# The Comedy of Errors

Simone Cecire

## Luogo (ambientazione)

Ephesus

## Anno di pubblicazione

1623 (First Folio)

## Epoca

Not specified

## Soggetto (descrizione dell’opera e del luogo)

The Comedy of Errors is one of the first plays and it’s also one of the shortest comedies.

The play’s title has become an English idiom for ridiculous situations.

The comedy is divided into five acts.

ACT I:

Twenty three years before the story takes place, Egeon had lost his wife and one of their identical twin sons (and the boy's slave, also an identical twin) in a storm at sea. Egeon had raised the surviving boy and his slave, but at eighteen, they had gone in search of their lost brothers. After not reciving any news from them, Egeon had also left home to search his sons in Ephesus.   
Duke Solinus, ruler of Ephesus, detain Egeon of Syracuse beacause Syracusians are not allowed in Ephesus. When asked why he is in Ephesus, Egeon explains that he is searching his lost twin sons and their twin servants. Solinus allows Egeon until sunset to try to raise 1,000 marks as a ransom or else he will die.

Meanwhile, in a nearby marketplace, a merchant has met Egeon's son Antipholus of Syracuse and his servant, Dromio. To avoid the ban of Syracusians, they put on local dress before exploring the town. They don’t know that their twin brothers, that have the same names, have been living there after being saved from the storm by fishermen.

ACT II:

Antipholus of Syracuse met Dromio of Ephesus, who is angry that his master (Antipholus of Ephesus) has not returned home to his wife, Adriana, for dinner. The likeness of the Dromio twins, and also the sons of Egeon, leads to a series of confusions. For example Antipholus of Syracuse dines with his sister-in-law and falls in love with her sister, Luciana. His servant, Dromio of Syracuse, refuses to open the door to anyone. He bars the door even when Antipholus of Ephesus returns home.

ACT III and IV:

A gold chain that Antipholus of Ephesus has ordered is delivered to Antipholus of Syracuse instead. The goldsmith’s claim for payment leads to the arrest of Antipholus of Ephesus and his servant because they refuse to pay for something that they didn’t recive. While they are under arrest, their Syracusian brothers cause panic in the town, but the people think that the Ephesian brothers have escaped.

ACT V:

The sunset hour is approaching and the Duke returns, but is stopped by Adriana, who asks help for her husband. The Ephesian twins escape and arrive to claim justice. Egeon recognises them as the boys from Syracuse. Solinus appears with the second pair of twins escorted by a woman. She recognise Egeon and reveals herself as Emilia,his lost wife, that somehow survived the storm. When all have told their stories the Duke forgive Egeon, and everyone goes to celebrate with Emilia at the temple of Artemis.

The whole sotry takes place in the ancient city of Ephesus, which is now only an archeological site located in Turkey. Shakespeare mentions a temple that could have been the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Sources:

<https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespedia/shakespeares-plays/comedy-of-errors/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Comedy_of_Errors>

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## Immagini (elenco)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RsmcBgh5w6HZhN1Nd_TaW1T1Wput1z0T/view?usp=sharing> (The Library of Celsus, in the archeological site of Ephesus)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xn-R2T4VN3HWMNeEuvQMN634D579Gree/view?usp=sharing> (A model of the Temple of Artemis, one of the greatest temple in the ancient world)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h39uUwEA2hVrZLqcuDP-71Z1CLQ2ghnd/view?usp=sharing> (The site of the Temple of Artemis today)

## Personaggi principali

* **Egeon** – a merchant of Syracuse – father of the Antipholus twins
* **Solinus** – Duke of Ephesus
* **Antipholus of Ephesus and Antipholus of Syracuse** – twin sons of Egeon
* **Dromio of Ephesus and Dromio of Syracuse** – twin servers of the twin brothers
* **Emilia** – wife of Egeon and mother of the twins
* **Adriana** – wife of Antipholus of Ephesus