

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S TWELFTH NIGHT

CAST



LA SHAWN BANKS
(**Malvolio**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*. Other Chicago credits include: *Isaac's Eye*, *The Lie*, *Travels with my Aunt*, *Old Glory*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Othello*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *To the Green Fields Beyond* (Writers Theatre); *The Wheel* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Execution of Justice* (About Face Theatre); *The Island* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre); and five seasons of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits include productions with: American Players Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House and Notre Dame Shakespeare. La Shawn attended a performing arts high school in Buffalo. First introduced to Shakespeare in seventh grade, La Shawn recalls: "I loved it! I wanted to read ALL the plays!" What he loves about Shakespeare is that "his characters are so flawed and deeply human—that's always fun stuff for an actor."



LYNN ROBERT BERG
(**Antonio/Sea Captain**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where credits include *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*. Other Chicago credits include: *Isaac's Eye*, *The Lie*, *Travels with my Aunt*, *Old Glory*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Othello*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *To the Green Fields Beyond* (Writers Theatre); *The Wheel* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Execution of Justice* (About Face Theatre); *The Island* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre); and five seasons of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits include productions with: American Players Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House and Notre Dame Shakespeare. La Shawn attended a performing arts high school in Buffalo. First introduced to Shakespeare in seventh grade, La Shawn recalls: "I loved it! I wanted to read ALL the plays!" What he loves about Shakespeare is that "his characters are so flawed and deeply human—that's always fun stuff for an actor."



RONALD CONNER
(**Sir Toby Belch**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where credits include Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks production of *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits* and *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*. Other Chicago credits include: *Isaac's Eye*, *The Lie*, *Travels with my Aunt*, *Old Glory*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Othello*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *To the Green Fields Beyond* (Writers Theatre); *The Wheel* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Execution of Justice* (About Face Theatre); *The Island* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre); and five seasons of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits include productions with: American Players Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House and Notre Dame Shakespeare. La Shawn attended a performing arts high school in Buffalo. First introduced to Shakespeare in seventh grade, La Shawn recalls: "I loved it! I wanted to read ALL the plays!" What he loves about Shakespeare is that "his characters are so flawed and deeply human—that's always fun stuff for an actor."



DOMINIC CONTI
(**Sir Andrew Aguecheek**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared in *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other Chicago credits include productions with: Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Next Theatre, The Second City, Plasticene, Noble Fool Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, Mary-Archie Theatre Co., First Folio Theatre and A Red Orchid Theatre. Regional credits include: Lost Angels Theatre Company, Odyssey Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival and The Kennedy Center. He regularly tours with the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Film credits include: *Nothing in Los Angeles*, *Voodoo Possession*, *Fiona's Fortune* and *Martian American*. Dominic received a BA in English writing from the University of Pittsburgh. He was 21 when he chose acting as a career. His first introduction to Shakespeare was in tenth grade, when his class watched Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, and he enjoyed it. What he enjoys most about acting Shakespeare is all the "fantastic, funny, tragic, strange characters he created."



DOVONAN DIAZ
(**Fabian**) makes his Chicago debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Donovan spent five months as an acting apprentice with American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI, where his credits include: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Othello* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Other regional credits include: *The Normal Heart*, *No Child...* and *Polaroid Stories* (Illinois Theatre). Donovan received his BFA in acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, after graduating from Joliet Central High School. "What I've grown to love the most about acting Shakespeare is the range of interpretations I get to choose from and play with. Figuring it all out can feel like a puzzle."



LYDIA BERGER GRAY
(**Maria**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where her credits include: *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*. Other Chicago credits include: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Jeeves Takes a Bow* (First Folio Theatre); *Pride and Prejudice* (Northlight Theatre); *Pygmalion*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Shaw Chicago Theatre Company); *Love's Labor's Lost*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *Yellowface* (Silk Road Rising); and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Drury Lane Theatre). Regional credits include seven productions with Artists' Ensemble and five tours with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks and Schools. After graduating from Auburn High School in Rockford, Lydia received her BFA in acting from Northern Illinois University. She decided that she wanted to be an actor when she was seven years old, "but I also wanted to be an astronaut then."



REBECCA HURD
(**Viola**) makes her Chicago debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Regional credits include: *The Master Butcher's Singing Club*, *Super Monkey*, *Blue Stockings*, *Stage Kiss* (Guthrie Theater); *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks); *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Gracie Repertory Theatre); and *Hiding in the Open* (History Theatre). Upcoming credits include *Arcadia* (American Players Theatre). A National YoungArts Silver Award winner, Rebecca received her BFA in acting from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre Actor Training Program. As a freshman first studying Shakespeare, she remembers "getting so frustrated—why did he have to use so much poetry?" But in college, his work came alive for her, the way that Shakespeare's characters "speak directly to the audience, inviting them to become part of the story. This is what makes live theater magical—the coming together of the actors' storytelling and the audience's imagination."



NIK KmieciK
(**Curio/Priest**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where he appeared in *Henry V*. Other Chicago credits include: *Pinocchio*, *A Folk Musical* (Filament Theatre), the Baker in *Into the Woods*, Bobby Strong in *Urinetown* and Leo Frank in *Parade* (North Central College). Nik received his BA in musical theatre from North Central College. He was in his sophomore year at North Central College when he performed in *Macbeth*. "I loved it! I wanted to read ALL the plays!" What he loves about Shakespeare is that "his characters are so flawed and deeply human—that's always fun stuff for an actor."



KRYSTEL LUCAS
(**Olivia**) makes her Chicago debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. New York credits include: *Couriers and Contrabands* (The Barrow Group Theatre Company) and *Love's Labor's Lost* (Shakespeare in the Parking Lot). Regional credits include: *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Old Globe); *Macbeth*, *Death and the King's Horseman* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Good People* (Alley Theatre and Dorset Theatre Festival); and *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play* (Syracuse Stage and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis). Television credits include *Jessica Jones* (Netflix) and *The Blacklist* (NBC). Krystel received her BA from University of North Carolina, Asheville, and her MFA from the NYU Graduate Acting Program. She was introduced to Shakespeare "reading *Romeo and Juliet* in Mrs. Lawson's ninth-grade English class. I loved it because she was so excited to teach it, and it really sparked my interest."



WILL MOBLEY
(**Feste**) makes his Chicago Shakespeare Theater debut. Other Chicago credits include *Days Like Today* (Writers Theatre). Regional credits include: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Other Desert Cities*, *A Christmas Carol* (Indiana Repertory Theatre); *Other Desert Cities* (Arizona Theatre Company); *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Critic*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Richard III*, *The Admirable Crichton*, *Twelfth Night*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hamlet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (American Players Theatre); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (tour), *Macbeth*, *Great Expectations* and *The Merchant of Venice* (Utah Shakespeare Festival). Will is a graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design. He knew from when he was very young that he wanted to pursue acting, though he chose it "officially" as a career in his early teenage years. Will also plays in a band and likes to write.



NEAL MOELLER
(**Orestes**) makes his Chicago debut at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. New York credits include: *Prospero* in *The Tempest* (Theater 54); *Pinocchio's Ashes* (Theater for the New City); and *Macheath in The Threepenny Opera* (The Riverside Theatre). Regional credits include the title role in *Macbeth* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); and Prince Henry in *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival). Film credits include *Manna from Heaven*. Neal received his MFA in acting from University of Illinois. Thinking about what he enjoys most about acting, Neal responds, "All of it. The collaboration of artists. The joy of rehearsals and performance. But mostly, I get to be the advocate for this interesting, conflicted character in the world of the play we have created."



COLIN MORGAN
(**Valentine**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where his credits include: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pericles*, and the Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks production of *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits*. Other Chicago credits include: *No Beast So Fierce*, *The Jungle*, *Romulus* (Oracle Productions); *The Explorer's Club* (Windy City Playhouse); and *Belboys*, *Baggage*, and *Bears* (Redmoon). Regional credits include productions with: Palace Theatre in the Dells, Midtown Arts Center, Door Theatre in the Dells, Midtown Arts Center, Circuit Shakespeare, Playhouse on the Square, Circuit Playhouse and StageWest Theatre Company. Colin received his BA in music from Iowa State University. When he's not acting, he loves making music with friends, cooking, and being outdoors as much as possible. What Colin enjoys most about acting is the storytelling. "Plays bring us closer together, stick us in a room, and engage you. It expands our world view, and all you have to do is be present. Show up. Be there. Engage."



NATE SANTANA
(**Sebastian**) makes his Chicago Shakespeare Theater debut. Other Chicago credits include: *Marvin's Room* (Shattered Globe Theatre); *Ironbound* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Balm in Gilead*, *Golden Boy* (Griffin Theatre); *White Tie Ball*, *Mamma's Boyz* (Teatro Vista); *Comrades Mine* (City Lit Theatre Company); *The Rainmaker* (BoHo Theatre); *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet* (First Folio Theatre); *What Happened When Slipping* (the side project). Nate has been nominated for two Jeff Awards and is a graduate of the School at Steppenwolf. He received his BA from Valparaiso University after attending high school at La Porte High School. When Nate's not acting, he's "usually at the dog park chasing squirrels with my two dogs—one is actually rescued from Thailand!" Asked what he enjoys most about acting, Nate says that, "It helps me to better understand others and the world."

CREATIVE

KIRSTEN KELLY
(**Director**) returns to Chicago Shakespeare Theater, where she directed last year's *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and co-created the CPS Shakespeare! program, directing the high school student and teacher ensemble for nine years in productions of: *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Kirsten is a theater director, educator and documentary filmmaker. Recent New York credits include *Undeniable Sound of Right Now* by Laura Eason (Off-Broadway). Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (Women's Project and shows for The Shakespeare Society, Roots & Branches Theater, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Rising Phoenix Rep, The Juilliard School and Lincoln Center. She was twice nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for best direction for *Big Love* and the Washington, DC premiere of *Boy Gets Girl*. She also directed the Midwest/Chicago premiere of *Boston Marriage* (After Dark Award, Best Director). Recent documentary film credits include *The Homestretch*, an award-winning feature film about homeless teens in Chicago, supported by the MacArthur Foundation and Sundance Institute, which aired on PBS Independent Lens and is part of the White House Initiative for Excellence in African American Education. Kirsten graduated from the Master Directing Program at Juilliard after serving as a member of CST's Education Department for six years and directing extensively in Chicago.

SCOTT DAVIS
(**Scenic Designer**) CST: *A Q Brothers' Christmas Carol*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Pericles*, *Seussical*, *Road Show*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Othello*, *The Remix*, *Cadre*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*. Chicago: Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Drury Lane Theater, Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf Garage. Regional: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Rep Stage, Dallas Theatre Center. Education: University of Maryland College Park (BA) and Northwestern University (MFA). Scott teaches at Columbia College Chicago.

RACHEL HEALY
(**Costume Designer**) CST: *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *CPS Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet*. Chicago: Steppenwolf, Goodman, Writers Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre, Court Theatre,

Northlight Theatre, Apple Tree Theatre, American Theater Company, Next Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company. Regional: Alliance Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, American Players Theatre, First Stage Children's Theater. Rachel teaches at Loyola University Chicago.

GREG HOFMANN
(**Lighting Designer**) CST: *Ride the Cyclone*, *Road Show*, *Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet*. Chicago: Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Raven Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Chicago Children's Theatre. Regional: Forward Theatre Company, Madison Repertory Theatre. Greg has also designed over forty-five productions for Cedar Fair amusement parks across the country. Education: MFA, University of Wisconsin.

ETHAN DEPPE
(**Composer/Sound Designer**) CST composition: *Pericles*, and the *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*. Chicago: Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Drury Lane Theater, Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf Garage. Regional: Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Rep Stage, Dallas Theatre Center. Education: University of Maryland College Park (BA) and Northwestern University (MFA). Scott teaches at Columbia College Chicago.

MELISSA VEAL
(**Wig and Make-up Designer**) CST: *Othello*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pericles*, *A Q Brothers' Christmas Carol*, *King Lear*, *Henry V*, *Road Show*, *Gypsy*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Cyrano de*

Bergerac, *The School for Lies*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Othello*: *The Remix*, *Elizabeth Rex*, *Follies*, *The Madness of George III*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, *Rose Rage*, *Henry VI Parts 1, 2 and 3*. Canada: Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Grand Theatre.

MATT HAWKINS
(**Fight Choreographer**) has played various roles at CST—as fight choreographer, assistant director, director and actor. Chicago: Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company, The House Theatre of Chicago, Writers Theatre, Regional; South Coast Repertory, American Players Theatre, The Kennedy Center and Stratford Festival. Matt is the recipient of five Non-Equity Jeff Awards. Education: Southern Methodist University (BFA), University of Iowa (MFA).

KATHRYN WALSH
(**Verse Coach**) CST: *The Comedy of Errors* (verse coach), *Henry VIII*, *The Feast and The Madness of George III* (Assistant Director). Chicago directing credits include: *Women Beware Women*, *Richard II*, *As You Like It* (Two Pence Theatre Company, associate producing director); *James and the Giant Peach* (Filament Theatre); *breaks & bikes* (Pavement Group). Education: Northwestern University (MFA), Harvard University (BA). She serves as program mentor in Northwestern's MFA Directing Program.

CARRIE TAYLOR
(**Stage Manager**) CST: *A Q Brothers' Christmas Carol*, *The Tempest*, Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks production of *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Othello*: *The Remix*, and *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* and *Edward II*.

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Chicago: *The Normal Heart* (TimeLine Theatre Company), *Frederick*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre); and *Teddy Ferret* (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits: Utah Shakespeare Festival, The National Theatre of Scotland, Great River Shakespeare Festival, American Players Theatre.

ANDRA STURTEVANT
(**Assistant Stage Manager**) Chicago credits: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Wonderland*, *Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, *The Selfish Giant*, *Frederick*, *Mr. Chickadee's Funny Money*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Chicago Children's Theatre); and productions with the Evanston Dance Ensemble. Education: Northwestern University (BA in theatre).



Pictured: La Shawn Banks, photo by Michael Brosilow



Part of Shakespeare 400 Chicago, a year-long international arts festival celebrating four centuries of the playwright's rich legacy.



Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of *Short Shakespeare! Twelfth Night* is part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a national program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



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The director of this production is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national labor union.

The costume, scenic and lighting designers of this production are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



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