

Howland Costume Company

THEATRICAL & HISTORICAL COSTUMERS

125 Elmwood Avenue
Between Allen and North

BUFFALO, N. Y. 14201

Telephone
884-7712

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.

COSTUMES

Rented

for

Mrs. Ford: 1. Middle class costume of period.
2. Elf or goblin.

PLAYS

Mrs. Page: 1. Middle class costume of period, little more ~~silly~~ than Mrs. Ford if possible.

MINSTRELS

2. Elf or goblin.

OPERAS

OPERETTAS

Anne Page: 1. Page Daughter. Younger, middle class costume color to blend with Fenton.

PARADES

2. Titania, queen of the fairies.

BAL MASQUE

Mr. Ford: 1. Middle class costume of period.
2. Elf or goblin.

LITTLE THEATRES

COLLEGES

Mr. Page: 1. Middle class costume of period.
2. Long cape, and hood with antlers.

THEATRICAL

Fenton: 1. Young man of period.
2. ~~Red elf costume~~ Oberon.

MAKE-UP

Slender: 1. Wealthy young man of period.
2. Red elf costume.

WIGS - BEARDS

Dr. Cajus: 1. French nobility.

MOUSTACHES

Falstaff: 1. Must be really huge, well padded. Grey semi bald wig and beard. Middle class costume.

OF ALL

2. Ladies robe and hood.

DESCRIPTIONS

3. Cape and hood with antlers.

Servant girl to Page family.

SANTA CLAUS

Chorus Boys: 1. peasants of period, two may be servants.
2. Weird and wonderful hobgoblins or elves.

COSTUMES

Chorus Girls: 1. ~~Ladies~~ Peasants of period.
2. Hobgoblins or elves.

RENTED AND

SOLD

As this is an opera, everyone must be able to sing through their masks with eht hobgolbins or elves.

THE STORY

In Act One, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page discover they have received the same crude love letter from the fat, old knave — Sir John Falstaff. Outraged, they exit to plan some scheme of revenge for women's honour! Their husbands enter accompanied by two suitors of Anne, the Page's daughter. As Mr. Page is encouraging the timid, but rich, Slender and insulting the volatile Frenchman, Dr. Cajus, Anne's True love, Fenton, appears and asks for her hand. The penniless suitor is rudely rejected, but he vows to marry Anne despite every obstacle.

In Scene Two, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page effect their revenge on Falstaff by having him stuffed into a laundry basket to be dumped in the river. At the same time they manage to embarrass the overly jealous Mr. Ford and thwart his efforts to discover his wife's rendezvous with Falstaff.

In Act Two, Falstaff attempts to forget his troubles in love by drinking his neighbors under the table. Ford enters, as a Mr. Brook, seeking to discover the true relationship between Falstaff and his wife. He is appalled to discover they plan to meet that very afternoon.

In Scene Two, Slender and Dr. Cajus, unknown to each other, attempt a rendezvous with Anne. They only succeed in joining voices with Anne and Fenton in a quartet of frustration and humour.

In Scene Three, Ford interrupts his wife's tete-a-tete with Falstaff. However, the clever, merry wives succeed in disguising Falstaff as Mrs. Pratt, a crooked fortune teller, whom Ford has forbidden to enter his house. Ford prats and whacks her out of the house but fails again in his attempts to discover Falstaff.

In Act Three, the merry wives have informed their husbands of their successful pranks and enlist their aid in one final trick on the old roué, Falstaff. They invite Falstaff to meet them once more, in Windsor Forest by Herne's oak. Herne is the legendary hunter who "kills" everyone he discovers at midnight.

In Scene Two, everyone arrives in masquerade and pummels poor old Falstaff. In the confusion generated by the disguises Slender and Dr. Cajus manage to run away together and Anne and Fenton are united in marriage. The Pages see the error of their way and bless the happy couple. Apologies are offered for all tricks and the merry wives thank everyone for providing so enjoyable an evening.

Blatt and Murray

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Conducted by Herman Genhart
Designed by Thomas Struthers

Staged by Robert Murray
Choreography by Olive McCue

CAST

(in order of their appearance)

Mistress Alice Ford Laura Mann
Mistress Meg Page Lenita McCallum
Master Page William Briggs
Slender Harold McAulliffe
Master Ford Edward White

Doctor Cajus Charles Richards
Fenton John Maloy
Falstaff Philip Booth
Anne Page Jamie Dyess
Mercury Ballet Olive McCue — Director

Actors: Boy, Sean O'Connell; John, a Servant, Lou Gritter; Robert, a Servant, Mike Conant; Jeanet Broun, Marla Stone.

Dancers: Pamela Wilkens, Meredith Gent, Deborah Westfall, Johanna Paulsen, Stephen Skura, Laurie Gilbert, Lou Gritter, Marjorie Havelin, Renee Kline, Mike Conant, Laurie Trayhem, Sarah Rubin, Donna Fragnolli, Marla Stone, Teagan Jaskelainen.

Ladies of the Chorus: Alison Corson, Jeanne Desmarais, Lois Dluhy, Brenda Herkimer, Marvel Klage, Martha Mott, Eva Nicholson, Deborah Orcutt, Irene Perrot, Karla Peterson, Nancy Reger, Kathy Wagar, Linda Wilhelm, Kristine Wood, Ann Zicari, Mary Ann Zicari.

Gentlemen of the Chorus: William Beuckman, Dana Connolley, Carl Herrgesell, David McEwan, Donald Pafumbo, David Roberts, Ken Reger, James Stuart, Tom Van Hall, Robert Zinker.