

Bell Shakespeare announces cast for national touring production of *Twelfth Night*

- A new production touring to 25 venues across the country and featuring new music by award winning musician Sarah Blasko -



Image: Jane Montgomery Griffiths

Bell Shakespeare has today announced cast members for its upcoming national touring production of *Twelfth Night*. The production will open at **Orange Civic Theatre** on **28 July**, before traveling to **25 venues** across the country including **Canberra Theatre Centre** from **13 – 21 October** and **Sydney Opera House** from **26 October – 19 November**.

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the play's publication in 1623 as part of Shakespeare's First Folio, this new production of *Twelfth Night* is a fresh retelling of the romantic comedy, offering a dark collision of hidden identities and unrequited love which asks audiences to find light in the dark. The production will star film, television and theatre actor, **Alfie Gledhill** in the lead role of Viola, alongside **Keith Agius, Isabel Burton, Amy Hack, Garth Holcombe, Tomáš Kantor, Mae Lacanilao, Ursula Mills** and **Jane Montgomery Griffiths**.

Directed by **Heather Fairbairn**, who has worked internationally with companies including the Royal Opera House and the Royal Court Theatre in London, the production will feature original music from Aria Award winner **Sarah Blasko**, bringing a unique vision to Shakespeare's most musical play.

Director Heather Fairbairn said: *"I'm fascinated by the enigmatic nature of Twelfth Night, which transcends time and place. In this production, there is no specified setting which, coupled with the haunting nature of Sarah Blasko's music, lends an otherworldly feel to the play."*

"I'm delighted to be working with such a stellar cast of actors, who each bring something unique to their role. The production will subvert standard casting approaches in regards to gender, with the character of Malvolio transformed to Malvolia, played by the wonderful Jane Montgomery Griffiths, and the lead female role of Viola played by Alfie Gledhill; the result will offer a timely exploration of the fluidity of gender and sexuality."

Twelfth Night tells the story of the aristocratic Viola, who finds herself washed up in a strange new land and, determined to survive, disguises herself as a man to secure a position in the household of Duke Orsino, where passion, intrigue and mistaken identity ensue.

Single tickets are now on sale [here](#).

Ends

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IMAGES [HERE](#).

CAST:

Jane Montgomery Griffiths as **Malvolia**
Keith Agius as **Toby Belch**
Isabel Burton as **Sebastian**
Alfie Gledhill as **Viola**
Amy Hack as **Maria**
Garth Holcombe as **Orsino**
Tomáš Kantor as **Feste**
Mae Lacanilao as **Antonio**
Ursula Mills as **Olivia**

CREATIVE TEAM:

Director Heather Fairbairn
Set and Costume Designer Charles Davis
Lighting Designer Verity Hampson
Composer Sarah Blasko
Sound Designer David Bergman

ABOUT BELL SHAKESPEARE

Bell Shakespeare is Australia's national theatre company specialising in the works of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Founded in 1990 with the aim of sharing Shakespeare's plays in a way that was relevant and exciting to all Australians, the company has evolved further than its visionary founder, John Bell AO, could have hoped.

Today, Bell Shakespeare tours major theatre productions, education programs and outreach initiatives to every state and territory in Australia. Performing and teaching in theatres, schools, juvenile justice centres and regional and remote communities, the company enjoys unrivalled reach and impact, further extending its influence through innovative digital programs.