

AS YOU LIKE IT

AS YOU LIKE IT

By **William Shakespeare**
Directed by **Chris Abraham**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 8+

CONTENT ADVISORY

[Please see the show page for more information.](#)

SYNOPSIS

The Forest of Arden, reimagined in this production, sees its pastoral calm upended by the arrival of a motley cast of courtiers, fools, dukes and ladies exiled from the pitiless world of court politics and dynastic succession. The latest arrivals: Orlando, banished by his cruel older brother after their father's death, and Rosalind who, in her attempt to flee an equally cruel uncle, arrives on the scene disguised as a boy. When Orlando and Rosalind fall for one another, the question then becomes, can Orlando recognize the object of his affection through her cunning disguise and Arden's shaded vales? Beloved for its wit and banter, *As You Like It* promises classic Shakespearean comedy befitting of modern audiences.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship and Sustainability

GRADE 8

- The Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Language
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies: History and Geography

GRADES 9-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- Health and Physical Education

GRADES 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama and Theatre, English, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, Social Work and Social Development Studies, Teacher Education

THEMES

- Court vs. Rural Life
- Community and Change through Adversity
- Creative Agency
- Debate and Civil Discourse
- Exile, Refuge and Freedom
- Family, Siblings and Inheritance
- Gender Performance, Construction and Identity
- Gratitude
- Justice, Healing and Forgiveness
- Love in All its Forms
- Meta-Theatricality
- Nature and Ecology
- Restriction vs. Freedom
- Social Hierarchies and Expectations
- Life Stages and Cycles
- Time in Shakespeare's Comedies
- Transformation and Resilience

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- This production of *As You Like It* is set in a future impacted by climate change and a world of "less." If you are already familiar with *As You Like It* or others of Shakespeare's plays, what evidence can you detect of his interest in nature and how human beings relate to the natural world? Do you think theatre that engages with visions of both our environmental pasts and futures can prompt action in relation to the climate crisis? Why or why not?
- What are some reasons someone might disguise themselves? What freedom does disguise offer? When might assuming a disguise be dangerous or deceitful?
- When people's liberties are restricted by another person, how might they face this challenge to find freedom? How might these restrictions and a person's resistance change when their freedom is constricted by an institution rather than an individual?
- Shakespeare presents nature and the Forest of Arden as an idealized refuge from the pressures and corruption of court but also questions and pokes fun at the pastoral ideal. The play examines how contemporary attitudes about farming, country living, and the natural world were changing. How have our relationships with nature, farming and rural living changed since 1598? What is your relationship with the natural world? Do you feel nature is a central part of your life or a refuge from its pressures?

STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND CHATS

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 12:30 p.m. or 2 p.m. on the following dates:

12:30 p.m.

- Thursday, October 23

2 p.m.

- Wednesday, May 7
- Thursday, May 22
- Friday, May 30
- Wednesday, June 4
- Friday, June 6
- Tuesday, June 10
- Wednesday, June 25
- Tuesday, September 23
- Thursday, October 2
- Wednesday, October 8
- Wednesday, October 15

INTERACTIVE PRESHOWS

Led by artists appearing in the matinée, these high-energy sessions provide students the opportunity to explore key themes, questions and technical aspects of productions on the Festival's renowned stages. \$4 per student (free for Teaching Stratford Program participants)

11 a.m.–noon on the following dates:

- Wednesday, May 7
- Thursday, May 22
- Thursday, October 2
- Wednesday, October 15

stratfordfestival.ca/InterACTives

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing

educate@stratfordfestival.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA



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The 2025 season is generously supported by Ophelia Lazaridis

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Tools for Teachers includes InterACTIVE Preshows, Study Guides and Stratford Shorts.

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