guild, and a 90-minute, no-intermission runtime.

PERFORMANCES: Thurs-Sun, July 11-21, 2024 (7:30 p.m. Thurs-Sat; 2:00 pm Sun) at Washington University South Campus Theatre, 6501 Clayton Rd, Clayton MO 63117. **TICKETS:** \$25 (discounts are available for season tickets, group sales, seniors and students) - available via SimpleTix, or from CCT online at www.placeseveryone.org. Box office phone: 314-721-9228.

PLEASE NOTE: 7:30 p.m. start time for evening performances.

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

REVIEWERS / MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: For photos, info and reviewer tickets, reach out to CCT media contacts Nathan Schroeder and Judith Rubin, media@placeseveryone.org. Also please visit the [CCT Media Resources](#) page.

[PHOTO GALLERY](#)

CCT 25th-26th SEASONS

Twelfth Night concludes CCT's 25th season. The 26th season has been announced and [season tickets are now available](#):

- *Night of the Iguana*, Oct 17-27, 2024: by Tennessee Williams, directed by Mark A. Neels
- *Who Killed Aunt Caroline?* March 6-16, 2025: by Grant Richards, directed by Ken Clark
- *The Graduate*, June 19-29, 2025: adapted by Terry Johnson based on the novel by Charles Webb and the motion picture screenplay by Calder Willingham and Buck Henry, directed by Rob Corbett

MUSICALLY RICH

"If music be the food of love, play on!" is the famous opening line of *Twelfth Night* and the lament of the heartsick Duke Orsino. Under Director Heather Sartin, this *Twelfth Night* does indeed "play on," thanks to a nine-person musical troupe, the Reveler's Guild, formed especially for this production. Their vocal and instrumental contributions include unique musical themes for the actors and a 20-minute, pre-show mini-concert for audiences to enjoy as they settle into their seats.

"You can't separate love from music," says Sartin, "and *Twelfth Night* is primarily a love story. Our singers and musicians will engage the audience so that we feel like we're all in the story together."

TWELFTH NIGHT - ALL-FEMALE CAST!

As was customary in Shakespeare's day, the *Twelfth Night* players will all be of the same gender. However, instead of all-male, the cast is all-female.

"I want to give women the opportunity to have every single role in the play open to them," says Sartin. "This is a chance to provide some fresh perspective. This production will be traditional in how it is staged and costumed, but we can traverse that familiar ground in a unique way."

The global theatrical community has also lately explored this ground. Celebrated examples of women taking on male roles in Shakespeare include Harriet Walter's trilogy of political dramas and Glenda Jackson in the title role of *King Lear* on Broadway. Locally, in 2014 St. Louis Shakespeare presented *Hamlet* with Maggie Wininger as the troubled prince of Denmark. *Twelfth Night* being a comedy, the all-female cast at CCT will enhance the intrinsic humor and magical storytelling of the play.

TWELFTH NIGHT - SIGNATURE SHAKESPEARE IN 90 MINUTES!

Written between 1601-1602 and the second play in William Shakespeare's Shipwreck Trilogy, *Twelfth Night* or *What You Will* remains one of the Bard's most familiar and best-loved comedies. It has everything: a shipwreck, a pair of well-born twins searching for one another, a band of practical jokers, drunken carousing, sword fights, unrequited love and gender confusion. The story is inherently rich in dramatic coincidence and

irony: the audience knows, sees and anticipates things that the characters, caught in their web of mystery and confusion, emotion and circumstance, can't.

This production of *Twelfth Night* will deliver its Shakespearean humor, music and mishap at a steady pace in a 90-minute, no-intermission runtime for the play, plus the special musical prelude of some 20 minutes. Audiences can look forward to enjoying the full, enchanted story and comical romp in a concise format.

Director Sartin opted to keep the show traditional in look and presentation, and costumes in the style of the period were designed by CCT Board member Rob Corbett.

“Our regional theatre companies do a lot of Shakespeare, but this *Twelfth Night* is going to be different, in more ways than one,” says Sartin. “Whatever else is on your cultural and Shakespearean menu this summer in Saint Louis, we encourage everyone in the community to include *Twelfth Night* at CCT.”

Heather Sartin (*Twelfth Night* Director), has been active with CCT since 2015 as both performer and director. Her first CCT role was Lady MacDuff in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and the performance earned her a Theatre Mask Awards (TMA) nomination. She next played Sabina in *The Skin of Our Teeth* and was honored with a TMA for that performance. For her work playing Billie Dawn in *Born Yesterday* (2017), she again received a TMA nomination for her work. In 2020, she directed *The Philadelphia Story*; the show won numerous TMAs, including, for Sartin personally, awards for Direction and Set Design.

TWELFTH NIGHT
At Clayton Community Theatre, July 11-21, 2024
Directed by Heather Sartin

CAST AND MUSICIANS (alphabetical order)

SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK
ANTONIO
FABIAN
FESTE
MALVOLIO
MARIA
OLIVIA
ORSINO
SEA CAPTAIN
SEBASTIAN
SIR TOBY BELCH
VALENTINE
VIOLA
OFFICER
PRIEST/SAILOR

CAROLYN BERGDOLT
KRISTIN MEYER
JAN MEYER
BRYN SENTNOR
ERIN STRUCKHOFF
THERESE MELNYKOV
KATIE PUGLISI
DEBORAH ROBY
LAUREN RUBIN
EMILEE MURPHREE
ANNE VEGA
NACHALAH DUCLERNE
CLAIRE COFFEY
LUCY SAPPINGTON
LAURIE SHELTON

“THE REVELER’S GUILD” musical troupe

CAROLYN BERGDOLT
NACHALAH DUCLERNE
HANNAH MARTIN
ROSEMARY PAELTZ
LUCY SAPPINGTON
BRYN SENTNOR
LAURIE SHELTON
KELLANN STRUCKHOFF
MEGAN WIEGERT

About Clayton Community Theatre

Clayton Community Theatre was founded in 1998. CCT’s purpose is to provide a vehicle for all members of our community to be involved in the production of top-quality live theatre. Through its annual productions and program of community outreach, CCT has involved hundreds of individuals in productions that have played to consistently enthusiastic reviews and crowded houses. CCT believes that our successful history as a theatre company has proven that there is an important place in our community for a volunteer theatre company that is open to all and driven by a commitment to excellence.

CCT productions take place in the Washington University South Campus Theatre, an outstanding 210-seat venue at 6501 Clayton Road with handicap accessibility, elevators, and a lighted parking lot. CCT operates on the Washington University campus as an independent community theatre company and is not affiliated with the Washington University Performing Arts Department.

Clayton Community Theatre is incorporated as a Missouri nonprofit corporation and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Membership in the organization is open to any interested individual. CCT receives financial assistance from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.