Fall 11-1997

As You Like It Program [1997]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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USM Theatre Department
Presents:

As You Like It

Main Stage, Russell Hall, Gorham Campus

7:30 p.m. November 7, 8, 12-15
5:00 p.m. November 9 & 16
10:00 a.m. November 12, high school matinee
Director's Notes

As You Like It by W. Shakespeare is a hardy traveller capable of being played in many settings. In my love affair with the country of Brazil for the last ten years, I realized how adaptable the play would be if set in the Amazon region.

Using this tropical environment, I have incorporated many Brazilian traditions, two of which should be explained to our Maine audience.

The first is a type of martial art called Capoeira. If it appears as dancing, do not be deceived. Capoeira was brought from Africa by the slaves. Slave owners banned the practice of this deadly art, sensing that it may be used in an uprising. Consequently, the slaves would practice in front of band members who played crude native instruments. When a slave owner appeared, the band changed to a new rhythm which alerted the participants to fain a dance but still use the tactics of Capoeira. The owners never realized they were being duped.

A second Brazilian tradition to be seen in this production is the festival that honors Santo Antonio, São João, São Pedro and São Marçal. In the north and northeast parts of Brazil the festival features Boi Bumba which was also originated by the slaves. Through the use of an actor dressed as a bull, the slaves could ridicule their white owners and in a later part of the 19th Century and now the 20th Century they made farcical comments about class order that has often kept the free blacks in slave conditions.

Special Thank-yous
Beck
Maine State Music Theatre

CAST

Duke Senior
Duke Frederick
Le Beau
Charles
Wrestler
Touchstone
Oliver
Orlando
Jaques
Dennis
Adam/William
First Lord/Townsperson
Second Lord
Silvius
Sir Oliver Martext
Rosalind
Celia
Phebe
Audrey
Hymen
Trees

Musicians

Setting: Somewhere south of here
Act I: In the court of Duke Frederick
Act II: In the forest of Arden

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission
Production Personnel

Technical Director
Costume Shop Supervisor
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers
Assistant Lighting Designer
Musical Coordinators
Capoeira Instructor
Original Music Composition
Sound Designer
Master Electrician
Sound Board Operator
Light Board Operator
Properties Supervisor
Properties Mistress
Props
Horse Designer
Bull Designer
Stitchers

Deck Crew
Wardrobe

Thomas C. Vail
Christenia Alden-Kinne
Colleen McMillan
Brigitte M. Paulus
Jenny Michaud
Season A. Ellery
Jamie Grant
Chris Thiele
Jerome Wills
Samuel Caedeiro
Jerome Wills
Michael Henderson
James P. Anderson
Michelle Caron
Christopher M. Foss
Alien Guinn
Liberty Freeman
Brian D. Cote
B. Andrew Valliere
Alexandra Munier
Jaqueline Leclair
Wendy Getchell
Alison Guinn
Julianna Lagin-Nasse
Harry Rose
Aaron Lewis
Erica Essman
Cheryl Merrill
M.J. Emerson
Pan Yuhas
Amanda Poirer
Matthew Curtis
Veronica Ward
Julianna Lagin-Nasse

Artistic Team Biographies

Brian D. Cote - Set Designer
Brian, senior theatre major and BSO President, was last seen on stage as Norman in USM's The Boys Next Door, for which he received the Irene Ryan Nomination. Design credits include set design for Portland Playayet's HMS Pinafore (1997) and USM's Miss Nowhere Diner (1996), costume designer for SPA's Sweet River (1996), assistant costume design for USM's Marriage of Figaro (1995), and set design for SPA's 3 Shot Minimum (1995). Last year he received a regional ACTF (American College Theater Festival) award in Set Design for Miss Nowhere Diner. Brian will be participating in ACTF this year with his design as well as an acting scene.

Maria A. Cruz - Costume Designer
Maria is a native of Brazil where she has been a fashion designer. Maria's designs have been displayed in Europe, throughout South America, and, most recently, in the United States. She is very happy to be co-designing with Christenia Alden-Kinne and has enjoyed bringing the bright colors of Brazil to this production.

Christenia Alden-Kinne - Costume Designer
Christenia has worked with the USM Department of Theatre for the past 15 years both as an instructor and as supervisor of the costume shop. A graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., Chris did graduate work at the University of California at Davis and Trinity University through the Dallas Theater Center, focusing both in acting and costume design. As playwright and composer, she proudly presented her musical fantasy, Sweet River, last year at USM, Deertrees Theatre, and at the Maine Festival. Design credits include As Is, Romeo and Juliet, Pericles, Grapes of Wrath and Poor of Portland.

Marcia J. Emerson - Choreographer/Duke's Wrestler
MJ, originally of Norway, Maine, is a theatre major in her fourth year of study. Last seen on the Mainstage in the 1997 USM Dance Festival, she has been involved technically with several other USM productions and has recently completed an internship in stage operations and management at Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick. MJ is a 1996 graduate of the University of the Arts, earning a certificate in dance, and she currently teaches at the Konservatoriet in Alfred. She would like to thank Minor, Master Beck, Maria, and Kath... for their wisdom and patience.

Joseph A. Futral - Lighting Designer
Joseph is honored to return to USM and Russell Hall after lighting The Flies last season. Joseph has been lighting the stage for 13 years and considers his time spent assisting Thomas Skelton as his most productive education. Other credits include the Augusta Ballet and the Augusta Opera in Augusta, GA; Mad Horse Theatre, The Portland Flower Show, the Portland Ballet, and (soon) the Maine State Ballet in Portland, ME; Balletnic Dance company, Jimandi Productions, the Alliance Theatre Company, Lee Harper and Dancers, and Gary Harrison and Dancers in Atlanta, GA; and the Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, OH. Joseph has also worked at numerous corporate events and presentations for Saab, Georgia Pacific, Delta, and AT&T, among others.
Thomas C. Vail - Technical Director
Tom has been in Maine all his life. He was the technical director of USM for four years during the early 80's. He has worked with most of the theatres in Southern Maine, including Schoolhouse Arts Center, Biddeford City Theatre, Portland Players, Portland Stage Company and most recently he was the T.D. at Mad Horse Theatre two seasons ago where he designed Oh Coward and Misery. He is also the T.D. of the Deertrees Theatre in Harrison. He is very happy to be back at USM.

Jenny Michaud - Assistant Stage Manager
Jenny is a junior theatre major from Oakland, Maine. She transferred here this semester from Hampshire College in Massachusetts where she performed as Lolita in Deviant Aphrodites, and Angela in Coming Full Circle, Ann Puiman in The Crucible, and Mary in Tennessee. She also worked scene shop for The Castle and was a chorus member in Dames at Sea. This is Jenny's first production at USM, and she would like to thank Minor Rootes and Athena.

Jeff Shaw - Touchstone
This is his first experience in performing Shakespeare. Previous USM credits have included acting in And A Nightingale Sang..., Miss Nowhere Diner, and The Flies, soundboard operator for As Is, lighting designer for USM Dance Festival, and tech director for Redemption. He is an Irene Ryan award nominee. He would like to thank the USM Theatre faculty for making this possible, and would like to dedicate his performance to Kristin DeMarco.

Caleb Wilson - Oliver
Caleb Wilson is following up his USM stage debut as Mr. Klemper in The Boys Next Door with a very different role. This time, he is the much more refined Oliver De Boys. Growing up in Harpswell, Maine, he took part in various high school productions. A sophomore theatre major, he plans to do much more stage work for USM. He would like to thank his family, including his nephew, for making his education possible.

Burke Brimmer - Orlando
Burke is a senior theatre major from Portland, Maine. Previous roles have included Haemon in Antigone, Matt in Purgatory, Franz in La Ronde, and Saul in As Is, for which he received an Irene Ryan Nomination. He was also a recipient of the Richard S. Petereit Scholarship in 1994. His play Redemption was produced through SPA last semester. This is Burke's first Shakespeare production and he is proud to be a part of a great ensemble cast.

Jerome Wills - Jaques
Jerome is a senior English and philosophy major from Old Orchard Beach, Maine. This is Jerome’s first on stage acting experience and he would like to thank his wife and children for allowing him the time to pursue his interest in the theatre.

Cast

Eric Worthley - Duke Senior
Eric is a senior theatre major here at USM. His previous roles on the USM stage include Man in The Flies, Police Man in The Poor of Portland, Gros Rene and Horace in Sganarelle, and a chorus member in Antigone.

Anthony Wilbur - Duke Frederick
Tony, from Fort Kent, Maine, is a sophomore English major at USM. Although this is his acting debut at USM, he has had a few small roles in Fort Kent Community High School play productions. He would like to thank his parents and Minor Rootes, as well as Trevor Belmont.

Keith Doty - Charles
Keith, from Wells, Maine, is a freshman business administration major. His previous theatre experiences include roles in South Pacific, Damn Yankees, Our Town, This is a Test, Aria da Capo, Guys and Dolls, Little Shop of Horrors, and Omelette Murder Case. Keith's awards include the All-Festival Cast Award at the Regional and State Festival for the role of Alan in This is a Test, and the Year End Drama Award at Wells High School. Keith would like to thank his director, David Rawson at Wells High School, and his parents.

Jon Arnold - Lord 2
Jon is an undeclared first year student at USM. He has performed in two plays prior to this one. His first performance was as customer number 1 and the drunken bum in The Little Shop of Horrors during his junior year at Scarborough High School. Also during his junior year, he was on the speech team and became the first alternate in duo at a national qualifying tournament. His second performance was during his senior year when he played Lewis in Pippin. Jon has taken two years of dance and has performed for the RAM Island Dance Company on several occasions.
Jason Bannister - Silvius
Jason is a junior theatre major from Lewiston, Maine. He was a company member this summer at the Saxtons River Playhouse in Vermont which produced Gypsy, Harvey, A Chorus Line, and West Side Story. USM credits include Barry in The Boys Next Door, Dakota in Miss Nowhere Diner, Dirce in Redemption for which he was an Irene Ryan Nominee, and Ensemble in As Is. Regional credits include Wilder in Cross-Dressing in the Depression at the Oak Street Theatre, M. Morse in The Nutcraker with the Portland Ballet Company, and the featured role in the film It's Official. He was also recently an extra in the film Henry Hill. Jason's next project is to prepare for competition in the American College Theater Festival as an Irene Ryan Nominee.

Christopher Gregson - Sir Oliver Martex
Christopher Gregson of Lovell, is a junior theatre major here at USM, who just finished playing Lucien in The Boys Next Door. Christopher transferred this fall from Emerson College where he was a film major. During the summer he directed the full-length play, A Better Understanding, which he also co-wrote. Christopher has performed in various high school plays and received an award at Fryeburg Academy high school in 1995 for best actor.

Emily Zack - Rosalind
Emily is a freshman transfer from the Experimental Theatre Wing at Tisch School of the Arts in New York City. Though her first role here at USM, her theatre history is rich. She was highly acclaimed for her interpretation of Medea in the Westbrook One Acts, was instrumental in the creation of the Voices of Youth, Benny Rheel's traveling acting troop, and was a member of the Maine Summer Dramatic Institute. Other roles include Tiger Lily in Peter Pan, Betty in Sure Thing, and Titania in Dream. She thanks her family and friends for their support.

Patience Goodwin - Celia
Patience is a junior theatre major from Portland, Maine. Her previous roles at USM include the corpse in Loot, Nita Durme in A Dream of Canaries, Alida Bloodgood in Poor of Portland, the Saint in Rokujo Lady's Passion, and most recently as Clytemnemstra in The Flies. Patience has also worked at Oak Street Theatre as Mathilde in Hysteria. She is a recipient of the Grannia Theatre Scholarship and was an Irene Ryan Award Nominee. Patience would like to dedicate her performance to Shane and all the crew at Flagship.

Elizabeth A. Chambers - Tree
Liz is from Orono, Maine. She served as an apprentice for two years at Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor for their Summer Creative Arts Program. In 1997 she won the All Festival Cast Award for her role as Quince in a one-act version of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the One-Act Festival in Ellsworth. She also played Rizzo in the Orono High School production of Grease. Most recently she was the assistant stage manager for The Boys Next Door here at USM.

Cynthia Elliott - Tree
Cynthia is a freshman at USM. Born in Albany, N.Y., she attended school in Newark, N.Y. where she acted as various characters in high school and community plays. Such characters consisted of the grandmother in The Babbling Brooks and Santa Claus in A Christmas Remembered. She is currently majoring in environmental science and policy.

Alexandra Munier - Tree/Picker/Band
Alexandra's previous roles at USM include fury #1 in The Flies last fall. She has also been in Midsummer Night's Dream at Smith College during the Spring of 1996. She would like to thank Beck.

Leslie Janel Guerin - Tree
Leslie is a junior theatre major here at USM. She just finished The Boys Next Door (Jackie) and The Rocky Horror Picture Show (Janet), at the State Theatre. Her concentration this semester is split between stage performance and forensics. She would like to thank her family for their support.
The Kennedy Center
American College Theater Festival XXX


This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, in the spring of 1998.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.