



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS is one of many of the Bard's mistaken-identity farces. Perhaps by virtue of being his first in that genre, its plot is annoyingly thin, but it still evinces [Shakespeare's](#) incomparable wit and gift for lightning-quick banter that prefigures the more substantial, later comedies. And though director [Darin Anthony](#) suffers from a disparity of acting talent and unspecific staging, he certainly taps into the work's playfulness and jocularly. Anthony does well to play up the shtick and streamline the expository passages, of which there are many. [John E. Farrell](#) and Don Formanek shine as the twin Antipholi, whose fraternal likeness precipitates the titular errors, and Jim Van Over and Michael Irish deliver some energetic pratfalls as twin servant Dromios, who further the confusion. [Rachel Levy](#) is also strong as Luciana, the ebullient sister-in-law whose attempted escape from the amorous advancements of the fellow she thinks is her sibling's husband marks the production's most hilarious moment. Some odd costuming and sound-design choices leave frayed threads of amateurism around the edges, though the evening is quite enjoyable. Shakespeare by the Sea, at venues throughout the South Bay; call for schedule and locations; thru Aug. 12. (310) 217-7596 or www.shakespearebythesea.org. ([Luis Reyes](#))