

Black Swan State Theatre Company

**Interview with Will O'Mahony**

**Black Swan: What projects have you been involved with in the lead up to rehearsals for *Twelfth Night*?**

Will: This will be my fourth professional Shakespeare since graduating from drama school a couple of years ago. I am currently studying directing at WAAPA.

**Before starting rehearsals on a play do you try to learn your lines or is it best to wait until you step into the rehearsal room**

I would recommend being very familiar with the script but that takes a different form to line learning. I find it much more useful to ask as many intelligent questions about the play and character as possible.

**Tell us a little about your character in *Twelfth Night*.**

Sebastian, a shipwreck survivor grieving the death of his twin sister Viola, is a victim of mistaken identity. From the moment he steps onstage he is embroiled in all sorts of misunderstandings to the point where he fears for his sanity.

**Do you ever stay in character when you are at home?**

No.

**What are you particularly looking forward to about *Twelfth Night*?**

Shakespeare offers audiences more drama word for word than any other playwright I know. It is exhausting to perform and a great challenge.

**Tell us one thing you find yourself doing as an actor that people might not realise you have to do....**

I never work on a script at home. I'll often be found wandering the streets muttering to myself. I find working on a role in motion fuels agility of thought – crucial for an actor.