

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2025

PHOENIX THEATRE @ UVIC

PO Box 3025 STN CSC

Victoria, British Columbia V8W 3P2 Canada



A bold modern twist on a Shakespearean Classic

Twelfth Night

VICTORIA, February 20, 2025 — Get ready for the whimsy, wit and romance of *Twelfth Night* as Shakespeare's timeless comedy is reimaged for a post-climate-change future under the direction of UVic faculty member Fran Gebhard. Performances run March 13-22 in the Chief Dan George Theatre, Phoenix Building, University of Victoria.

Set in the near future, this *Twelfth Night* unfolds in a fictional Illyria inspired by BC's rugged coastline. Against a backdrop of displacement and environmental upheaval, the play follows Viola, shipwrecked and separated from her twin brother, Sebastian. Disguised as a man, she enters the service of Duke Orsino, igniting a whirlwind of mistaken identities, love triangles and hilariously chaotic misunderstandings. Featuring contemporary costumes and inventive casting this *Twelfth Night* is a heartfelt comedy exploring love's transformative power and the blurred lines of identity in a modern world.

Adding to the intrigue are real-life identical twins Makayla and Mariah Madill, fourth-year acting students who step into the roles of Viola and Sebastian. Their striking resemblance—complete with a 99.99999998% DNA match—brings an extra layer of authenticity to the tale of mistaken identity. Audiences will delight in trying to tell them apart—an additional challenge when Viola disguises herself as a man!

With Fran Gebhard's imaginative direction, audiences can expect a fresh, dynamic take on one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies.

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an English playwright, poet, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. Known as the "Bard of Avon," his works include 39 plays, 154 sonnets, and narrative poems. His masterpieces span genres—tragedy (*Hamlet*), comedy (*Twelfth Night*), and history (*Henry V*)—exploring timeless themes like love, power and identity.

SHOW DETAILS:

What: Twelfth Night

When: March 13-22, 2025

Where: Phoenix Theatre at UVic

Tickets: \$18-\$34 depending on day.

Group and UVic Alumni rates available.

Cheap Tuesdays: \$18.

Box Office: 250-721-8000

Event Link: [Website](#)

[Box Office hours](#) | [Box Office & Theatre Location](#)

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director: Fran Gebhard

Set Designer: Thomas Moore

Costume Designer: Molly Somers

Lighting Designer: Lexy Kimler

Sound Designer: Jack Storwick

Stage Manager: R.Davey

PERFORMANCES:

Evenings: Mar. 13-15 & 18-22 at 8:00 p.m.

Matinees: Mar. 15 & 22 at 2 p.m.

Lecture: Mar. 14 pre-show with the director and designers.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Bernadette McKelvey

Marketing & Communications Manager,

Department of Theatre at UVic

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The Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria in British Columbia is one of Canada's most comprehensive and immersive theatre programs. Its productions are integral to the academic requirements of students enrolled in the Department of Theatre's Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees. Renowned for its innovative productions and commitment to theatrical and academic excellence, the Phoenix Theatre emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning, and students are deeply involved in every aspect of production.