

The MERRY WIVES

of WINDSOR
by William Shakespeare

Featuring
**TERRY
GALLOWAY**
as Falstaff



Presented by
**AUSTIN
SCOTTISH RITE
THEATER**
&
**THE WEIRD SISTERS
WOMEN'S THEATER
COLLECTIVE**



Directed by
**SUSAN
GAYLE
TODD**

PLAYERS

Mistress Margaret Page
Master George Page, her husband
Anne Page, their daughter
William Page, their son

Mistress Alice Ford
Master Frank Ford, her husband

Sir John Falstaff
Bardolph, Falstaff's henchman
Pistol, Falstaff's henchman

The Host of the Garter Inn

Sir Hugh Evans, a Welsh parson
Doctor Caius, a French physician
Mistress Quickly, his housekeeper
John Rugby, his servant

Master Fenton

Master Abraham Slender
Robert Shallow, his uncle, a Justice
Peter Simple, Slender's servant
John, a Servant & Postmaster's boy
Robert, a Servant
Servant Girl

... and Leroy the Buck as himself!

Robert Deike
Taylor Flanagan
Sean Gajjar
Lily Brode

Jon Watson
Kristin Fern Johnson

Terry Galloway
April Garcia
Hollie Gayle Baker

Andee Kinzy

Vicki Yoder
Kathy Blackbird
Bob Jones
April Garcia

Jennifer Rose Davis

Alyson Curtis
Linda Bradshaw
Melissa Johnson
Tara Shadowen
Lily Brode
Milo Darlington

MUSICIANS

Jennifer Davis
Cindy Weaver Schaufenbuel
Cesar Orsorio
Martha Durham and Howard Burkett

Recorder
Harp
Guitar
Percussion

Arrangements of 16th century music by Jennifer Davis and Steve Hendricks

CREW

Stage Manager
Lighting Designer
Lighting Tech
Costume Designer
Costume Assistant
Wardrobe Manager
Sound Designer
Set Designer
Director
Assistant Director
Graphic Design

Denise Dodd
Stephen Pruitt
Dakota Cade
Jennifer Rose Davis
Barb Nowlan
Dana Vance
Jennifer Rose Davis
June Podlech
Susan Gayle Todd
Stan Kern
Alyson Curtis

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Pinch me! I must be dreaming if Terry Galloway has come to town to play none other than Falstaff in a Weird Sisters/Winedale Alums-infused cross-gender-cast production of my favorite comedy at my own dear Austin Scottish Rite Theater. This gallimaufry of outrageous Shakespeareans strutting their stuff in Austin's oldest jewel-box of a Victorian venue is nothing short of idyllic for anyone who treasures collaboration, exploration, and play.

Though some (stuffy and humorless) scholars complain that *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is an inferior play, I have loved it, returned to it many times, and found it to be as fathomless as Shakespeare's other comedies in its resonance with the human experience. I've dreamed of taking this play to the stage in an unconventional way that gives the audience a window to view the absurdity in new light; cross casting the genders opens the text to fresh interpretation.

We know these Windsor suburbanites with their bourgeois values. We also know the interloping ruffians who pass through town to take advantage of the locals. We are always struck to the core by Shakespeare's insights about women and their struggle with the virgin-whore dichotomy that prevails today. But *Merry Wives* foils *Othello* and other tragedies—and even most canonical comedies—in terms of its outcome for women. The Wives, the Ingenue, and the Bawd really win this one. They don't die or slink away silently into problematic marriages. They prove that they can be both "merry and honest"—both playful and faithful. This is Shakespeare's most women-oriented play, coming into its own as a proto-feminist manifesto only as folks are ready for such ideas—and that, I hope, is a measurable distance.

I will always count you my deer.

Quickly's Quick Notes on Lingo for Y'all

All of these things mean, "Hey...someone is sleeping with your wife!":

- Cuckold
- Wittol
- Absolutely anything about an animal with horns (deer, buck, ox)

Come, I cannot cog and say thou art this and that, like a-many of these lipping hawthorn-buds, that come like women in men's apparel, and smell like Bucklersbury in simple time; I cannot: but I love thee; none but thee; and thou deservest it.

THANK YOU

In no particular order we would like to thank the following folks for their inspiration and support. *We couldn't have done it without you!*

Board President Fernando Albornoz and the Austin Scottish Rite Theater Board of Directors, Doc, Morgan Wendlandt, Prentiss Riddle, Alyson Design, Photography by Vanessa, James Mercier, Ron Mann, Garrett Moxley, Travis Chapter of the Eastern Star, Marilyn Eggeling, Zane Baker, Weird Sisters Women's Theater Collective, Jonah Green, Kevin Anderson, Christa French, Calen Robertson, Sandy Givens, Brenda Corley, Josh Power, Craig Hurwitz, Leslie Guerrero Collins, Elizabeth Lay

A NOTE FROM TERRY

Thanks always to Doc, Winedale, The Mlckee Faust Academy for the REALLY Dramatic Arts, my wonderful sisters, Gail Adams and Tenley Parr as well as all my loving, extended family. And thanks especially to my wife and partner for these 30-odd years, Donna Marie Nudd. Another special thanks to Susan Gayle Todd for thinking of me for this role. I've loved working on Shakespeare again and loved working and living with this rollicking, merry cast and crew of ours.

ABOUT THE WEIRD SISTERS

The Weird Sisters Women's Theater Collective is a group of Austin women dedicated to promoting women in the arts, with a particular focus on theater.

The Collective embraces the feminist ideology of collaboration; each participant is encouraged to use their voice. Theater is where the Weirds expose, try, and condemn misogyny. It is also a healing place where loss can be restored, lives can be revived, and stories can be re-imagined. This show marks our ninth production since 2004 and although we have always had male allies, this is our first show to include men alongside us on stage.

www.weirdsisterscollective.com



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The short and the long of it . . .

Sir John Falstaff, a faded knight and rascal, swaggers into the quaint town of Windsor in a whirlwind of sex-scented trouble. Out of money, he decides to pad his pockets by seducing the wives of two wealthy townsmen, Page and Ford. He sends Mistress Page and Mistress Ford identical love letters, but the friends discover his double dealing and set about to turn the tables.

Falstaff's sidekick Pistol is insulted when Falstaff suddenly cuts him out of his seedy business and pulls rank on him. Pistol takes revenge by revealing Falstaff's plan to Page and Ford. Page ignores Pistol, but the jealous Frank Ford decides to test his wife's fidelity. Pretending to be "Master Brook," he pays Falstaff to seduce his wife in order to catch them en flagrante.

Meanwhile, the Pages' nubile daughter Anne is pursued by three suitors. Mistress Page prefers the French physician, Doctor Caius, while Anne's father favors the young Master Slender, a wealthy local. (Slender is also championed by his uncle, Justice Shallow, and the Welsh parson, Hugh Evans.) Anne herself is in love with Master Fenton, a young noble who has burned through his own inheritance. Each of Anne's suitors looks for help to Mistress Quickly, Doctor Caius' bawdy maid.

The Host of the Garter Inn helps his friends in their tricks and plans his own against Dr. Caius and Sir Hugh.

Good plots, they are laid—and they hatch in Windsor Park on a summer night.