



THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

This show is a part of our Nemasket series, which is an all-aged production.

The Merry Wives of Windsor - Set in the lovely town of Windsor, this comedy follows the misadventures of Sir John Falstaff as he tries to woo two wealthy women simultaneously only to find himself outwitted by their wit and cleverness. This show is filled with mistaken identities, hilarious schemes, and vibrant characters, making it a perfect show for an audience of all ages. Please come and audition for Nemasket's rendition of one of Shakespeare's beloved comedies.

Characters are not bound by gender or age.

Some characters may be double cast (ex: Anne Page/Simple, Mistress Quickly/Pistol)

Sir John Falstaff

Description: Falstaff is a roguish, overweight knight known for his wit and self-indulgence. He schemes to woo Mistress Ford and Mistress Page for their money but is outwitted by them. Late 40s to early 60s.

- **Personality Traits:** Boisterous, cunning, and self-assured. Falstaff is also charming, though his schemes often lead to his downfall.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Rich and resonant. Falstaff's voice should convey confidence, and he should have the ability to shift from persuasive to self-pitying.
- **Physicality:** Portly and jovial, with a grandiose manner. Should move with a sense of over-the-top theatricality, reflecting his larger-than-life personality.

Mistress Ford

Description: Mistress Ford is one of the central female characters who, along with Mistress Page, outwits Falstaff. She is clever and determined, deeply committed to her husband and family. Late 30s to early 50s.



- **Personality Traits:** Intelligent, resourceful, and assertive. Mistress Ford is also loyal and protective of her household.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Confident and expressive, with the ability to convey both determination and humor.
- **Physicality:** Graceful and composed, with movements that reflect her confidence and cunning.

Mistress Page

Description: Mistress Page is Falstaff's other target. She is as clever and witty as Mistress Ford and supports her in outsmarting Falstaff. Late 30s to early 50s.

- **Personality Traits:** Witty, playful, and shrewd. Mistress Page has a strong sense of humor and is also devoted to her family.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Bright and engaging. Should be able to convey humor and cleverness in her speech.
- **Physicality:** Elegant and animated, with gestures that reflect her lively and playful nature.

Master Ford

Description: Master Ford is Mistress Ford's husband, a man who is suspicious and easily deceived. His jealousy over Falstaff's advances on his wife is a key plot point. Late 30s to early 50s.

- **Personality Traits:** Jealous, gullible, and somewhat bumbling. Ford's jealousy drives much of the comedic action.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** Varied, with moments of intensity and confusion. Should be able to convey both suspicion and comic frustration.
 - **Physicality:** Nervous and agitated, with movements that reflect his paranoia and emotional state.
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Master Page

Description: Master Page is Mistress Page's husband, a generally good-natured man who is more of a secondary character in the comedic schemes. Late 30s to early 50s.

- **Personality Traits:** Good-natured, practical, and somewhat passive. He is less involved in the central schemes but supportive of his wife.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Calm and straightforward, with a tone that reflects his steady and less dramatic personality.
- **Physicality:** Relaxed and unassuming, with movements that reflect his easygoing nature.

Fenton

Description: Fenton is a young man in love with Anne Page. He is earnest and determined to win her affection despite the obstacles posed by her father. Early 20s to early 30s.

- **Personality Traits:** Romantic, sincere, and persistent. Fenton is genuinely in love and works hard to overcome the barriers in his path.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Warm and sincere, with a tone that conveys his genuine affection and earnestness.
- **Physicality:** Graceful and attentive, with movements that reflect his courtly manners and romantic pursuit.

Anne Page

Description: Anne Page is the daughter of Master and Mistress Page. She is young and in love with Fenton, navigating her parents' expectations and suitors. Late teens to early 20s.

- **Personality Traits:** Charming, spirited, and romantic. Anne is clever and determined to follow her heart.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** Light and expressive, with the ability to convey youthful enthusiasm and affection.
 - **Physicality:** Energetic and lively, with movements that reflect her youthful and romantic nature.
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Dr. Caius

Description: Dr. Caius is a French physician who is also a suitor to Anne Page. He is pompous and easily offended, providing comic relief through his rivalry with other suitors. Late 30s to late 50s.

- **Personality Traits:** Proud, irritable, and comically foreign. Dr. Caius is quick to take offense and has a humorous rivalry with other characters.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** French-accented and expressive. Should be able to convey both pompousness and comedic frustration.
 - **Physicality:** Stiff and theatrical, with exaggerated gestures that highlight his foreignness and irritation.
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Sir Hugh Evans

Description: Sir Hugh Evans is a Welsh parson who is also a suitor to Anne Page. He is jovial and somewhat naive, providing comic relief through his interactions and misunderstandings. Late 30s to early 60s.

- **Personality Traits:** Cheerful, bumbling, and somewhat naive. Sir Hugh is good-natured but easily confused, adding to the comedic elements.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** Welsh-accented and warm. Should convey a sense of humor and gentle confusion.
 - **Physicality:** Jovial and animated, with movements that reflect his good-hearted but somewhat inept nature.
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Pistol

Description: Pistol is a brash and somewhat unscrupulous character who is involved in various schemes and provides additional comic relief. Late 20s to early 40s.

- **Personality Traits:** Brash, cunning, and opportunistic. Pistol is often involved in minor schemes and provides comic relief through his antics.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Bold and energetic, with a tendency to be over-the-top and humorous.



- **Physicality:** Exaggerated and theatrical, with movements that reflect his brash and scheming nature.
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Bardolph

Description: Bardolph is Falstaff's companion, known for his comedic sidekick role. He is often involved in Falstaff's schemes and provides additional humor. Late 20s to early 40s.

- **Personality Traits:** Loyal but bumbling, and often involved in Falstaff's schemes. Bardolph provides comic relief through his ineptitude and loyalty.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** Varied, with a tone that reflects both his loyalty and comedic role.
 - **Physicality:** Comedic and exaggerated, with movements that emphasize his role as a sidekick and his involvement in schemes.
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Nym

Description: Nym is another of Falstaff's companions. He is known for his gruff demeanor and involvement in Falstaff's various schemes. Late 20s to early 40s.

- **Personality Traits:** Gruff, somewhat cynical, and involved in Falstaff's schemes. Provides additional comic elements through his interactions and demeanor.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** Harsh and gruff, with a tone that reflects his cynical outlook.
 - **Physicality:** Stiff and somewhat abrasive, with movements that reflect his gruff and cynical nature.
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Mistress Quickly

Description: Caius's servant, Mistress Quickly is everyone's messenger, and chronically misunderstands or mishears other people. She is bubbly, chatty, and over-explains often.



Host

Description: Host of the Garter Inn, makes fun of Caius and Evan for their poor English and makes enemies of them both.

Rugby

Description: Falstaff's servant.

Slender

Description: The third suitor for Anne's hand. Has no personal interest in marriage, but goes along with his cousin Shallow, who constantly speaks for him as he can only speak nonsense to Anne.

Shallow

Description: A figure of the law, but nevertheless a foolish character of misplaced authority. Urges Slender to seduce Anne Page.

Simple

Description: Slender's servant.

If you are unfamiliar with the play, here is a link to a site that provides the full text of the script:
<https://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org/html/Wiv.html> .



Age ranges for the characters are fairly fluid and are more a matter of matching up groups of characters within the play. For example, the Ford and Page couples, plus Falstaff, should probably be fairly close in age (although perhaps Falstaff could be a little bit older). Anne, Fenton, Slender, and Falstaff's entourage (Bardolph/Nym/Pistol) are all fairly young. The remainder of the roles are less certain in my mind - Mistress Quickly is a good example who could probably be anything from 30s to 60s, in the hands of the right actress.

Gender designation is also flexible for a number of the characters, including Sir Hugh Evans, the Host of the Garter, and one of Bardolph/Pistol/Nym.