

The first recorded performance of “The Comedy of Errors” was as part of the Christmas revels at Gray’s Inn, one of four law schools in London during Shakespeare’s life. These law schools prepared young men academically for life in a courtroom and socially for a life at Court.

When I was asked to choose one of Shakespeare’s early comedies to direct this year, the parallels between the academic goals of Gray’s Inn and those of Wabash College were hard to ignore. Just as Wabash prides itself on the broad-based liberal arts education its students receive, Gray’s Inn embraced the idea that education extends beyond the classroom. In addition to traditional intellectual studies, Gray’s Inn scholars learned dancing and music and were famous for their performances in both plays and masques. It made sense to me to choose *The Comedy of Errors*, a play that many theatre historians believe was written specifically for the young male scholars of Gray’s Inn, to be performed at Wabash.

The students involved in this production have taken a great leap of faith. With little to no prior working knowledge of Shakespeare, they agreed to collaborate with a visiting professor on a complicated production using unfamiliar acting techniques. They received no class credit for their participation, and they often had to sacrifice other extra-curricular activities in order to create what you see on this stage. Their dedication and passion is to be commended. They are “my deere hearts deerer heart,” and I than them.

Jemma Alix Levy