

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE MERRY WIVES OF *Windsor*

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Christian Brothers High School Presents

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

By William Shakespeare

Original Cover art by Tessa Easterling '22

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

- Scene 1: Before Page's house
- Scene 2: The Toucan Tiki Bar
- Scene 3: The home of Dr. Caius
- Scene 4: A restaurant
- Scene 5: The Toucan Tiki Bar
- Scene 6: A field at the edge of town
- Scene 7: A street
- Scene 8: Ford's home

ACT TWO

- Scene 1: Page's home
- Scene 2: The Toucan Tiki Bar
- Scene 3: Ford's home
- Scene 4: Ford's home, later
- Scene 5: A street
- Scene 7: The Toucan Tiki Bar
- Scene 8: A park

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR DIRECTOR'S NOTES

You are about to experience a convoluted plot with dialogue full of challenging vocabulary, so it is recommended that you do read the synopsis provided in this program. On the other hand, there is a lot of fun to be had in Shakespeare's comedy from 1597 and first published in 1602. The story goes that Queen Elizabeth I liked the character of Falstaff from *Henry IV* so much, that she requested another play be written to further his adventures in love. My interest in the play was sparked when the Los Angeles opening of a Royal Shakespeare tour of the play received a lot of press and Tom Hanks was asked for his thoughts as he exited the theater. He said the play reminded him of "I Love Lucy." Yes, I thought, it does have that mid-20th Century sitcom quality to it. As we continually rediscover—so much of our contemporary entertainment can be traced back to Shakespeare. And so, for a few years now, I've had it in the back of my mind to do a production set in that TV sitcom world positioned in the 1960s.

I've seen "Merry Wives" in the traditional Elizabethan period, a contemporary/Elizabethan mash-up and more recently in Ashland, Oregon, set in the 1980s. It's about common folk and their foibles. The themes of love and marriage, jealousy and revenge, social class and wealth, make the play feel surprisingly contemporary and lends itself to just about any setting that helps the audience to identify with the characters and to negotiate through a feast of strange vocabulary and sayings that are long removed from our time. As always, but especially with this play, the challenge of producing Shakespeare is to make this dense language make sense for an audience and so, aside from our novel TV sitcom setting, that has been the focus of our work here. Our very enthusiastic cast has risen to the challenge!

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

SYNOPSIS

Act I

Justice Shallow, Master Slender, and Sir Hugh Evans enter, discussing Shallow's anger at Sir John Falstaff. Evans changes the topic to the young Anne Page, whom he would like to see Slender marry. They arrive at Master Page's door, where Shallow confronts Falstaff and his entourage. The men enter to dine, but Slender drifts around outside, trying unsuccessfully to converse with Anne Page until he goes inside.

Falstaff and his entourage settle in at the Toucan Tiki Bar, where Falstaff reveals his plan to seduce Mistress Page and Mistress Ford, both of whom have control over their husband's money, which he desires. He sends Pistol and Nym to deliver letters to the women, but they refuse. Instead they plot to stymie Falstaff's plans by telling Page and Ford of his intentions. Mistress Quickly talks to Slender's servant Simple, sent by Evans, and agrees that she will consent to speak positively of Slender to Anne Page. Her master, Doctor Caius, enters and encounters Simple. When he hears about his errand, he becomes angry and drafts a letter to Evans. Caius too is in love with Anne Page and blames Evans for encouraging Slender; hence he challenges him to a duel. He threatens Quickly, who had promised him she would encourage Anne to look favorably on him. Later Fenton enters; he's also in love with Anne and wants to know if Quickly has related his affections to her.

Mistress Page enters with a letter from Falstaff. She's astonished that he has the gall to try to seduce her and wonders how she will seek revenge. Mistress Ford appears with her own letter, which they discover is exactly the same. They decide to lead Falstaff on until he is ruined and humiliated. Mistress Ford agrees to anything that won't harm her honor. Meanwhile, Pistol and Nym enter, conversing with Ford and Page; they reveal Falstaff's plans. The husbands are astonished. Page doesn't think his wife will fall for Falstaff, but Ford is horribly jealous and convinced his wife will dishonor him.

At the Toucan Tiki Bar, Quickly enters with a message from Mistresses Ford and Page for Falstaff. She reports that Ford will be out the next morning, and Mistress Ford will be expecting a visit from him. Mistress Page has not yet gotten her husband to leave the house, so she'll make a date at a later time.

Then Ford enters in disguise, announced under the name Brooke. He tells Falstaff that he's in love with Mistress Ford, but that she has always rebuffed his advances, claiming that she's too honorable to cheat on her husband. He asks Falstaff to seduce Mistress Ford, thus destroying her honor, so she won't be able to turn him down in the future. Falstaff reports his date the next morning with Mistress Ford. Alone, Ford curses his wife for preparing to cheat on him and thinks Page is foolish to trust his wife.

Caius awaits Evans for their duel, but Evans is nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, Evans has been wandering around looking for Caius. They meet and prepare to fight. The other men take their swords away, and Caius and Evans speak quietly to each other of their suspicion that the Host has plotted to make them look like fools because he scorns Evans for his Welsh accent and Caius for his French one. They agree to work together to get revenge against the Host.

On the way back from the fight, the men discuss Anne's marriage options. Page says he favors Slender, but his wife prefers Caius. What about Fenton, asks one, but Page dismisses him entirely. Ford invites the men back to his house to catch Falstaff.

Falstaff has arrived at Mistress Ford's house; he hides when Mistress Page is announced. She comes in and speaks loudly of the imminent arrival of Ford, who angrily suspects his wife of cheating. Falstaff comes out and asks them to help him flee. They hide him in a laundry basket. Ford and his buddies enter as Mistress Ford's men carry the laundry out. Ford is unable to find Falstaff, and the Mistresses are doubly delighted to have fooled both Falstaff and Ford. They decide to humiliate Falstaff further in the service of making Ford get over his jealousy.

Act II

Fenton and Anne Page meet. He says her father objects to him because he suspects him of just wanting Anne's money, since he is high-born but poor. Fenton admits that that was his intention at first, but, since getting to know her, he has come to feel differently. Shallow, Slender, and Quickly enter; Quickly draws Fenton away, while Shallow tries to get Slender to talk to Anne. Slender only makes a fool of himself by speaking nonsense. Page and his wife enter, and they invite the favored Slender inside. Fenton asks Quickly to continue to campaign on his behalf with Anne. Alone, Quickly notes that she likes him better than the other two men who have asked her to sway Anne's opinion.

SYNOPSIS CONT'D

Falstaff arrives at the Garter Inn, soaked after having been thrown in the river with the laundry. Quickly enters with a second invitation from Mistress Ford. Ford enters in disguise as Brooke and asks how Falstaff's date with Mistress Ford went. He tells how it ended, but says he is visiting again that night!

Falstaff returns to Mistress Ford's house, and again Mistress Page enters soon after. Falstaff hides, and Mistress Page warns Mistress Ford of her husband's approach. How will they hide Falstaff this time? He emerges and refuses to go in the laundry again. Mistress Ford suggests that he wear the clothes of her servant's fat aunt to escape in disguise. He does, and when Ford arrives, he beats Falstaff and chases him away because he hates the fat aunt. Mistress Ford and Mistress Page are pleased; they think they have proven their point, and so they decide to tell their husbands of their schemes.

Ford apologizes to his wife for his jealousy, and he promises never to suspect her again. They decide that it would be fun to work together to humiliate Falstaff publicly. They plan to have Mistress Ford invite Falstaff to meet her in an allegedly haunted wood, and have actors dress up as ghosts and monsters to terrify and embarrass Falstaff. Then, having caught him in the act of trying to meet Mistress Ford secretly, they can tell the story all around town.

Fenton speaks to the Host of a letter he has received from Anne. She says that her parents want to use the chaos of disguised children in the haunted wood as an opportunity for her suitors to elope with her. Her mother wants her to run off with Caius and her father prefers Slender. Each instructs her to wear a specific outfit so each suitor may find her. But she intends to deceive them both. Fenton asks the Host to help him find a vicar who will marry them that night.

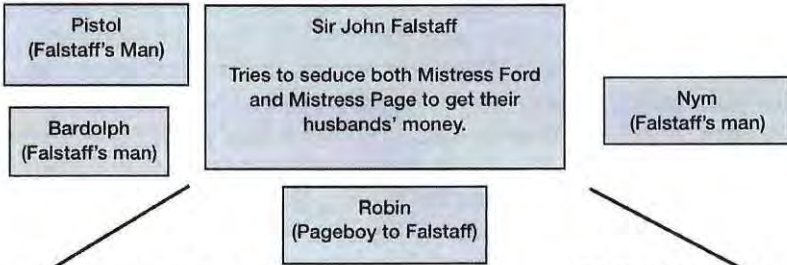
Falstaff arrives in the haunted woods. The disguised actors hide and wait. Ford and Page and their friends arrive to watch, and Mistress Ford and Mistress Page approach Falstaff. He's delighted to see they have both come to meet him. Then they hear a noise and the women run away. Falstaff is surrounded by disguised elves and ghouls and is terrified. Mistress Quickly, playing the fairy queen, says they should try to burn the human they have encountered, and if he doesn't burn then he is pure. They burn Falstaff with candles and encircle him and pinch him.

Finally, the disguised actors reveal themselves. Falstaff sees that he has been fooled and humiliated. Evans tells Falstaff that he should give up on his lusts and tells Ford that he should trust his wife. Meanwhile, they all wonder where Anne is. Slender arrives upset; in the confusion, he eloped with a young boy in Anne's outfit. Then Caius enters, in a rage that he has married a boy wearing Anne's assigned color outfit. Then Anne herself enters with Fenton. Fenton scolds the Pages for having thought to send Anne into a marriage without love. He and Anne have long been in love, he says, and now it has been finalized.

Ford says that love has won out, and Page and his wife realize their mistake in not having listened to the wishes of their daughter. Falstaff is pleased that their plan to humiliate him backfired partially in the marriage of Anne and Fenton. They adjourn to celebrate the marriage and invite Falstaff to join them.

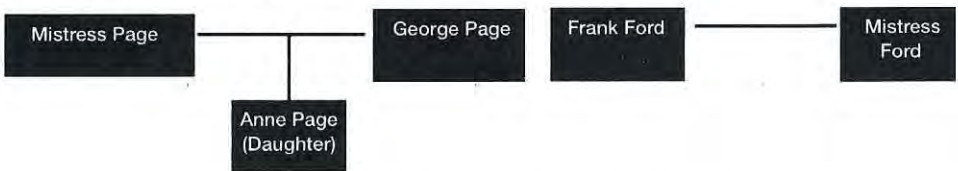
CHARACTERS

Falstaff and his crew

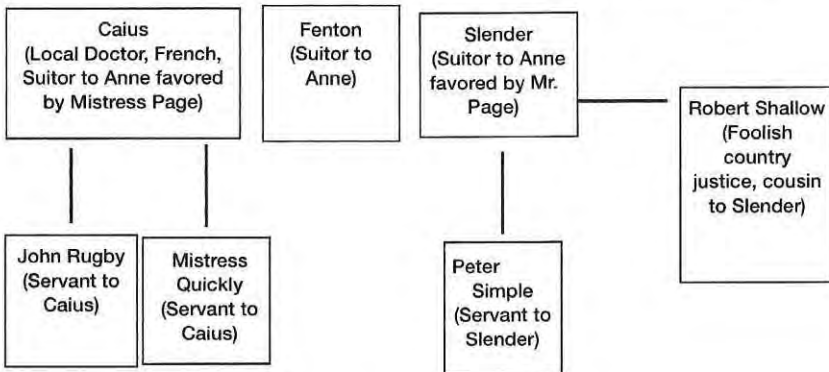


The Page Family

The Ford Family



Anne's suitors, their servants, and relatives



Townspeople of Windsor



CAST

SIR JOHN FALSTAFF.....Tanner Meade '23
BARDOLPH.....Kyra Blacklock '24
PISTOL.....Larissa Kerr '25
NYM.....Lila Austin '25
ROBIN.....Natasha Reese '25
MISTRESS ALICE FORD...Alexxa Riley '23
FRANK FORD.....Michael McKinley '23
MISTRESS MARGARET
PAGE.....Lindsay Shimizu '23
GEORGE PAGE.....Kaylie VonSchoech '24
ANNE PAGE.....Abigail Vandepol '23
SIR HUGH EVANS.....Cara McIntyre '23
DR. CAIUS.....Anna Deukmejian '23
JOHN RUGBY.....Sienna Schubert '22
MISTRESS QUICKLY.....Caroline Kramer '23
ROBERT SHALLOW.....Madelyn Whitnell '24
ABRAHAM SLENDER.....Zander Hale '22
PETER SIMPLE.....Grace Cowan '23
FENTON.....Cooper Davey '22
HOST OF THE TOUCAN...Aubriana Lene '23
SERVANT 1/ WAITRESS...Haylee Potter '25
SERVANT 2.....Jacqulynne Sample '22

TECHNICAL CREW

DIRECTOR.....	Michael D. Jackson
STAGE MANAGER.....	Kelso '22
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.....	Isabella Davis '23
PROD. ASSISTANT/ SWING.....	Mia Gutierrez '24
SET DESIGN.....	Heather Christianson '01
LIGHTING DESIGN.....	Heather Christianson '01
SOUND DESIGN.....	Michael D. Jackson
COSTUME DESIGN.....	Michael D. Jackson
PROP DESIGN.....	Anna Hashimoto
SOUND BOARD OPERATORS.....	Gabriella Gutierrez '22 Kenny Ortiguesa '22
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....	Austin Miller '25
SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR.....	Brooke Steele '24
STAGE CREW.....	Ryen Clark '22 Jacquelynne Sample '22 Sydney Schumaker '22
DRESSERS.....	Sophia Ellars '25 Nate Symkowick '23

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW



LILA AUSTIN '25 is excited to be playing Nym in her first CB production. She has been acting since age eight. Besides theatre, she does CB Cheer and hangs out with friends. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication.



KYRA BLACKLOCK '24 is delighted to be acting in her first CB production and is glad to be working with a great cast and crew. When not doing schoolwork, Kyra is usually reading, playing video games, or taking care of her many animals.



GRACE COWAN '22 is excited to be in her second production with CB. She is happy to be working alongside a talented cast and crew. In her free time she enjoys watching a good movie, playing games, and hanging out with her friends and family.



COOPER DAVEY '22 is chasing down his daydream in his fifth CB production. He has been acting since he was eight years old and it has been a wonderful adventure. Now he is here and he knows this is where he is meant to go. He loves his friends and family.



ANNA DEUKMEJIAN '23 is excited to be playing Doctor Caius in her fifth production at Christian Brothers. When she is not on the stage, Anna spends her time singing, playing guitar and writing songs. She thanks her family and friends for their constant encouragement.



ZANDER HALE '22 is happy to be able to take part in a CB production. He is excited to play Slender alongside a great cast and crew. In his spare time, he tends to follow his every whim and fancy. He loves to gain new skills, knowledge and experiences.



LARISSA KERR '25 is very excited to be making her first appearance in a CB theatre performance as Pistol. She enjoys jamming to music and cooking when outside of school. She is very thankful for her friends, family, and teachers who are very encouraging and have shared her excitement in this opportunity.



CAROLINE KRAMER '23 is delighted to be back on the CB stage performing as Mistress Quickly! When not performing, Caroline can be found on the sidelines as Cheer captain or spending time with her family. She would like to thank her mom, dad, her brother Charlie and her sister Ellie for always supporting her!



AUBRIANA LENE '23 is excited to be performing in her 5th CB show. She hopes to act in her future and work in tech. Outside of theatre she enjoys media and filming, writing, reading, and music. She thanks her family, friends and crew for their love and support.



CARA MCINTYRE '23 is ecstatic to be playing Sir Hugh Evans in her second CB production. She has been acting since she was six years old. Her favorite past production was the professional production of *A Christmas Carol* at Sacramento Theatre Company. She also loves volleyball and seeing her friends.



MICHAEL MCKINLEY '23 is excited to play Ford. He has been performing in Shakespeare plays since age six, his favorite plays being *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest*. Michael also loves writing and producing music, and enjoys climbing at Pipeworks.



TANNER MEADE '23 is very excited to be playing Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at CB. He is passionate about acting and has been on stage for many years. Some of his favorite performances include *The Lion King*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Aladdin*. He would like to thank all of his supportive friends and family for pushing him to do what he

loves.



HAYLEE POTTER '25 is very excited to be playing a role in her first CB production. She is thrilled to be playing Servant 1/ Waitress and to be working with the cast and crew. When she is not at rehearsals, you can find her walking around the halls with her friends, or listening to music and keeping to herself.



NATASHA REESE '25 is excited to be playing Robin in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She has wanted to act since she was young and plans to act in college. She thanks her friends, family, and everyone at CB for their support and kindness.



ALEXXA RILEY '23 is excited to participate in her 5th CB production. She is a professional dancer and has competed over 30 times with various companies. She'd like to thank Ms. Christianson and Mr. Jacksin for encouraging her to pursue her passion. She'd also like to give a shout-out to Mike DiSalvo, her director for

STC's production of *Frankenstein*.



JACQUYLYNNE SAMPLE '22 cannot express her gratitude enough at the opportunity to grace the CB stage one last time. She will try her utmost to create the most riveting portrayal of Servant 2 ever seen. In her free time, she enjoys whole tomatoes, David Bowie, and coming of age rom-coms. She hopes you enjoy the show!



SIENNA SCHUBERT '22 is very excited to be performing in her third CB show. She wishes to continue performing throughout college. Outside of theatre she enjoys music, writing, and reading. She thanks her family for always being supportive of her.



LINDSAY SHIMIZU '23 is excited to be part of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at CB. She was last seen in *Carrie* with Sacramento Theatre Company. Lindsay enjoys writing, performing on stage, and working tech. She thanks her friends and family who have encouraged her to pursue theatre.



ABIGAIL VANDEPOL '23 is thrilled to be playing the role of Anne Page in her third CB production on stage. She wishes to thank her family for their support. She is grateful to be performing with such a talented cast and wants to thank them for an experience she will never forget.



KAYLIE VONSCHOECH'24 is excited to be playing George Page in their second production at CB. They would like to thank their supportive friends and family, as well as the amazing cast and crew. When not on stage, Kaylie can be found in the pool playing water polo, or painting in their room.



MADELYN WHITNELL '24 is so excited to be able to play Robert Shallow in the CB production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She's been acting since she was little and has starred as Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, and as Princess Maria in *Call Me Madam*. She enjoys rollerskating.

WHO'S WHO CONT'D

MICHAEL D. JACKSON (Director/Costume Designer): Mr. Jackson is completing his eighth year as Artistic Director for CBHS. He started in theatre at age eight with the Placerville Children's Theatre, studied theatre at the Western Stage of Hartnell College and completed his Masters degree at CSUS. He worked in a variety of capacities for Broadway Sacramento during the 1990s before moving to NYC, where he worked as director, playwright, critic and agent for Music Theatre International through 2014.

HEATHER CHRISTIANSON '01 (Technical Director) Heather is a proud graduate of Christian Brothers and the USC School of Dramatic Art. Her technical theatre background began at CB, (under Choral Director Christian Bohm!) and gave her the opportunity to study in Los Angeles and London and to work at Sacramento Theatre Company, Broadway at Music Circus, and Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company. She is in her eighth year as Technical Director and Theatre Arts teacher at Christian Brothers High School.

KELSO '22 (Stage Manager) is excited to be the Stage Manager for their last show at CB. They have loved working backstage with the fantastic cast and crew and cannot wait to see what awaits them after high school. They thank their friends and family for supporting them with everything they do.

BELLA DAVIS '23 (Stage Manager) is looking forward to being ASM for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She has been teching for shows and plays since freshman year and looks forward to teching in senior year as well. She thanks Ms. C for giving her the ASM opportunity and is excited for the show!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR STUDENTS IN THE TECH FACTOR FOR THEIR WORK ON SETS AND LIGHTING

Brooke Steele '24, Shae Tennyson '25, Abigail Vandepol '23,
Anna Deukmejian '23, Lindsay Shimizu, '23, Chris Robinson '22,
Alexxa Riley '23, Josiah Foster '23, Aubriana Lene '23, Alicia Romani '23,
Tanner Meade '23, and Riley Blacklock '23.

AND TO OUR ADULT SUPPORT

The staff and administration of Christian Brothers High School, Friends Of The Arts, Kristen McCarthy, Joe Sousa, Eric Salgado and the custodial staff, Jaime Gutierrez, Vanessa Whitnell, Nathan Steele, Alan and Lorna Milligan, Scott Tennyson, David and Linda Christianson, and all of the parent volunteers who donate their time and energy to the arts.

Join us for our upcoming events!



Choral Spring Concert
Saturday, April 30 @ 5 and 7pm



The La Salle Art Show
Wednesday, May 4 @ 4-6 pm

Instrumental Spring Concert
Wednesday, May 4 @ 7pm