



Shakespeare In Love

by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard

Adopted to stage by Lee Hall

November 18 & 19, 2025 @ 7pm
Callbacks: November 20, 2025 @ 6pm

AUDITIONS – GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Please email the director for an audition appointment (preferred date and time between 7-9pm) by **November 17**: marcruffino3@gmail.com Small group auditions will be scheduled in 10-minute intervals.

Walk-in auditions will also be welcome.

Rehearsal Commitment: beginning March 30, 2026

SHOW DATES

- ❖ Fridays at 7:30pm: 5/29/26, 6/5/26 and 6/12/26
- ❖ Saturdays at 7:30pm: 5/30/26, 6/6/26 and 6/13/26
- ❖ Sundays at 2:30 pm: 5/31/26, 6/7/26 and 6/14/26

REHEARSALS

- ❖ A read-through and first rehearsal will be held **Monday, March 30**. Headshots for publicity will be taken at this read-through (*or another time at the director's discretion*).
- ❖ Rehearsals will continue through opening night on Friday, May 29. Please make sure that you have identified all your conflicts (including weekends) on the audition form.
- ❖ All rehearsals will take place between 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM and will be 3-4 nights per week.

***** DATES THAT CANNOT BE MISSED *****

May 23 (SAT)

dinner)

May 25 and 26 (MON & TUE)

May 27 (WED)

June 14 (SUN)

TECH REHEARSAL (*plan on starting late morning and going all day, w/*

FULL DRESS REHEARSALS

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL (*with audience - seniors and students*)

SET STRIKE (*immediately following performance*)

SYNOPSIS

Penniless and indebted to two demanding producers, struggling young actor and playwright Will Shakespeare is tormented by writer's block, until he meets the beautiful Viola de Lesseps, daughter of a wealthy man, whose fiery passion for drama leaves her secretly longing to be an actor. She disguises herself as a man to become a player in Shakespeare's new play. But, Viola's father has promised her to marry the stuffy Lord Wessex. Under the veil of secrecy, Will and Viola's love affair becomes the basis of the very play he's writing - *Romeo and Juliet*.

While this is a heavy male-character cast, I am open to casting female-presenting performers for male characters.

Please expect to read for multiple roles.

I would like auditioners to attempt a British accent.

Please note: There are two younger performers needed for this show (Webster age 10-15 & Sam age 14-20)

CASTING INFORMATION

All those auditioning will be notified of the audition outcome as soon after auditions as possible. A cast list will be posted on AP's Web site (www.auroraplayers.org) and Facebook page.

******To those who are cast: Please refrain from discussing on [your] social media until after the official Cast List has been posted on the above-mentioned AP locations. Thank you.***

Principal Characters:

- **Will Shakespeare (M, 20-35)** – is a passionate poet who alternates between anxiously brooding over his writer's block and boasting all the confidence and charm expected from one of England's most renowned dramatists. Will is sensitive and searches for inspiration, which he finds in the equally fervent Viola. Performers should be comfortable with stage fight movement and intimacy with Viola.
- **Viola De Lesseps (F, 20-35)** – a noblewoman who fiercely dreams of becoming an actor. Viola is rebellious and passionate, and Shakespeare's verse should roll off this performer's tongue, and she should embody a sense of playfulness and determination in her attempts to play a man. Performer should be comfortable with intimacy with Will.
- **Henslowe (M, 35 and older)** - is the owner of the Rose Theatre. Alas, Henslowe is frustrated since he must continually hound the playwright to finish the play. He is a

slippery equivocator, and his increasing debts and frustrations are the source of lots of comedy.

- **Kit Marlowe (M, 25-40)** – Will's more successful theatrical cohort, who never suffers from writer's block. Kit is smooth and charming, and perpetually good-natured and encouraging to Will.
- **Lord Wessex (M, 35-60)** - an insufferable nobleman engaged to Viola, Wessex is solicitous with the Queen but hateful to nearly everyone else. Wessex is a misogynist and only wants Viola for her father's wealth. Performer should be comfortable with stage fight movement.
- **Nurse (F, 35 and older)** – a devoted servant to Viola, who helps her lady, with kindness and humor, to dress as an actor and avoid Lord Wessex.
- **Queen Elizabeth I (F, 40 and older)** –the very shrewd monarch who loves theatre but demands comedies with a dog. The Queen is very stern with a daunting presence; she delivers her speeches drolly but fairly.
- **Fennyman (M, 35 and older)** - the producer and financial backer of Will's play. He is a ruthless loan shark with no sense of humor and has an imperious and intimidating presence. However, his enthusiasm (and stage fright) at playing a small role in *Romeo and Juliet* endears him to his fellow players.
- **Ned Alleyn (M, 25-40)** – is the lead actor of the Admiral's Men, and plays Mercutio in *R & J*. Ned is totally self-absorbed and pompous but likeable, and ultimately a good friend to Will. Performer should be comfortable with stage fight movement.
- **Richard Burbage (M, 25-40)** – is the lead actor of the Chamberlain's Men, a rival troupe of the Admiral's Men, and owner of the Curtain Theatre. Burbage becomes angry when he discovers that Will gave *R & J* to the Admiral's Men. Performer should be comfortable with stage fight movement.

Featured Characters:

- **Edmund Tilney/Sir Robert De Lesseps (M, 40 and older)** – Tilney is Lord Chamberlain, an obsequious courtier to the Queen, who manages entertainment for her. Strict in his position, Tilney is deferential to the Queen and wants to censor Will and his plays. Sir Robert is Viola's father, who thinks of his daughter only as property to be given away to the odious Wessex.

- **Ralph (M, any age)** - A tavern server with actorly ambitions, plays Juliet's Nurse and Petruchio, a member of Tybalt's gang with only one line, in *Romeo and Juliet*.
- **Frees/Robin (M, any age)** - Frees is one of Fennymen's flunkies and debt collectors. Robin is a R & J actor who plays Juliet's mother, Lady Capulet, and Abraham, a Montague servant. Could be a musician/singer.
- **Lambert/Nol (M, any age)** - Lambert is one of Fennymen's flunkies and debt collectors. Nol is an R & J actor who plays Benvolio, Lord Montague's nephew and Romeo's cousin, and Sampson, a servant to the Capulets. Could be a musician/singer.
- **Adam (M, any age)** - Adam is an R & J actor who plays Gregory, a servant to the Capulets, and Benvolio, Romeo's cousin.
- **Webster (M, 10-15)** - A street urchin who aspires to be an actor and possesses an unsettling fondness for plays featuring pain and gore.
- **Sam (M, 14-20)** - A sweet young actor who plays Juliet; causes panic in Shakespeare's company when his voice changes the day of *Romeo and Juliet*'s first performance.
- **Wabash/Catling (M, any age)** -Wabash is Henslowe's tailor, is an aspiring actor who stutters; he delivers the prologue to *Romeo and Juliet*. Catling is a guard at De Lesseps Hall.
- **Peter (M, 20-40)** - Peter is an R & J actor who plays Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, and Valentine, one of the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.
- **Molly/Heavy/Barmaid (any age)**- Molly is a prostitute who flirts with Will and others. Heavy is a Burbage henchman. Could be a musician/singer.
- **Mistress Quickly/Kate/Rower (F, any age)** - Quickly is a wardrobe mistress. Molly is a prostitute who flirts with Will and others. The Rower is a chatty aspiring playwright. Could be a musician/singer.