# The Comedy of Errors

Simone Cecire

## Luogo (ambientazione)

Ephesus

## Anno di pubblicazione

1623 (First Folio)

## Epoca

Not clearly 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 written by Shakespeare.

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 of the other slave, in a storm when travelling 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, Egeon had also left home to search his sons in Ephesus.   
Duke of Ephesus, Solinus, detain Egeon beacause Syracusians are not allowed in Ephesus. When the Duke asks why he is in Ephesus, Egeon explains that he is searching his lost twin sons and their slaves. Solinus allows Egeon to try to raise 1,000 marks as a ransom until sunset or he will die.

Meanwhile, in a nearby marketplace, a merchant has met Egeon's son Antipholus of Syracuse and his servant, Dromio of Syracuse. 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 all the four twins leads to a series of confusions and ridiculous situations. 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 his twin by error. Antipholus of Ephesus and his servant are arrested because they refuse to pay for something that they didn’t recive. While they are under arrest, their twins from Syracuse cause panic in the town, but the people think that the Ephesian twins have escaped the prison.

ACT V:

The sunset hour is approaching and Solinus returns, but then he is stopped by Adriana, who asks help for her husband. The Ephesian twins escape the prison and 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.

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.  
There isn’t a modern city builded upon the ruins of Ephesus, so visiting the archeological site is like a dive into past.

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