

Kennedy Theatre



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI‘I at MĀNOA

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Media Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shakespeare Roars into the UHM Campus Center Ballroom

Twelfth Night opens January 27th

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to continue its 53rd season with Shakespeare’s timeless comedy, *Twelfth Night*, directed by Professor of Theatre Paul T. Mitri in Campus Center Ballroom at UH Mānoa. Performances will take place January 27, 28 and February 3, 4 at 7:00 p.m. with matinées January 28 and February 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Twelfth Night is perhaps one of Shakespeare’s most well-known comedies, using mistaken identities, trickery, and romantic mis-encounters to captivate audiences for over 400 years. Set in Illyria, a semi-fictional city, the story of *Twelfth Night* follows Viola (Anna Hamaguchi), a shipwrecked woman of noble heritage. Believing her twin brother Sebastian (Dylan Lee) to be dead, she dresses as him to blend into this strange country’s society in order to safely get her bearings. A youth with wit and cunning, she finds favor and work with the Duke, Orsino (KoDee Martin) who pines for a fellow noble, Olivia (Emily M. Hoadley). Against all odds Viola, in disguise, is sent to woo Olivia on behalf of Duke Orsino and ends up getting caught in a love triangle that will test her will, wit, and luck if she’s to escape it unscathed.

Many directors revisit plays, hoping to see them from a new angle. This is true with Mitri, who will be directing *Twelfth Night* for the fourth time in his career. "I love the piece and I feel that it's perfect for this period in time. Right now, we need a comedy." But the production promises to deliver beyond that. The piece will be set in a *Strictly Ballroom* setting and Mitri hopes the audience feels that they've entered a Fred Astaire movie when they enter the performance space. "I love it when theatre can combine drama, music, and dance and this piece, more than any other Shakespeare play, has all three." Mitri muses.

To assist with the dancing aspect of the piece, Mitri has enlisted MFA in Dance candidate, Mike Romney. While no stranger to theatre, this will be Romney's first time choreographing a Shakespearian play and he hopes that the dancing will serve the overall story. "There will be dance in the transitions between scenes to hopefully clarify important moments or ideas that the audiences just witnessed. I'm a huge believer in all aspects of the play serving the story," Romney says.

When asked why Mitri wanted people see this play now, he said, "Besides it being a comedy, it's about truth to me. Viola represents truth in a world of glitz. Under Illyria's shallow facade, she forces people to ask, 'what is true love?'"

Tickets to *Twelfth Night* can be bought online at www.etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at official outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office. School-time discounted shows for school groups will be offered January 31st and February 1st at 9:30 a.m. for more information call the Operations Coordinator at 808-956-2601.

EVENT:

Twelfth Night

PRESENTED BY:

UHM Department of Theatre + Dance

WHEN:

Jan. 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 28 at 2:00p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 4 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Campus Center Ballroom
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

TICKET PRICES:

\$25 Regular
\$22 Seniors, Military, UH Faculty/Staff
\$20 UHAA Members
\$15 Students
\$8 UH Mānoa Students with valid ID

PURCHASE INFO:

Tickets are available online at etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office. The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday during show weeks, with extended hours on performance dates.



L-R: Emily Hoadley as Olivia, Anna Hamaguchi as Viola/Cesario, and Kodee Martin as Duke Orsino. Top: Rachael Uyeno as Feste
UHM's *Twelfth Night* Jan. 27 - Feb. 4, 2017 Photo: John Wells

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