

## **THEATRE REVIEW**

**Twelfth Night** ★★★★★

**Date : 30.01.08**

By setting Shakespeare's gender-bending comedy in 1930s Berlin, RoughHouse Theatre attempts to turn Twelfth Night into a darker play. In reality the Bristol Company's production is just rip-roaring good fun. There are strong performances all round, particularly Emily Lawrence as Viola who, after being rescued from a shipwreck, disguises herself as a man in order to work for the duke Orsino. Adrian Harris as Malvolio provides the most hilarity when he whips off his trousers to reveal kinky yellow stockings. Anna Westlake makes Feste, originally a male role, genuinely complex and mysterious. With a banjo, accordion, double bass and two guitars on stage ... the instruments are combined to make rousing music as the play ends.

*John Holmes*