

# Nothing is quite as it seems

Vermont Shakespeare Company  
production provides silly fun

By Brent Hallenbeck  
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**NORTH HERO** — These might be two phrases you've never heard together before: "William Shakespeare" and "silly fun."

If you spent too many collegiate hours with your head buried in "The Riverside Shakespeare" thinking poor Yorick is not the only one deserving of an "alas," it might be hard to imagine that The Bard could be — gulp! — fun, let alone silly fun. The Vermont Shakespeare Company demonstrates that in full force, however, with its production of "The Comedy of Errors," which opened Thursday in the beautiful dusky alfresco setting of Knight Point State Park in the Champlain islands.

If anything, VSC's production might be *too* fun — there's enough shrieking and running around to fill four episodes of "I Love Lucy" — but it's perfect frothy entertainment for Vermonters cooped up by all the rain this summer. "The Comedy of Errors" is an escape in every sense of the word.

If the afore-referenced "Hamlet" is Shakespeare's dramatic masterwork, "The Comedy of Errors" is his "Dumb and Dumber." The plot requires a serious suspension of disbelief: Twin brothers Antipholus (played by Dan Matisa and Dan Matisa), separated more or less at birth, wind up in the Mediterranean city of Ephesus with their servants, the twin brothers Dromio (played by Sheffield Chastain and Shef-

## If you go

■ **WHAT:** William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors," by the Vermont Shakespeare Company

■ **WHEN:** 6 p.m. through Sunday

■ **WHERE:** The Islands Center at Knight Point State Park, North Hero

■ **TICKETS:** \$20 for adults (park admission included); free for children under 12 (must pay park fee)

■ **INFORMATION:**  
877-874-1911,  
[www.vermontshake.com](http://www.vermontshake.com)

field Chastain), separated more or less at birth. That's right, the mothers of both sets of twins possessed the wild sense of imagination that allowed them to give their twin sons the same name, much in the same way boxing and grilling legend George Foreman named all his sons George ("Alas, poor Logic, I knew him, Horatio").

Despite not knowing each other, the twins share genes that allow them to dress identically save for a set of eyeglasses or a dapper hat to distinguish them. The audience is up to speed on who's who, but the slow-witted residents of Ephesus — including Adriana (Katharine McLeod), the wife of one of the Antipholuses — are completely flummoxed. Merry mayhem ensues as Ephesian after Ephesian mistakes one Antipholus or one Dromio

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