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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series ***Critical Insights: Twelfth Night, or What You Will***

Twelfth Night is one of Shakespeare's most-loved but also most complex comedies. Frequently performed on stage as well as commonly filmed and televised, this play is famously funny but also nuanced, presenting abundant humor of various shades (from slapstick to subtle, raucous to witty) while also presenting nuanced shades of darkness and many reasons for serious reflection.

This volume, like all others in the *Critical Insights* series, is divided into several sections. It begins with an introductory "About This Volume" essay, followed by another work titled "Shakespeare's Sad Clowning: Humor and Pathos in *Twelfth Night*" by Nicolas Tredell. This is followed by a Biography of William Shakespeare written by volume editor Robert C. Evans.

A collection of six critical contexts essays are intended to treat the novel

- 1) From a historical vantage point
- 2) In terms of its critical reception
- 3) Using a specific critical lens
- 4) And by comparing and contrasting it with another important work.

The present volume opens with an introductory essay by Nicolas Tredell, a distinguished British scholar, who examines Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night* in terms of several different kinds of characters who appear within the play. These include women, tricksters, clod-poles, gulls, clowns, and lovers. In particular, Tredell's essay "explores key elements of humor and pathos in *Twelfth Night* as they emerge in its specific words, actions and situations and feed into its overall themes." He first focuses on the play's "wit and wordplay, as exemplified in the initial duel of wit and words between Maria and Feste, which Maria wins" and then goes on "to consider the kinship between the Fool and the Trickster" before finally exploring "pathos in the play as evoked through the figures of Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Malvolio, Antonio, and Feste."

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- "Important Editions of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*" by Robert C. Evans
- "Religion in *Twelfth Night*: A Critical Overview" by Brandon Schneeberger
- "The Puzzling Title of *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*" by James Hirsh

- “‘Who governs here?’: Government, Sovereignty, and the Unruly Household in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*” by Matthew M. Thiele
- “Malvolio Annoyed: Early Illustrations of the Rowdy Party Scene in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*” by Robert C. Evans
- “Malvolio Deceived: Early Illustrations of the Letter and Stocking Scenes in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*” by Jordan Bailey
- “The 1998 Live Production of *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center: A Survey of Reviews” by Eric J. Sterling
- “The 2002 and 2012 All-Male *Twelfth Night* Productions at the Open-Air Globe: Their Critical Reception” by Robert C. Evans
- “The 2012-13 All-Male *Twelfth Night* at Two Indoor Theaters: Its Critical Reception” by Robert C. Evans
- “Playing Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* for Laughs in Four Major ‘Live’ Productions” by Robert C. Evans

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Twelfth Night, or What You Will* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author’s life, beginning with a **Chronology of William Shakespeare’s Life**. This is followed by a list of **Works by William Shakespeare** and a **Bibliography**. Finally, this section closes with an **About the Editor** section, **Contributors**, and a detailed **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Twelfth Night, or What You Will* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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