

**Shakespeare returns to Royal Botanical Gardens' historic Rock Garden**  
*Tottering Biped Theatre presents a bold, gender-bending interpretation of Twelfth Night*

**Burlington, ON; August 1, 2019** – The beauty of Royal Botanical Gardens' (RBG's) Rock Garden will once again come alive with the words of one of history's most celebrated playwright as Tottering Biped Theatre presents a bold interpretation of *Twelfth Night*, weeknights from August 12 to 30.

One of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, *Twelfth Night* is packed with mistaken identity, romance, farce, and a spirit of rebellion. Tottering Biped's production takes this masterpiece and gives it a modern day, highly physical makeover, set in 1980s Miami Beach.

The play follows an ensemble cast of clowns and lovers alike, all attempting to navigate courtship, relationships, and a few actual ships. At its core, the play is about looking for a life partner and finding yourself instead, often in the darkest and most bewildering of places. This particular version is inspired by the dark atmosphere of the modern nightclub.

"The original *Twelfth Night* is noticeably fixated on the idea of performance, especially in the context of performing for one's everyday life; self expression is the thread to pull to bring this story to a modern audience", said director Claudia Spadafora. "How do you want to be seen? How do people perceive you in return? We are living in a time of tension, a time punctuated by intense repression right next to radical liberation. That tension is a particularly palpable issue in the LGBTQ+ community. It is a constant battle of defining oneself and being defined by others, owning your own image and being limited or invalidated in that image- especially as that relates to gender and sexuality. This play gives us a wonderful opportunity to use comedy and play to examine something quite serious and complicated. The hope is to show an accessible celebration of our current world."

This version of *Twelfth Night* creates a space where young people — not unlike the ones Shakespeare was writing about — take chances, experiment with self-expression, and show a side of themselves they may not reveal in the light of day. We've all been there — or are there — so why not put Shakespeare's characters there too?

Shows start at 7:00 p.m. and include a 20-minute intermission, during which patrons can explore the Rock Garden. Dinner and show packages are available which include a pre-show, prix fixe menu at the Rock Garden Café. Food and drink is available for purchase before the show and during intermission. Premium seating is offered. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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**Twelfth Night**

August 12- 30

Monday - Friday, 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:00 p.m.)



**Tickets:**

Premium Seating: \$35

Adult: \$25

Senior/ Student/Group \$18

Child age 4 to 12: \$10

Child age 3 and under: Free

For more information, please visit [www.rbg.ca/shakespeare](http://www.rbg.ca/shakespeare) or contact:

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