

CHAUTAQUA THEATER
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Vivienne Benesch & Ethan McSweeney artistic directors

CHAUTAQUA THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES *TWELFTH NIGHT*
FINAL SHOW OF 2006 SUMMER SEASON

“If music be the food of love ... play on”

Orsino, Act I, sc 1

August 3, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chautauqua, NY.....Artistic Directors Vivienne Benesch and Ethan McSweeney announce the final production of Chautauqua Theater Company’s record-breaking 2006 season, William Shakespeare’s perfect comedy of love, *Twelfth Night*. The production, directed by Andrew Borba, will play at the award-winning Bratton Theater on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institution for 10 performances beginning August 12 and ending August 19.

Orsino loves Olivia. Olivia loves Viola. Viola loves Orsino. From this classic triangle comes one of Shakespeare’s funniest and most moving comedies about the madness, mania, mix-ups, and mistaken identity of that most fallible human emotion: **love**. Steeped in the music that stirs our souls to the heights of poetry and the depths of embarrassment, the romantic misadventures of *Twelfth Night* are a treat for all. Director **Andrew Borba** (last seen onstage as Jim Bayless in *All My Sons*) returns to CTC to explore that “many-splendored thing” in a production featuring the talents of CTC’s extraordinary Conservatory.

Director Andrew Borba has set this production in a post-World War I English manor house at Christmas time (the literal Twelfth Night of the title). “Out of the ashes of World War I comes the need for the social confection that is *Twelfth Night*,” says Borba. “These characters, devastated by an inconceivably brutal and bloody war, cloister, play and ultimately heal themselves with one of the few remaining purely beautiful things left to them: **music**. Music certainly is the food of love, and they are feasting on it.”

Andrew Borba recently directed *Hamlet: First Quarto* at the Theater of Note in Los Angeles and he and the production are cited extensively in the new Arden *Hamlet* parallel text. He has also directed *A Song of One’s Own*, *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth*, *Lovers* and written and directed two original plays: *Gargoyles* and *Pieces*. As an actor, Mr. Borba has appeared on many of the nation’s preeminent regional stages including four seasons as a company member with Oregon Shakespeare Festival. In the last year his television appearances have included “Grey’s Anatomy,” “That 70’s Show,” “House,” “Without a Trace,” and “Crossing Jordan” among others. He is a graduate of Brown University and the NYU Graduate Acting Program.

The cast of *Twelfth Night* features the CTC Conservatory: fourteen emerging actors recruited from the finest training programs in the country and drawn from a pool of nearly five hundred auditioning candidates. This year’s Conservatory includes members from the graduate training programs at A.C.T (San Francisco), A.R.T, Juilliard, the Yale School of Drama, NYU, the Brown/Trinity Consortium, UC San Diego (La Jolla), UC Irvine, and undergraduate programs at Carnegie Mellon and Columbia among others. The company is: **Hale Appleman, Brittany Burch, James Chen, Meg Fee, Susannah Flood, Aaron Ganz, Ben Graney, Larry Herron, Evans**

Eden Jarnefeldt, Mark Junek, Kate MacCluggage, Alex Morf, Sean Tarrant, and Robert Thompson.

“The Conservatory is the heart of our company,” says co-Artistic Director Vivienne Benesch. “Over the last two summers CTC has become a prime destination for the best and brightest emerging actors in the country and our audiences really have a rare chance to catch these actors on their way up.”

“When Shakespeare is well spoken and well acted it is one of the most accessible and enjoyable experiences in the theater,” adds McSweeney. “But to do it well needs tremendous discipline and craft as an actor. That is the kind of classical training our Conservatory receives here over the summer and the result is that they become an exceptional company for this material and vice-versa.”

A raft of new designers will be introduced to CTC and Chautauqua audiences with this production: Michael Ganio, (Sets), Peter West (Lights), Wade Laboissonniere (Costumes), and Steven Cahill (Original Music and Sound).

West coast based set designer **Michael Ganio**'s work can be seen onstage this year at Seattle Rep, the Asolo Theater, Virginia Opera, the American Players Theatre and the world famous Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. **Peter West**'s lighting designs have been seen in many of the same theaters including A.R.T., A.C.T. (Seattle), Seattle Rep, Berkeley Rep, California Shakespeare Theater, The Shakespeare Theater of Washington, DC, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and many productions at The Juilliard School. Costume designer **Wade Laboissonniere** designed the clothes for the critically acclaimed Off Broadway productions of *Zanna Don't* and *Shakespeare's R&J*, and has worked around the country most recently at Dallas Theater Center, Ford's Theatre, Yale Rep, and the Berkshire Theatre Festival. Composer **Steven Cahill** is the recipient of three Los Angeles Ovation Award nominations for his work for the stage. He has also composed for the television programs “Til Death,” “Party of Five,” “Six Feet Under,” “Desperate Housewives,” and “Touched by an Angel.”

There will be a Brown Bag discussion with the artists on August 10 at 12:15 and a post-performance talk back after the August 18 2:15 matinee, both in the Bratton Theater. In addition there will be a tour on August 14 at 2:15 giving patrons a behind-the-scenes look at theater and the set of *Twelfth Night*.

Individual tickets for *Twelfth Night* are \$24 and can be ordered online 24 hours a day at www.ciweb.org, by telephone at 716.357.6250, or at the Chautauqua Institution ticket offices in the Colonnade lobby (M and F, 9am-5pm), the Main Gate Welcome Center, and the Turner Community Center (M-F, 9am to 8am).

Twelfth Night will be performed on the following days and times:

Saturday, August 12 at 8pm
Sunday, August 13 at 2:15pm and 8pm
Tuesday, August 15 at 8pm
Wednesday, August 16 at 2:15pm and 8pm

Thursday, August 17 at 8pm
Friday, August 18 at 2:15pm
Saturday, August 19 at 2:15pm and 8pm

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