Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare
Self-tape call: Viola and Sebastian

Auckland Theatre Company, ASB Waterfront Theatre

Auckland Theatre Company is running an audition process for Viola and Sebastian in our 2027 production of *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, directed by Miriama McDowell (Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi) and Katrina George (Malie Sāmoa).

Step one is an open call out for self-tape submissions.

Please see the below dates, criteria and self-tape requirements.

About

It is Shakespeare's funniest play. And his loneliest. *Twelfth Night* asks how much of yourself you can invent before you lose track of who you are.

When shipwrecked Viola washes ashore with nothing but the clothes she's standing in and a twin brother she's certain has drowned, she reinvents herself as a young man, as you do. Ferrying love letters from her new employer to the object of his affection, Viola only falls harder for him herself. Meanwhile the late-night crowd around the pool decide to teach the humourless Malvolio a lesson, in a joke that stops being funny long before anyone stops playing it. And then a second survivor of that shipwreck walks in, looking uncannily like Viola.

Created by a dynamic duo making their directing debuts with Auckland Theatre Company, Katrina George and Miriama McDowell, the production drops Shakespeare's classic into a glamorous modern-day Illyria, a dazzling South Pacific resort where the sun never stops shining and everyone is a little lonelier than they look.

More info: Auckland Theatre Company - Twelfth Night

The production is made for a public audience and for school audiences in Years 7 to 13. There are ten actors, plus a small ensemble. The production includes ensemble movement, stunts and live camera work.

Roles

Viola (later disguised as Cesario)	**Sebastian**
Playing age of 22-30 years old	Playing age of 22-30 years old
Twin sister of Sebastian.	Twin brother of Viola.

Both roles likely include fights, movement & singing. Intimacy including possible kissing. Intimacy and fights will be choreographed by an intimacy coordinator and a fight director.

Auditions

Katrina and Miriama are eager to see actors who would like to be considered for Viola or Sebastian, the shipwrecked twins at the heart of *Twelfth Night*.

We're committed to giving as many actors as possible the chance to be seen, so we're inviting self tapes, due by Monday 16 November, 5pm

Dates

- **Rehearsals** Monday 12 July to Saturday 7 August 2027, Monday to Saturday
- **Production week** Tuesday 10 to Sunday 15 August 2027, ASB Waterfront Theatre
- **Season** Tuesday 17 to Sunday 29 August 2027, ASB Waterfront Theatre
    - 16 performances: 8 school matinées at 11am and 8 public performances, including some two show days.

Who can apply

All submitting actors must be Auckland-based. There are no accommodation, travel costs or relocation fees in this production.

- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Applicants must be eligible to work in New Zealand.
- If you have an agent, we will make all contact through them.
- If you do not have an agent, provide your own contact details in your form submission.

Self tape format

Tape for one role only. Start with a slate: your name, and the role you're auditioning for. Then perform the side in one continuous take, with no edits.

Direction for self tape: We encourage you to perform your monologue in whatever way feels good, it could be a handheld piece directly to camera like a yap video for example, or it could be a more traditional take. Whatever feels fun and makes you feel free to play.

Strict time limit: 2 minutes, including your slate. Tapes over 2 minutes will not be viewed.

How to submit

Upload your tape to YouTube (unlisted) or Vimeo. If you use a Vimeo password, include it in your submission.

Submit via https://forms.gle/U6RGma4LE4EBtCtFA with your name and contact details, your agent (if you have one), the link to your tape & a headshot and CV, or link to agent website.

Deadline Monday 16 November 2026, 5pm

Tapes will be watched by the directors. Successful applicants will be invited to in-person audition calls throughout December and January. Dates will be provided if invited.

Questions?

Contact atc@atc.co.nz.

More information on *Twelfth Night*

Twelfth Night | Folger Shakespeare Library

Twelfth Night | Royal Shakespeare Company

Twelfth Night (Rent) - National Theatre at Home

Viola: Act 2, Scene 2

I left no ring with her. What means this lady?
Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her!
She made good view of me; indeed so much
That methought her eyes had lost her tongue,
For she did speak in starts distractedly.
She loves me, sure; the cunning of her passion
Invites me in this churlish messenger.
None of my lord's ring? Why, he sent her none;
I am the man! If it be so, as 'tis,
Poor lady, she were better love a dream.
Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness,
How will this fadge? My master loves her dearly,
And I, poor monster, fond as much on him,
And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me.
What will become of this? As I am man,
My state is desperate for my master's love;
As I am woman, now alas the day,
What thriftless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe?
O time, thou must untangle this, not I,
It is too hard a knot for me t'untie.

OR

Sebastian: Act 4, Scene 3

This is the air, that is the glorious sun,
This pearl she gave me, I do feel't, and see't,
And though 'tis wonder that enwraps me thus,
Yet 'tis not madness. Where's Antonio then?
I could not find him at the Elephant,
Yet there he was, and there I found this credit,
That he did range the town to seek me out.
His counsel now might do me golden service,
For though my soul disputes well with my sense
That this may be some error, but no madness,
Yet doth this accident and flood of fortune
So far exceed all instance, all discourse,
That I am ready to distrust mine eyes,
And wrangle with my reason that persuades me
To any other trust but that I am mad,
Or else the lady's mad. Yet if 'twere so,
She could not sway her house, command her followers,
Take and give back affairs and their dispatch,
With such a smooth, discreet, and stable bearing
As I perceive she does. There's something in't
That is deceivable.