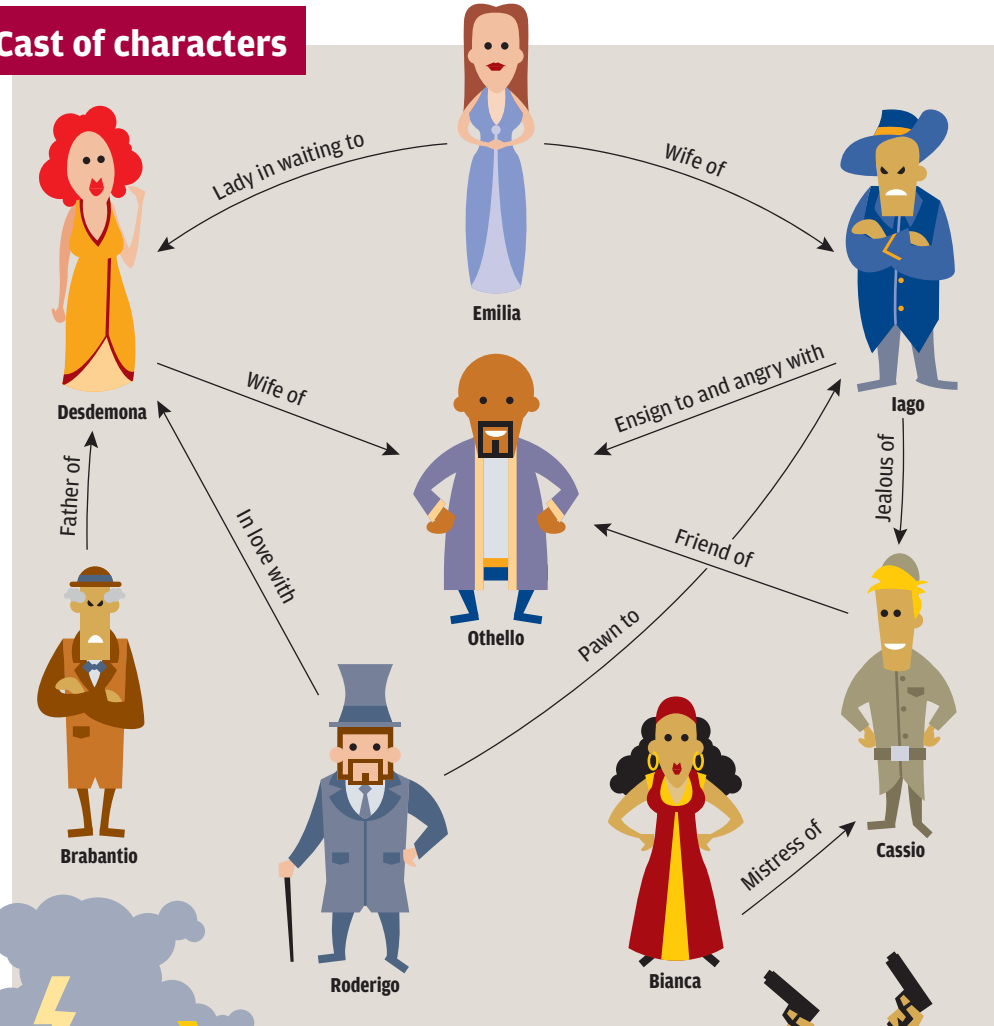


# SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS PRESENTS 'OTHELLO'

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## Cast of characters



"Othello," the towering tragedy of a great man destroyed by jealousy, tells one of William Shakespeare's most straightforward stories. The 12th annual production that Shakespeare Festival St. Louis has mounted in Forest Park, "Othello" continues a summertime tradition of classics, picnics and starlight that drew a record-breaking audience of 63,000 last year. Here's everything you need to know for this summer – including the timeless tale.

**Where** • Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park, near the Art Museum  
**When** • Previews Wednesday and Thursday; opening Friday-June 17 (except Tuesdays). Preshow entertainment at 6:30 nightly; showtime at 8 p.m.  
**Seating** • Bring a blanket or lawn chair, or rent a chair (\$7-\$10).  
**Food** • Bring a picnic or buy food from the vendors. Other vendors sell souvenirs.  
**How much** • Free. Donations are welcome.  
**More info** • [sfstl.com](http://sfstl.com)

## ACT 1

- 1 Othello, a great general of Venice, and Desdemona, a noblewoman, elope. They know her father won't let them marry because Othello is from Africa.
- 2 Roderigo and Iago run to tell Brabantio about the elopement. Roderigo wanted to marry Desdemona, and Iago says he'll help. Iago hates Othello because he promoted Michael Cassio over him, and also claims Othello carried on with his wife. Maybe Iago doesn't need a reason. Maybe he's simply evil.
- 3 Called before the Duke to explain themselves, Othello and Desdemona freely admit their love for each other.

## ACT 2

- 5 Storms at sea wipe out the Turkish fleet. Welcome to Cyprus!
- 6 Cassio can't handle his liquor, so Iago gets him drunk to make it easy for Roderigo to pick a fight with him. He wants Cassio dead!
- 7 It's a big fight but no one is killed. Iago hems and haws, then "admits" Cassio started it. How he wishes he didn't have to say so! Othello fires Cassio and promotes Iago to lieutenant.

## ACT 3

- 8 Cassio asks Desdemona to plead his case with Othello. Iago makes sure Othello sees them together.
- 9 Iago drops more hints. She lied to her father, didn't she? But don't jump to conclusions, he tells Othello, oozing sympathy. Beware of "the green-eyed monster," jealousy.
- 10 Desdemona accidentally drops a handkerchief embroidered with strawberries. Othello gave it to her. Emilia picks up the hankie because she knows Iago wants it. She can't imagine why, though.

## ACT 4

- 11 Iago plants the hankie in Cassio's room, telling Othello Cassio has it. Then Cassio gives it to Bianca, a courtesan who loves him.
- 12 On Othello's orders, Iago agrees to kill Cassio. But, Iago says, DON'T kill Desdemona ... and plants the seed of an idea.
- 13 Iago gets Cassio to talk about Bianca while Othello's nearby. Othello thinks he's talking about Desdemona as if she were a harlot!

## ACT 5

- 14 Bianca shows up with the hankie – and Othello has his "proof" of infidelity! Iago manipulated everyone.
- 15 Roderigo tries to kill Cassio again, but Cassio wounds him instead.
- 16 Pretending to break up the fight, Iago murders Roderigo and wounds Cassio!
- 17 Othello goes to Desdemona in her bed and accuses her. Swearing he's wrong, she pleads for her life. He smothers her with her pillow as Emilia bursts in.
- 18 Emilia accuses her husband of masterminding the whole tragedy. Enraged, Iago stabs his wife to death, swearing he will never speak again. But Cassio will punish him.
- 19 Othello stabs himself and dies, kissing Desdemona. He begs to be remembered as "one that loved not wisely, but too well."

## THE END