

# INTERESTING FACTS

- The first recorded production of *Twelfth Night* was February 2nd, 1602.
- Length: 21,467 words, 2,500 lines (The *Comedy of Errors* is Shakespeare's shortest play at 1,787 lines, while *Hamlet* is his longest at 4,042 lines.)
- The term "twelfth night" refers to the twelfth night after Christmas - a Catholic holiday known as the Feast of Epiphany.



William Shakespeare made use of cross dressing in quite a number of his plays - about one fifth in total. The majority of cross dressing is that of female characters disguising themselves as young men. In three, it is central to the complication and resolution of the plot. In *Twelfth Night*, Viola disguises herself as Cesario, who immediately causes a love triangle between herself, Duke Orsino and Countess Olivia. Other plays to involve cross-dressing include: *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.