News

SUTCo Shares SITP Cast

Sophie Layton (she/her)

The full company for *Shakespeare in the Park: Twelfth Night*, has been announced. The final standard production of 2024/25 for the Sheffield University Theatre Company (SUTCo), the group's annual charity production, is set to be staged in Crookes Valley Park on May 10th and 11th. It is the first SUTCo production in several years to include a live band as part of the company.

The classic Shakespearean play follows young Viola, shipwrecked in the unknown realm of Illyria, wherein she disguises herself as a man to become closer with Olivia, the daughter of a late count. The production contains members from every previous SUTCo company since the group's *Much Ado About Nothing* performance in 2022, totalling 23 productions, all represented in one company.

The production, which will be the group's seventh this academic year, is the final SUTCo show to be staged before the biannual Edinburgh Fringe Festival production, *Peace Circle*, heading to the Scottish capital in August.

With less than one week until SUTCo take to the stage again, preparations are well underway for the group's final bow of the academic year! It is a prime opportunity to take a break from revision and enjoy the sun, with a little bit of Shakespeare, and a big bit of fun!

Twelfth Night Company

Production Team
Co-Director ~ Leila Arbabi
Co-Director ~ James Platt
Co-Producers ~ Darcey Severne and Caitlin Wood
Production Manager ~ Adam Rajczakowski

Cast
Viola ~ Eden Houlberg
Olivia ~ Lilia Harnett
Orsino ~ David Osamudiamen
Malvolio ~ Jamie Egan
Sir Toby Belch ~ Elliot Tyndale-Biscoe
Sir Andrew Aguecheek ~ Luke Hookham
Feste ~ Kirsty Lucas
Maria ~ Abbie Wright
Fabian ~ Immy Eyre
Sebastian ~ Max Preston
Antonio ~ Roberto Rowinski
Valentine/Priest ~ Shruti Deshpande
Curia/Captain ~ Sophie Layton

Crew
Stage Manager ~ Rachel Hubbard
Assistant Stage Manager ~ Emily Hackett
Sound Designer ~ Joe Edgar
Costume Designer ~ Barbara McLaughlin
Set Designer ~ Lucy Davies

Band
Amelia Wallis
Eleanor Game
Joe Edgar
Pete Cowley
Rowen King
Roz Wheadon

SUTCo's Shakespeare in the Park: Twelfth Night is playing from May 10th to May 11th in Crookes Valley Park. Tickets are available from @_sutco on Instagram



Credit: SUTCo



Credit: SUPAS

SUPAS Review

Into The Woods

Emilia Lodge (she/her)

Delivering their last production of the year, SUPAS has to be commended for tackling a notoriously difficult musical with *Into The Woods*. Sondheim's musical scores are not known to be friendly to amateurs but musical director Jack Wheatley navigates the cast and band through it with expertise. Every pun and wordplay in the lyrics is enunciated by the cast and understood by the audience, despite the impressively fast pace of some of the songs; it is apparent that a lot of time and hard work has gone into getting comfortable with the score and it pays off the majority of the time.

Eve Catanach as The Witch particularly shines in this aspect, equally commanding of the stage when firing words at us rapidly in 'The Prologue' as she is in the haunting and slow 'The Last Midnight', a memorable performance. Amongst these standout songs is 'Agony', a hilarious competition of self-pity between the two princes (Evan Donninger and Jude Yellop). The two bounce off each other amazingly and capture the comedic arrogance of their characters, who we love to hate.

Speaking of memorable performances, a mention must go to Abby Lever as Milky White. Lever conveyed a spectrum of emotions through solely her physicality and facial expressions, all whilst puppeteering the cow. Along with Lever, Katie Weller as The Baker's Wife combines beautiful vocals with quick-witted lines to portray a satisfyingly well rounded female character, something not always seen in musical theatre.

Every cast member has a standout moment, each having their chance to shine whilst also blending together well to create an ensemble. The only thing about such a big cast is that choreography sometimes looks slightly cramped onstage but this is due to the great set that takes up a lot of the space.

It is clear why it needs such a large tech team; the construction of the set could not have been easy. The four-strong set team should be proud of their efforts. The different levels allow for Rapnuzel's tower and Cinderella's steps of the palace to feel worlds apart and allow for a dynamic use of the space that is engaging to watch. The ambitious lighting and sound complements the action well, and there were only a few minor first-night hiccups that did not detract from the overall vision.

Whilst this does feel like a long show, the talented cast and band do well to maintain energy to the end. The contrast of the first and second half allows for a theatre experience that ranges across comedy and tragedy and SUPAS do both admirably. My only annoyance is how catchy the songs are; if you go and watch this well executed production, and you should, just be warned that it will follow you home beyond the bows!

Rating: ★★★★☆

SUPAS' Into The Woods played from April 30th to May 3rd at the University of Sheffield Drama Studio

