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Alabama Shakespeare Festival
The State Theatre of Alabama

Contacts:

Katie Perkowski
kperkowski@asf.net
334.271.5326 (w)
334.202.0366 (c)

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***TWELFTH NIGHT*, a comedy by William Shakespeare, opens April 20
In repertory April 27 - May 6 with
THE MIRACLE WORKER and *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING***

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“If music be the food of love, play on.” The Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents William Shakespeare’s beloved comedy ***Twelfth Night*** April 20 through May 5. The production is directed by ASF Associate Artist Greta Lambert and sponsored by the Ben May Charitable Trust.

Tickets start at \$31 and are available online at www.asf.net, by phone at 800-841-4273, or through the ASF box office located at One Festival Drive in the heart of Montgomery’s beautiful Blount Cultural Park. Student tickets are available for \$25.

In the play, shipwrecked twins *Viola* and *Sebastian* become separated, yet both wash ashore on the coast of Illyria. Unaware of the other’s existence in the same strange land, their trials and tribulations with love ultimately reunite the siblings. Mistaken identities and love triangles abound in this rambunctious romp, which is one of Shakespeare’s most popular comedies.

“William Shakespeare’s ***Twelfth Night*** is my favorite comedy of the Bard’s,” says Artistic Director Rick Dildine. “Greta Lambert, who is both an accomplished actress and director, has created a beautiful world on stage with music, comedy, and empathy. It is a gorgeous and fun production you won’t want to miss.”

Twelfth Night features Marina Shay as *Viola*, who disguises herself as the page *Cesario*. Shay is currently garnering critical acclaim for her portrayal of *Annie Sullivan* in ASF’s ***The Miracle Worker*** and was recently lauded for her work in Virginia Rep’s *Pride and Prejudice* and *Shakespeare in Love* at the Cleveland Play House.

Ginneh Thomas portrays *Olivia*, a noblewoman who conceives a passion for the youth *Cesario*. Thomas, who also appears in ASF’s ***The Miracle Worker*** in the role of *Viney*, is a Chicago-based actress whose credits include productions with Steppenwolf Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, and Broadway Playhouse Theatre. Thomas has appeared previously at ASF in the Southern Writers’ Festival of New Plays.

Orsino, a duke in love with *Olivia*, is played by Charles Pasternak. Making his ASF debut, Pasternak’s credits include productions with Indiana Rep, Clarence Brown, Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

Viola's twin brother *Sebastian* is played by Sean Hudock, who also plays *James Keller* in ***The Miracle Worker***. Theatre credits include Cleveland Play House, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and LA Theatre Works. Film work includes *Private Romeo* and the upcoming *The Chaperone* on Masterpiece.

Louis Butelli, last seen in the Folger Theatre's *The Gravedigger's Tale* at ASF, appears as *Feste*, a fool attached to *Lady Olivia's* household. Butelli's extensive theatre credits include New Victory (NYC), Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Yale Rep, Hartford Stage, and La Jolla Playhouse. He also appears at ASF this season as *Anagnos* in ***The Miracle Worker***.

Others in the cast include Jay Russell as *Malvolio*, Timonty Carter as *Sir Toby*, Rodney Clark as *Antonio*, Tony DiBuono as *Maria*, and Billy Finn as *Sir Andrew*. Josh Cahn, Ithamar Fracois, Brian Ott, Woodrow Proctor, Collin Purcell, Katie Fanning, Lara Treacy, and Colin Wulff perform a number of supporting roles.

Twelfth Night is directed by Greta Lambert, who is well known to ASF audiences as both an actress and director. Lambert also directs this season's production of ***Much Ado About Nothing***. She has previously directed many Shakespeare productions at ASF, including *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Comedy of Errors*. As a Shakespearean actress, she has performed as *Gertrude*, *Cleopatra*, *Lady Macbeth*, *Viola*, *Mistress Page*, *Beatrice*, *Constance*, *Rosalind*, *Emilia*, *Cressida*, *Kate*, *Titania*, *Miranda*, *Duchess of York*, *Princess Katherine*, *Queen Katherine of Spain*, and *Lady Ann*.

The creative team for ***Twelfth Night*** includes James Wolk (set design), Pamela Schofield (costume design), Kendall Smith (lighting design), William Burns (sound design), and Dr. Susan Willis (dramaturg). The production stage manager is Victoria Broyles, and Wyatt Silman is the production assistant.

Twelfth Night plays in repertory with ***The Miracle Worker*** and ***Much Ado About Nothing*** April 27th through May 6, so tourists can visit the theatre and see 3 shows in one weekend. On Saturday, May 5, audience members have the opportunity to enjoy a narrated changeover at 4:30 p.m., which is free and open to the public. During the transition, ASF's stage crew will change the set from ***The Miracle Worker*** to ***Twelfth Night*** on the Festival Stage while the technical director narrates the process.

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The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.