



VISUAL STORY



The Company of The Merry Wives of Windsor | Photo: Emily Cooper

The Merry Wives of Windsor Relaxed Performance

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival
1695 Whyte Avenue
Señákw/Vanier Park, Vancouver

bardonthebeach.org | Box Office: 604-739-0559 | 12pm–6pm daily

About the Performance

What is a Visual Story?

A visual story gives you an idea of what the theatre experience will be like. This visual story will tell you what to expect during your performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

What is a Relaxed Performance?

Relaxed Performances are for everyone, but especially those who may benefit from a more casual theatre environment. During these performances, we have an open and encouraging attitude toward you moving, making noise, and exiting or entering the auditorium freely.

You are welcome to use phones and electronic devices like iPads or tablets during the show. However, if you are using an electronic device, please use headphones or ensure your device is on silent mode so that others around you can still hear the show. In addition, we ask that you do not take photos of the performers during the performance.

How long is the show?

The first act is about 1 hour long. Then there's a 20 minute break called an intermission. The second act is about 1 hour long. In total, the show will be around 2 hours and 20 minutes long.

If you need to take a break during the show, you can leave the theatre even if it is not intermission.

The Characters



Ashley Wright as Falstaff | Photo by Emily Cooper

Falstaff

Falstaff is a former soccer star for the Windsor Stags. He is a loveable scoundrel who will do a lot of things for money. For example, he robs Slender and decides to woo Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page for their fortunes.



Sebastian Kroon as Bardolph, Ashley Wright as Falstaff, and Jacob Leonard as Pistol | Photo by Emily Cooper

Bardolph and Pistol

Bardolph is on the left and wears a leather jacket and black jeans. Pistol is on the right and wears a grey hoodie and light blue jeans. Bardolph and Pistol are two of Falstaff's friends, and they help Falstaff rob Slender at the start of the play.



Sara Vickruck as Slender | Photo by Emily Cooper

Slender

Slender is an influencer who cares a lot about how many followers they have on social media. Their uncle is Judge Shallow. They are also one of the characters trying to win Anne Page's heart.

The Characters



Anthony Santiago as Judge Shallow | Photo by Emily Cooper

Judge Shallow

Judge Shallow is dressed as a referee and sometimes blows a whistle to get people's attention. Shallow is also Slender's uncle. He works with Minister Evans to try and help Slender marry Anne Page.



Zahf Paroo as Evans | Photo by Emily Cooper

Evans

Evans is a quirky minister who tries to help Slender marry Anne Page. He is challenged to a duel by one of Anne Page's other suitors, Dr. Caius. When Evans and Dr. Caius are targeted by one of the Hostess' pranks, they work together to get revenge.



Steffanie Davis as Ms. Quickly and Rachel Angco as Simple
Photo by Emily Cooper

Ms. Quickly

Ms. Quickly works at the front desk of the Windsor Park Recreation Centre. Ms. Quickly knows everything that happens in the community centre. She is the person that everyone goes to if they need to send a message or carry out a plan.

The Characters



Melissa Oei as Mrs. Ford and Jennifer Lines as Mrs. Page
Photo by Emily Cooper

Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page

Mrs. Ford is on the left in the leopard print tracksuit. Mrs. Page is on the right in the tan cardigan. They are best friends and wealthy community centre members. When Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page both receive identical love letters from Falstaff, they work together on a plan to embarrass him.



Craig Erickson as Mr. Ford and Munish Sharma as Mr. Page
Photo by Emily Cooper

Mr. Ford and Mr. Page

Mr. Ford is on the left in the pink t-shirt. Mr. Page is on the right in the tan tracksuit. They are married to Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page. When they learn about Falstaff's plan to woo their wives, Mr. Page is not worried. However, Mr. Ford wonders if Mrs. Ford will be faithful.



Cameron Grant as Fenton and Rachel Angco as Anne Page
Photo by Emily Cooper

Fenton and Anne Page

Fenton is on the left in the striped jersey. Anne Page is on the right in the green jersey. They are the captains of the men's and women's soccer teams. They are in love. However, Anne's mother wants her to marry Dr. Caius instead, while Anne's father wants her to marry Slender.

The Characters



Raf Rogers as Dr. Caius | Photo by Emily Cooper

Dr. Caius

Dr. Caius is a Québécois chiropractor at the Windsor Park Recreation Centre. He is in love with Anne Page. When he hears that Evans wants Anne Page to marry Slender, Dr. Caius challenges Evans to a duel.



Rachel Angco as Simple | Photo by Emily Cooper

Simple

Simple is a messenger who does what others ask of him. This includes delivering messages for Shallow and Evans and helping Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page in their plan to humiliate Falstaff.



Yoshie Bancroft as the Hostess | Photo by Emily Cooper

Hostess

The Hostess works at the Windsor Park Recreation Centre's pub and hosts their karaoke nights. She comes up with a plan to embarrass both Evans and Dr. Caius. This ends up backfiring when they work together to get revenge on her.

The Characters



Raf Rogers as Dr. Caius and Jacob Leonard as Rugby
Photo by Emily Cooper

Rugby

Rugby works at the community centre. He is very shy and nervous, and can often be seen being ordered around by Dr. Caius.



The Company of The Merry Wives of Windsor | Photo by Emily Cooper

Ensemble

The ensemble includes other characters that you may see in the community centre, including in the sauna, change room, yoga class, and life drawing studio.

The Merry Wives of Windsor Play Summary



Munish Sharma as Mr. Page and Rachel Angco as Anne Page | Photo by Emily Cooper

The play starts with Falstaff and his friends Bardolph and Pistol. They meet a young influencer named Slender on the soccer field. Falstaff, Bardolph, and Pistol trick Slender and steal their money. Slender's uncle, Judge Shallow, is furious. Shallow and his friend Evans confront Falstaff, but they are interrupted by Anne Page arriving with the rest of the Windsor Stags fans.

Evans notices that Slender seems interested in Anne Page and convinces Slender that they should marry her. Evans sends Peter Simple to deliver a note to Ms. Quickly. Evans wants Ms. Quickly to talk to Anne and convince her that Slender is a good match. To make it more complicated, Dr. Caius, the community centre's chiropractor, is also in love with Anne. When Dr. Caius learns about Evans' plan for Slender to marry Anne Page, he challenges Evans to a duel. However, Anne Page is only interested in Fenton, the captain of the men's soccer team.

Meanwhile, Falstaff hatches a plan to woo Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page. The two women are wealthy members of the community, and Falstaff wants to have access to their money. He writes love letters to both women, but Pistol refuses to help Falstaff.

The next day, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page compare their letters from Falstaff and discover they are identical. The wives come up with a plan to get revenge on Falstaff. While this is happening, Pistol tells Mr. Ford and Mr. Page about Falstaff's scheme. Mr. Page knows that his wife won't fall in love with Falstaff, but Mr. Ford is suspicious of Mrs. Ford.

Mr. Ford disguises himself as someone called "Mr. Brook" and meets with Falstaff. "Mr. Brook" tells Falstaff that he is in love with Mrs. Ford. He offers to pay Falstaff to woo Mrs. Ford on his behalf. To his surprise, Falstaff says that Mrs. Ford has already asked to meet him in the women's change room!

Falstaff meets Mrs. Ford. She acts like she is also in love with him. At the last minute, Mrs. Page runs in and pretends that Mr. Ford is on his way. They tell Falstaff to hide in a dirty laundry hamper. However, Mr. Ford actually comes in looking for Falstaff. Luckily, the dirty laundry has already been dumped in False Creek—with Falstaff in it.

The two women are thrilled at how their plan is going. They arrange to meet with Falstaff again. A jealous Mr. Ford learns about the meeting and barges in on them again. This time, the two wives force Falstaff to hide from Mr. Ford by disguising him as Mrs. Ford's elderly aunt.

At this point, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page decide to tell their husbands about their scheme. Together, they come up with one last prank on Falstaff. Keep watching to see what it is!

What to Expect



The Company of The Merry Wives of Windsor | Photo by Emily Cooper

On the stage, you will see a set that looks like a community centre. The set is also open at the back and looks out onto Seńákŵ/Vanier Park. You might see sights like people walking by, dogs playing, kites flying, and boats on the water.

Characters might enter or exit from unexpected places, like the balcony on stage or through tunnels and staircases close to where you are sitting. In addition, there are moments with music, cheering, and clapping that can be loud. You might also see what looks like smoke, but it is only non-toxic fog and haze that is used as a special effect, like in the sauna.

Sometimes, there are scenes where it looks like the characters are fighting. This is part of the performance, and the actors work together to make sure that no one gets hurt. In addition, there are some scenes where it looks like the characters are drinking, vaping, or talking about cannabis. This is all rehearsed as part of the play, and the actors pretend using special props.

There is some innuendo in the show. There are also a few scenes where some characters are only partially clothed. Nothing is shown, and this is done for comedic effect.

Content Advisory

Read on for a more detailed list of moments in the play that might be scary, unexpected, or upsetting. If you would prefer to be surprised by the story, you can stop reading here and skip to the last page.

Act One:

- At the start of the show, there is cheering, loud music, and clapping. Falstaff, Bardolph, and Pistol drink from flasks.
- Around 1 minute in, Slender runs and high fives the front row.
- Around 3 minutes in, there is a loud whistle from Shallow.
- Around 6 minutes in, there is another whistle from Shallow.
- Around 7 minutes in, Evans offers Slender a vape.
- Around 8 minutes in, there is cheering, singing, and shouting when Anne Page and the Windsor Stags fans enter.
- Around 14 minutes in, Evans uses a vape again.
- Around 21 minutes in, Dr. Caius enters with fencing foils. These are stage weapons that have been dulled, so they will not actually hurt anyone.
- Around 23 minutes in, Dr. Caius threatens Simple with a fencing foil and orders Rugby around.
- Around 29 minutes in, there is a life drawing class with Bardolph modelling. He takes off his robe and is wearing a thong that reveals his buttocks. There is no nudity, and the character is only partially clothed for a few moments.
- Around 32 minutes in, Mrs. Page asks the front row what she should do about Falstaff's letter. This only lasts for a moment, and you don't have to answer if you don't want to.
- Around 40 minutes in, there is a scene that is set in a sauna. Non-toxic fog comes out of the benches, and Evans comes out with only a small towel covering his front. Nothing is actually shown, and this is done for comedic effect.

- Around 44 minutes in, Falstaff drinks from a bottle of liquor that “Mr. Brook” gives him.
- Around 51 minutes in, Dr. Caius orders Rugby around again.
- Around 53 minutes in, Evans uses a vape.
- Around 55 minutes in, Dr. Caius and Evans shout at each other and duel with fencing foils. This is all part of the performance and is carefully rehearsed so nobody gets hurt.
- Around 57 minutes in, Dr. Caius and Evans both use a vape.
- Around 58 minutes in, there is a reference to cannabis-infused cookies.

Act Two:

- Around 7 minutes in, one character in the yoga class gets frustrated and makes a rude gesture at the other members in the class.
- Around 9 minutes in, there are some moving light effects during the choreography for Lizzo’s song “Good as Hell.”
- Around 13 minutes in, Falstaff tries to woo Mrs. Ford, who plays along as part of the scheme, but nothing happens.
- Around 22 minutes in, Slender starts an Anne Page chant with the audience. You do not have to participate in this chant if you don’t want to.
- Around 25 minutes in, Ms. Quickly asks the crowd who should have Anne: Slender, Dr. Caius, or Fenton. You can answer “Yes” or “No” if you would like.
- Around 26 minutes in, Bardolph pours Falstaff a drink.
- Around 31 minutes in, there is shrieking and laughter before the musical number for Cyndi Lauper’s song “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.”
- Around 37 minutes in, there is a commotion as Mr. Ford comes into the women’s change room looking for Falstaff. He digs through the laundry hamper for Falstaff. When Falstaff comes out disguised as Mrs. Ford’s elderly aunt, Mr. Ford chases him and hits him with a towel.

- Around 39 minutes in, there are some roving disco lights during Ms. Quickly and Pistol's duet of Def Leppard's song "Pour Some Sugar on Me."
- Around 42 minutes in, there is an extended scene that suggests the Hostess has eaten the cannabis cookies from Dr. Caius and Minister Evans.
- Around 49 minutes in, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page run in from the staircases. Mrs. Ford blows on a deer call, or horn, to simulate the sound of a deer. This might be a confusing sound if you have not heard it before.
- Around 51 minutes in, the lights go up suddenly. Other characters blow on deer calls from the staircases. After this, Ms. Quickly will get everyone to clap to the song "We Will Rock You" by Queen.
- Around 54 minutes in, there is a loud whistle and the sound of more deer calls.
- Around 56 minutes in, Dr. Caius loudly calls Mrs. Page's name. A few moments later, Fenton and Anne come down the staircases. If you're sitting in an aisle seat, you might feel them run past you on their way to the stage.

The End!



The Company of The Merry Wives of Windsor | Photo by Emily Cooper

At the end of the play, the lights will go dark. Then, the lights will come on again, and the actors will take a bow to thank you for watching the play.

The audience will clap and maybe even cheer for the performers. Sometimes, they will stand for a standing ovation.

If you want to, you can also clap and cheer for the actors.

Thank you for coming to
The Merry Wives of Windsor!