Twelfth Night

KEY CHARACTERS AND SENSORY MOMENTS

Characters

Viola
Sebastian
Olivia
Malvolio
Sir Andrew
Sir Toby
Feste
Maria
Orsino
Antonio
Sensory Moments

Below is a chronological summary of the key sensory moments in each act and scene. Latex balloons are used onstage throughout the show.

Visual, dialogue or sound cues indicating dramatic changes in light, noise or movement are in bold.

PRESHOW

- A preshow announcement plays over the loudspeaker and instruments tune onstage.

ACT ONE

**SCENE ONE**

**DESCRIPTION**

At Duke Orsino’s palace in Illyria, Cesario and others sing for Orsino. He’s in love with the countess Olivia, but it’s unrequited because she is in mourning for her brother and won’t receive his messengers.

**SENSORY MOMENTS**

- Actors begin singing a song. Orsino enters the stage and picks up a balloon. *When he walks to the center of the stage*, the balloon pops loudly.
- *When Orsino says, “Love-thoughts lie rich when canopied with bowers,”* the actors leave the stage, suspenseful music plays and the lights go dark.

**SCENE TWO**

**DESCRIPTION**

Viola washes ashore in Illyria, saved by the ship’s captain. She asks the captain to help her disguise herself so she can get work in Orsino’s court. She fears Sebastian has drowned.

**FLASHBACK SCENE**

**DESCRIPTION**

Cesario reveals he’s really Viola in disguise. She is separated from her twin brother Sebastian during a shipwreck.

**SCENE THREE**

**DESCRIPTION**

Olivia’s uncle, Sir Toby, comes back late to Olivia’s house. Maria, Olivia’s waiting gentlewoman, warns him that Olivia’s patience
is wearing thin. Sir Toby has brought in his rich friend Sir Andrew to woo Olivia.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• Drinking themes occur throughout the scene.
• After Sir Andrew convinces Maria not to leave, he says, “Marry, but you shall have, and here’s my hand” and extends his hand. Maria takes his hand, places it inside her jacket and on her chest and says, “Now, sir, thought is free. I pray you bring your hand to th’buttery-bar and let it drink.”
• Sir Toby pretends to urinate in the water.

SCENE FOUR
DESCRIPTION
As Cesario, Viola finds favor with Orsino, who sends her off to woo Olivia on his behalf. Unfortunately for Viola, she has fallen in love with Orsino.

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE
DESCRIPTION
Sebastian has spent the last few months with Antonio, who rescued him from the sea. He now sets off for Orsino’s court. Despite having enemies in Orsino’s court, a devoted Antonio follows Sebastian.

SCENE TWO
DESCRIPTION
Malvolio gives the ring to Cesario. Not having given a ring to Olivia, Viola realizes Olivia has fallen in love with Cesario.

SCENE THREE
DESCRIPTION
Late at night, a drunken Sir Toby and Sir Andrew make a ruckus with Feste. Maria tries unsuccessfully to quiet them. Malvolio disperses them and threatens to tell Olivia. Maria devises a plot to get revenge on Malvolio by leaving a letter for him in which Olivia supposedly confesses her love for him.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• After the group begins singing loudly, Maria enters and tries to quiet the revelers by throwing her shoe and shouting at them.
• When the group sings “Hold Thy Peace,” they splash in the water, dance and clap.

SCENE FIVE
DESCRIPTION
Feste the fool returns to Olivia’s house after a prolonged absence. After some verbal Olympics, in which Feste proves Olivia a fool, Olivia forgives him. Her steward Malvolio feels less kindly toward Feste. Maria announces Cesario’s arrival, and an intrigued Olivia agrees to see him. Cesario speaks well, and by the end, Olivia has fallen in love with Cesario. She sends Malvolio out with a ring she says he left behind.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• A swing with long ropes descends from the ceiling.
• Sir Toby enters drunk, crawling in the water. After a brief conversation, he leaves the stage and begins vomiting.
• When Olivia takes a flower off the swing and leaves the stage, a bell rings and the swing flies up to the ceiling.
INTERMISSION

• House lights go up and the theater may become noisy

SCENE FOUR

DESCRIPTION
Early in the morning, Orsino wants music again, so the musicians search for Feste. Orsino and Cesario talk about how men and women love differently, and Cesario says his sister loved once. Orsino sends Cesario to Olivia again.

SENSORY MOMENTS

• As Sir Toby and Sir Andrew leave, Orsino enters and plays the drums loudly.

ACT THREE

SCENE ONE

DESCRIPTION
Cesario encounters Feste and then Sir Toby and Sir Andrew outside Olivia’s house. Olivia again refuses Orsino and confesses she loves Cesario. Cesario says he won’t visit her again.

SENSORY MOMENTS

• The musicians return to the stage. When the drummer clicks his sticks four times, the band begins playing and Feste sings.
• When Cesario walks toward Sir Toby and says, “I will answer you with gait and entrance,” Sir Andrew begins kicking water at Cesario. Some water may splash off the stage.

SCENE TWO

DESCRIPTION
Sir Andrew decides to leave because Olivia won’t see him. Sir Toby persuades him that Olivia’s interest in Cesario is to make Sir Andrew prove his valor, so they plan to challenge Cesario to a duel. Sir Andrew goes off to write the challenge.

SENSORY MOMENTS

• When Sir Toby says, “Taunt him with the license of ink. Go, about it,” Sir Andrew shouts and runs offstage.
• From a distance, Maria announces her entrance with a vocal fanfare.
SCENE THREE

DESCRIPTION
Antonio catches up with Sebastian. Antonio plans to arrange for their lodging and gives his purse to Sebastian in case he needs money while sightseeing.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• Antonio and Sebastian enter from the audience, and a light shines on them as they walk down Aisle 19.

SCENE FOUR

DESCRIPTION
Olivia sends Feste to bring Cesario back. Maria warns Olivia that Malvolio is acting strangely. Malvolio comes in smiling, with yellow stockings and cross-gartered, as the letter told him to. Olivia is bewildered, worries Malvolio is sick and asks Sir Toby and Maria to take care of him. For fun, they decide to treat him like a madman. Cesario and Olivia talk again. Sir Andrew has the challenge ready, but Sir Toby plans a joke on them both. When Cesario is leaving, Sir Toby makes each think the other is a fierce fighter, so both will be too scared to fight. But in the midst of the duel, Antonio arrives, mistakes Cesario for Sebastian and fights on his behalf. He’s arrested and asks Cesario for his purse. Cesario has no idea what he means. But hearing Antonio mention Sebastian, Viola has hope her brother is alive.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• After Sir Toby arrives, Maria uses a broom to splash water in Malvolio’s face and hits two pipes back and forth with the broom handle.
• When Sir Toby begins counting the start of the gun duel between Sir Andrew and Cesario, Antonio enters and yells, “Hold!” Maria is startled and pops a balloon. This startles Sir Andrew and Cesario, and they both fall to the ground.
• Sir Toby and Antonio gain control of the pistols. After Sir Toby says, “Nay, if you be an undertaker, I am for you,” he raises the gun and pulls the trigger. Water comes out of the pistol.

ACT FOUR

SCENE ONE

DESCRIPTION
Mistaking Sebastian for Cesario, Feste tries to bring him to Olivia’s. Sir Toby and Sir Andrew also mistake Sebastian for Cesario and try to continue the duel. Olivia intervenes and brings Sebastian into her house.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• When Sir Andrew arrives, he smacks Sebastian with his gloves. Sebastian is surprised by this greeting, grabs the gloves and smacks Sir Andrew with them as well.

SCENE TWO

DESCRIPTION
Malvolio is imprisoned in a dark room, and Sir Toby and Maria send Feste in disguise as the curate Sir Topas. Then he goes back in as himself. Malvolio asks for pen and ink to write to Olivia.

SENSORY MOMENTS
• When Feste (disguised as Sir Topas) reaches down to the prison cell, he pokes
SCENE THREE

DESCRIPTION
Olivia proposes to Sebastian. He accepts.

CURTAIN CALL

• House lights go up and the actors take their bows onstage for the curtain call.