

**ABBOTSLEIGH'S**

**PRODUCTION OF**

*Shakespeare  
is Love.*

**THE PLAY**



**DIRECTED BY  
DAVID OWENS**

**'I WILL HAVE POETRY IN MY LIFE. AND ADVENTURE. AND LOVE. LOVE ABOVE ALL.'**



#### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Gu-ring-gai people and recognise and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We also extend that respect to any other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present tonight.

We acknowledge the creativity and resilience of Aboriginal culture and celebrate the power of storytelling, song and dance to educate, inspire and connect. Tonight, our students will be building on this rich heritage of stories and communal celebrating by sharing their creative work with you.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 1999, The film, *Shakespeare Love* made a sweep at the Oscars and won seven out of the 13 categories it was nominated for. It is easy to see why. *Shakespeare in Love* is a rousing and imaginative depiction of Shakespeare's time in London and the fictionalised inspiration behind his most famous plays. It is also too clever by half. Woven into this tale of inspiration are numerous features and conventions found in his plays: mistaken identity, disguise, cross dressing, eavesdropping, long voyages to foreign lands and of course, romance. The film also gives us an excellent depiction of Elizabethan Theatre and what it was like to perform in those times.

The stage adaptation manages to convey all the passion, action and humour of the film, but adds even more. By putting it on stage, it incorporates that special feature found only in the theatre - the excitement and thrill, for the audience and actors alike - of live performance.

What I love about this play is the lack of the fairy tale ending. We are reminded that all dreams must come to an end. But the message that I extract from this wonderful play is that it is 'better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all'. We can often get stuck in the aftermath of the demise of a relationship, so much so that we forget the beauty and joy that was there before it ended. Among all the shenanigans onstage, this play reminds us about power of love in all its facets.

**“What is love? 'Tis not hereafter:  
Present mirth hath present laughter.”**

- Twelfth Night, Act 2, scene 3

We are blessed to have a wealth of talent among our students here at Abbotsleigh. Whether having a student provide fencing coaching, to another student serving as our rehearsal pianist, we are not lacking in ability, and this production showcases this well. My desire is that the play also provides a vehicle that is as fun to perform in as it is to watch. I am so thankful for all the students who, when approached, decided to say yes and take part. Theatre is a truly collaborative activity and something that cannot be done alone. I hope for all involved that this has been an experience for them that they will recall with fondness for many years to come. I am also very thankful for the amazing talent we have among our staff, and thanks to them the set and costumes all add immensely to the production.

And now it is time for you, the audience, to sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labours!

David Owens





# CAST



## THEATRE PRODUCERS (MANAGERS/OWNERS OF PLAYHOUSES)

Richard Burbage.....Eloise Lo  
 Hugh Fennyman.....Maya Gradinscak  
 Philip Henslowe.....Kiera Finnerty

## PLAYERS/PLAYWRIGHTS

William Shakespeare.....Davina Chan  
 Christopher Marlowe.....Alex Cuthell  
 Frees/Robin (Lady Capulet)/ Male Dancer.....Sarah He  
 Sam.....Lydia Lin/Thehashi Gunawardene  
 Ned Alleyn(Mercutio).....April (Caspian) McLeod  
 Ralph the Tavern Owner (Nurse)/Female Dancer.....Maya Nepal  
 Lambert/Adam (Sampson)/Matty/Rower.....Emily McLaren  
 Nat/Samson/Female Dancer.....Veronica Charteris  
 Valentine/Abraham/Female Dancer.....Angeline Lam  
 Nol (Benvolio)/Male Dancer.....Abigail Turner  
 Peter (Tybalt)/Male Dancer/Reverend/Proteus.....Malissa (Archie) Mao  
 John Webster.....Sofia Petsentiy  
 Dog.....Annabella (Will) Egan/Lucia Chan  
 Mistress Quickly/Wabash/ Female Dancer.....Ruhi Gambhir/Adaa Garg  
 Female Dancer/Stage Manager.....Chanel Kang

## NOBILITY

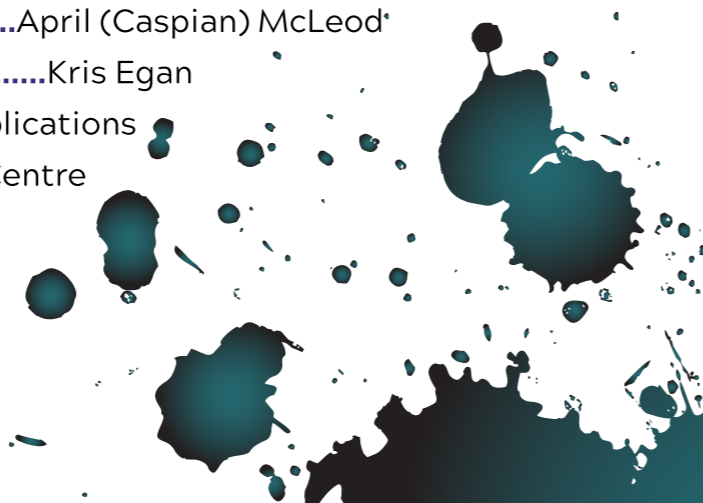
Viola de Lesseps.....Isabel Jennings  
 Sir Robert de Lessops.....Ava Martinez  
 Queen Elizabeth.....Annabella (Will) Egan/Lucia Chan  
 Edmund Tilney.....Jess Oorburg  
 Lord Wessex.....Richelle Leelarathna  
 Nurse.....Francesca Emmett  
 Catling/Guard.....Ruhi Gambhir/Adaa Garg





## PRODUCTION

**Director**.....David Owens  
**Stage Manager**.....Chanel Kang  
**Cast Manager/Assistant Director**.....April (Caspian) McLeod  
**Assistant Cast Managers**.....Annabella (Will) Egan, Lucia Chan  
**Stage Crew**.....Thehashi Gunawardene, Lydia Lin  
**Dance Captain**.....Maya Nepal  
**Lighting Design**.....Lyndon Franks  
**Lighting operation**..Adora Liu, Elise Miller, Caitlyn Saurajen, Julia Sazhin, Emma Wong  
**Costume design and construction**.....Vicky Staas  
**Costume Assistant**.....Olivia Turner  
**Usher/Show runner**.....Scarlett Rose  
**Set design**.....David Owens  
**Set/prop construction**.....Ernesto Mina Ovalle  
**Fencing consultant**.....Jaylise Beale  
**Fight Coordinator**.....April (Caspian) McLeod  
**Cast photography**.....Kris Egan  
**Poster design and marketing**.....Abbotsleigh Publications  
**Printing**.....Abbotsleigh Print Centre  
**Ticketing**.....Mahta Rahimi and Humanitix





## With thanks to...

Our sincere thanks to Mrs Megan Krimmer, Mrs Victoria Rennie, Ms Isobel Royston, Mrs Annette Ware and the senior pastoral and leadership team for their ongoing support of Drama. We would especially like to thank Mr Lyndon Franks and Mr Carlos Barroeta Moreno from the AV Department for their creative support and hands-on work in bringing this production of Elizabethan England to life - albeit a little more brightly! We also thank Ernesto Mina Ovalle and Nathan McEvoy from the Maintenance team without whom we could not create the world in which we play on stage.

A special thank you to Vicky Staas for her hours of work creating and sourcing beautiful costumes and for her ongoing support of Drama. To Miss Olivia Turner for her backstage organisation and management and to Dr Jennifer Nicholson for her musical and vocal coaching.

Most importantly, to the parents and families of our cast, crew and creative team for their continued support, patience and enthusiasm during the rehearsal process and performances.





ABBOTSLEIGH

*Shakespeare  
is Love.*  
THE PLAY

BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY  
MARC NORMAN AND TOM STOPPARD AND ADAPTED  
FOR THE STAGE BY LEE HALL, WITH  
MUSIC BY PADDY CUNNEEN

Originally produced on the West End by ©Disney Theatrical  
Productions & Sonia Friedman Productions, directed by Declan  
Donnellan and designed by Nick Ormerod.