



WELLINGTON COLLEGE  
DRAMA



*By William Shakespeare*

Director: Mrs Hamilton

**Outdoor play (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & L6<sup>th</sup> form)**

## **AUDITION PACK**

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## SYNOPSIS

*Two Gentlemen of Verona* was Shakespeare's first romantic comedy, a tale of young love, friendship and betrayal. It was the first play to be performed at the new Globe Theatre when it opened in 1996. It's essentially a love story... that goes wrong... and then right again at the end! Oh, and there's a dog!

Watch a production of the play with this link:

<https://www.marquee.tv/watch/royalshakespearecompany-twogentlemenofverona>

*In a bit more detail:*

Once upon a time in far-away Italy, **Proteus** and **Valentine** are *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Valentine decides to do the gap year thing and go off travelling, but Proteus has fallen in love with a local girl **Julia**, and so stays home. In Milan, Valentine quickly falls madly in love with the beautiful **Sylvia**, although **the Duke**, her father, disapproves and has plans to marry his daughter to **Thurio** (who, between us, is a bit of an idiot).

But back in Verona, Proteus's father decides to send his son to join Valentine in glamorous Milan to get some life experience. And what does Proteus do? Yes, he falls in love with his best friend's girlfriend! In fact, he doesn't turn out to be a very nice person at all, and he schemes to betray Valentine who is eventually banished. (Boo!)

Meanwhile Julia has dressed up as a man and called herself Sebastian, and has arrived in Milan to track down Proteus, which will be awkward...

The banished Valentine is captured by a band of noble outlaws who make him their captain. Silvia, who has left Milan to search for him, is also captured by outlaws (although not the same ones). Thurio and Proteus set off into the woods in pursuit of Silvia. When they find her with the outlaws, Proteus rescues her (hooray, sort of).

Valentine appears, and as the two men argue, Julia also (arrives in her disguise). Realising Proteus has fallen in love with Sylvia, Julia faints. Proteus recognises the ring she carries as one he had given to Julia. She reveals her identity, and (miraculously) Proteus's love for Julia is revived! Valentine's love for Silvia is rewarded by the Duke's approval. And so finally...

The two pairs of lovers agree to share a wedding day and all the outlaws are given a free pardon. Everyone lives happily ever after... (maybe!)



## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

This is an **open-air** production that will be staged in the **College Garden**. It will be set in the 'roaring 1920s' just after WWI when the world was opening up again. Travel was becoming popular, fortunes were there to be made, and the young just wanted to party!

Don't worry if you haven't tried performing Shakespeare before – you'll be getting expert advice on how to understand and deliver the speeches.

## THE DATES

**Auditions:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November

CALLBACKS: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

**Rehearsals:** Tuesdays 18.30-21.00

Thursdays 18.30-21.00

Some Sundays in Lent/Summer term

A more specific rehearsal schedule will be sent to you in due course, should you be successful at the audition. Schedules will get busier as we draw nearer to production week.

### Tech / Dress rehearsals:

- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May (Tech) 2 – 9pm, College Gardens
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May (Dress 1) 6 – 9.30pm, College Gardens
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May (Dress 2) 6.30 – 9.30pm, College Gardens

### Show Dates:

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm (Show 1) College Gardens
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm (Show 2) College Gardens

**Director:** Mrs Hamilton - [kjh@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:kjh@wellingtoncollege.org.uk)

**Producer:** Mr Huntington – [nh@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:nh@wellingtoncollege.org.uk)



## The ROLES

### Main roles

**Valentine:** Lovely, but maybe not the brightest.

**Proteus:** A great part if you like playing the baddie! He is intelligent, devious, and disloyal. Will Julia forgive him is the question at the end of the play.

**Thurio:** A foolish gentleman. He has the Duke's approval to marry Silvia but she despises him, so he asks Proteus to help him woo her (big mistake!)

**Julia:** Intelligent, loyal and resourceful. She must see something in Proteus...!

**Sylvia:** Everybody loves her and she knows it! Loves to have fun but has hidden depths.

**Lucetta:** Julia's servant. She's clever, sassy and funny.

**Duke of Milan:** A very over-protective father.

**Launce:** Proteus's servant. Not the brightest, he mixes up big words and is devoted to his dog, Crab. Actor must like dogs!

**Speed:** Servant to Valentine but much more intelligent.

### Smaller roles

**Antonio:** A nobleman, father to Proteus

**Panthino:** Antonio's sensible servant

**Eglamour:** Gentleman of the court, valiant and wise

**Host of the inn:** Well-meaning but insensitive

**Outlaws:** Fighting for survival in the forests around Milan has made them violent and dangerous, but good at heart. Some will solo lines, others will be ensemble with lots of action!

**Chorus:** Various servants, musicians and attendants.



## AUDITIONS

Please prepare **one speech and one scene** from the scenes provided below. You will be paired up with a partner at the audition so prepare for both roles. You do not need to learn the lines but you should think about what they mean, and be able to *ACT* them rather than just reading them.

Open-air performance requires strong vocal skills, so we will be looking for actors with good clarity and projection. Please be inventive and make your characters as interesting as you can! Think about how you might use gesture and movement.

### Audition piece 1: Male duologue between Proteus and Speed

Proteus is desperate to know if Julia likes him and has asked Launce to deliver a letter to her. Although Launce is a servant, he is cheeky and bright and tries to make money out of every situation.

Speed: Sir Proteus, save you! Saw you my master?

Proteus: But now he parted hence, to embark for Milan.

Speed: Tweny to one then he is shipped already,  
And I have played the sheep in losing him.

Proteus: Indeed, a sheep doth very often stray,  
An if the shepherd be a while away.

Speed: You conclude that my master is a shepherd, then,  
And I a sheep?

Proteus: I do.

Speed: Why then, my horns are his horns, whether I wake or sleep.

Proteus: A silly answer and fitting well a sheep.

Speed: This proves me still a sheep.

Proteus: True; and thy master a shepherd.

Speed: Nay, that I can deny by a circumstance.

Proteus: It shall go hard but I'll prove it by another.

Speed: The shepherd seeks the sheep, and not the sheep the shepherd;  
but I seek my master, and my master seeks not me: therefore  
I am no sheep.

Proteus: The sheep for fodder follow the shepherd; the  
Shepherd for food follows not the sheep: thou for  
wages followest thy master; thy master for wages



follows not thee: therefore thou art a sheep.

- Speed: Such another proof will make me cry 'baa.'
- Proteus: But, dost thou hear? Gavest thou my letter to Julia?
- Speed: (nodding) Ay.
- Proteus: Nod – Ay – why, that's noddy.
- Speed: You mistook, sir; I say, she did nod: and you ask me if she did nod; and I say 'Ay'.
- Proteus: Come come, open the matter in brief: what said she?
- Speed: Open your purse, that the money and the matter may both at once delivered.
- Proteus: Well, sir, here is for your pains. What said she?
- Speed: Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her.



## Audition Piece 2: Female Duologue between Lucetta and Julia

Please imagine that although Lucetta is Julia's servant, they are both young and the best of friends. This is gossip and giggles. They are looking down at the group of men as they comment on them.

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Julia. But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,  
Wouldst thou then counsel me to fall in love?

Lucetta. Ay, madam, so you stumble not unheedfully.

Julia. Of all the fair resort of gentlemen  
That every day with parle encounter me, / 55  
In thy opinion which is worthiest love?

Lucetta. Please you repeat their names, I'll show my mind  
According to my shallow simple skill.

Julia. What think'st thou of the fair Sir Eglamour?

Lucetta. As of a knight well-spoken, neat and fine; / 60  
But, were I you, he never should be mine.

Julia. What think'st thou of the rich Mercatio?

Lucetta. Well of his wealth; but of himself, so so.

Julia. What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

Lucetta. Lord, Lord! to see what folly reigns in us! / 65

Julia. How now! what means this passion at his name?

Lucetta. Pardon, dear madam: 'tis a passing shame  
That I, unworthy body as I am,  
Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

Julia. Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest? / 70

Lucetta. Then thus: of many good I think him best.

Julia. Your reason?



Lucetta. I have no other, but a woman's reason;  
I think him so because I think him so.

Julia. And wouldst thou have me cast my love on him? / 75

Lucetta. Ay, if you thought your love not cast away.

Julia. Why he, of all the rest, hath never moved me.

Lucetta. Yet he, of all the rest, I think, best loves ye.

Julia. His little speaking shows his love but small.

Lucetta. Fire that's closest kept burns most of all. / 80

Julia. They do not love that do not show their love.

Lucetta. O, they love least that let men know their love.

Julia. I would I knew his mind.



### **Audition Piece 3. Male monologue: Proteus**

Proteus contemplates how his love for Sylvia is making him betray his best friend Valentine, trick unsuspecting Thurio and fall out of love with Julia. He decides he can't help himself and should just get on with it!

**Proteus.** Already have I been false to Valentine  
And now I must be as unjust to Thurio.  
Under the colour of commending him,  
I have access my own love to prefer:  
But Silvia is too fair, too true, too holy, / 635  
To be corrupted with my worthless gifts.  
When I protest true loyalty to her,  
She twits me with my falsehood to my friend;  
When to her beauty I commend my vows,  
She bids me think how I have been forsworn / 640  
In breaking faith with Julia whom I loved:  
And notwithstanding all her sudden quips,  
The least whereof would quell a lover's hope,  
Yet, spaniel-like, the more she spurns my love,  
The more it grows and fawneth on her still. / 645  
But here comes Thurio: now must we to her window,  
And give some evening music to her ear.



#### 4. Female monologue: Sylvia

Proteus falls in love with Sylvia on first sight, but when he approaches her, she rejects him.

Sir Proteus, as I take it.

You have your wish; my will is even this:  
That presently you hie you home to bed.  
Thou subtle, perjured, false, disloyal man!  
Think'st thou I am so shallow, so conceitless, / 730  
To be seduced by thy flattery,  
That hast deceived so many with thy vows?  
Return, return, and make thy love amends.  
For me, by this pale queen of night I swear,  
I am so far from granting thy request / 735  
That I despise thee for thy wrongful suit,  
And by and by intend to chide myself  
Even for this time I spend in talking to thee.

*(Proteus. I grant, sweet love, that I did love a lady;  
But she is dead.)*

**Sylvia.** Say that she be; yet Valentine thy friend  
Survives; to whom, thyself art witness,  
I am betroth'd: and art thou not ashamed / 745  
To wrong him with thy importunacy?

If you have any questions, please email Mrs Hamilton [kjh@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:kjh@wellingtoncollege.org.uk)