



Miss Margaret's Barton Cottage Christmas Surprise

By Laura Thoma

Set eight years after Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, this cozy, queer play follows the adventurous Margaret Dashwood as she returns to Barton Cottage to reunite her family for Christmas, only to set in motion events that threaten to unravel her holiday plans.



Development History:

- One Act Reading: Desert Playwrights Retreat (2023)
- Readings: THE OUTRAGE (2024); North American Cultural Laboratory
- Holiday Works in Progress / Shoreline Playwrights (2023)
- Production: Drama Works Community Theatre (Dec 2024)

When the adventurous Margaret Dashwood returns home to open Barton Cottage and reunite her family for the holidays, things do not go as planned. Her carefully arranged reunion is thrown into disarray when a former love arrives unexpectedly and, refusing to leave, introduces herself as a maid just as Margaret's sisters arrive. Hoping to preserve the holiday, Margaret goes along with the ruse. As the family sings carols and decorates the cottage, Margaret's resolve and heart are increasingly tested. What begins as holiday frivolity soon gives way to jealousy, misunderstandings, and betrayal. Margaret is forced to confront her true feelings and decide what it means to save Christmas — for her family and herself. (5W, 1 M - 75 min)



PICTURES FROM DRAMA WORK PRODUCTION