

SOMETHING ROTTEN! CHARACTER AND CASTING INFORMATION

Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard" (William Shakespeare). When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self...and all that jazz. *Something Rotten!* features large song and dance numbers, and an eccentric cast of over-the-top characters, each given his or her own special moment in the show to shine.

Minstrel: The Minstrel is a narrator of sorts for the show with the main purpose of introducing the cast and welcoming the audience to the Renaissance era of the show.

Nick Bottom: A struggling renaissance writer at the end of his rope. Nigel's older brother. Incredibly jealous of the success of William Shakespeare and will do anything to beat him. He is responsible for creating the first musical, *Omelette*, after guidance from the misguided Nostradamus.

Nigel Bottom: Nick's younger brother. A sweetly naïve young writer and poet, perhaps a little awkward. He's not very confident, as shown when he doesn't think his work is very good despite the outstanding quality of his writing. He is very gullible and can easily be manipulated. He falls in love with Portia and ultimately finds confidence in himself through art and love.

William Shakespeare: Shakespeare is both the real life author of many plays and rival to Nick Bottom. Shakespeare, also referred to as "The Bard" throughout the show, gets all of the praise and attention from his adoring fans leaving writers like Nick and Nigel in his shadow. Shakespeare is portrayed as a rock star, and all of his sonnets are performed as rock songs during the song *Will Power*.

Nostradamus- A soothsayer who almost sees the future correctly. A bit loony. He predicts that Nick and Nigel will write a musical.

Bea: Nick's wife and "Right Hand Man". She loves and supports him despite his questionable decision making and lack of success. Bea resorts to dressing up like a male to make ends meet for her growing family. She is a strong leader and a powerful woman who is quite persuasive when she wants to be. She ultimately saves the day.

Portia: A quirky Puritan girl whom Nigel meets on the street. Portia is the only daughter of Brother Jeremiah and the love interest to Nigel Bottom. They fall madly in love with

each other over their mutual love for Shakespeare and poetry. Portia and Nigel set out to convince Jeremiah and the other puritans that they should be together rather than following the "star-crossed lovers" idea.

Brother Jeremiah: The Puritan father of Portia and secondary antagonist in *Something Rotten!*. He is very strict and refuses to let her daughter engage in "fulfilling her lustful desires". He shows nothing but disrespect towards everyone, but especially playwrights like Nick and Nigel. He despises playwrights, poets and all things ungodly.

Lord/Lady Clapham: Lord/Lady Clapham is a flamboyant theatre producer. Comic speaking role. This character may also play Master of the Justice as well as other singing/dancing roles throughout the show.

Shylock: Jewish landlord/tax collector who loves theater more than anything. It was illegal at that time to hire someone who was Jewish, so when Nick is forced to hire Shylock, he has to watch out or he could be hanged. An investor to whom Nick and Nigel are in debt.

Tom Snout, Peter Quince, Snug, Francis Flute: These characters are individual members and characters within Nick Bottom's theatrical troupe.

Featured Ensembles The Bard Backup Singers/Dancers: This small group of singers/dancers, who play Shakespeare's entourage.