

PRE-SHOW TALK

“Twelfth Night”

Sunday, September 10, 2017

3:00pm –3:25pm

featuring

Christopher D’Addario

Associate Professor of English at Gettysburg College



Shakespeare’s All Male Company and Gender Ambiguity in Twelfth Night

When Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* was first performed in 1601, first in front of a group of lawyers at Middle Temple Hall, and then more publicly at the Globe Theatre, the cast consisted entirely of adult and young men. In fact, this was true of all of his plays, as Elizabethan law forbade women from appearing on-stage. My talk will explore how renaissance audiences processed this all male staging, while also looking at how this fact of performance both inspired and affected the central, gender-bending plot involving the shipwrecked twins Viola and Sebastian in Shakespeare’s most highly regarded comedy.

Biography: Christopher D’Addario is Associate Professor of English at Gettysburg College, where he teaches and researches early modern and Renaissance literature. He is the author of *Exile and Journey in Seventeenth-Century Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and his current book project investigates the interplay between everyday life and early modern literature, specifically in ca. 1600 London.