

As You Like It

STUDY GUIDE

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

The Indianapolis Shakespeare Company's (Indy Shakes) Traveling Troupe's production of AS YOU LIKE IT presents a play about performing, about pretending, about putting on a false appearance, as the characters struggle to find out who they are, what matters to them, and even what kind of people their families really are. Indeed, these accessible characters find themselves on a journey adolescents themselves often take. For example, Rosalind, the play's main character, pretends to be Ganymede, using an act of theatre—pretending to be someone else—to solve her problems, as her best friend, Celia, pretends to be Aliena, a country girl, to support Rosalind. A cruel brother is transformed, as is a cruel father, as the characters "play" parts in the Forest of Arden, find true love, strengthen and renew family bonds, and learn what really matters, as they leave the artificial Court setting for the down-to-earth woods.

AS YOU LIKE IT will offer student audiences the beauty and wonder of Shakespeare's poetry; a clown; music; funny and realistic and not-so realistic characters; and Rosalind, an inventive and charming young woman who would make a very good best friend.

Estimated Length: with Pre-and Post-Show Activities: 60 minutes

Age Range: Middle through High School Students

Performance Dates: May - June, 2019

INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Our Traveling Troupe will give students the opportunity to observe, analyze, and value theatre, as they watch a professional theatre performance, learn about themselves, and are introduced to Shakespeare.

This Study Guide is designed to complement the following Indiana Academic Standards for Theatre:

HISTORY & CULTURE

Standard 1: Students understand the significance of theatre and its relationship to history and cultures.

Standard 2: Students recognize significant works of the theatre and comprehend various performance styles.

ANALYSIS & RESPONSE

Standard 3: Students understand and analyze the dramatic structure of plays and performances.

Standard 4: Students identify, develop and apply criteria to make informed judgments about theatre.

Standard 5: Students reflect on and interpret the nature of the theatre experience and its personal and artistic significance.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

- Students will attend a professional theatre production.
- Students will participate in pre- and post-show activities facilitated by each production director and cast.
- Teachers will use the production study guide to enhance curricula and in-class learning experiences.

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SYNOPSIS

You know that famous line written by Shakespeare: "All the World's a Stage:"

Come listen to it and watch this funny play about what happens when characters pretend to be someone else: there's a not-always-funny clown, catchy music, and a girl named Rosalind, who would make a really good, caring best friend! In AS YOU LIKE IT, things are not quite what they seem. Come and find out if you can figure out who's who, what's what—and why—in this hilarious journey through the woods.

It all begins off-stage rather sadly when tyrannical Duke Frederick takes over the kingdom and banishes Duke Senior, his brother, who flees to the Forest of Arden. Orlando, a young man in the kingdom, is treated badly by his older brother, Oliver. Violence has become the daily pastime, with the brawny and skilled wrestler Charles taking on all challengers, and spurred on by Oliver, Charles fights Orlando. Fearful that handsome Orlando will be hurt, Rosalind, our heroine and Duke Senior's daughter, tries to convince Orlando not to wrestle with Charles. He does anyway and wins the wrestling match; and Rosalind and Orlando fall in love. Soon, Duke Frederick banishes Rosalind from the kingdom. Disguised as Ganymede, a young man, Rosalind then flees to the Forest of Arden with her cousin, Duke Frederick's daughter, Celia, who disguises herself as Aliena, a countrywoman.

And now the romantic plot thickens! Lovesick and lonely Orlando has also fled to the forest, where he pines for Rosalind, carving love poems on tree barks. When he and Ganymede meet, Rosalind decides to test Orlando's affection for Rosalind, telling him that she can cure his lovesickness. It seems as if the Forest of Arden is indeed the place for love, as Silvius, the lovesick shepherd, longs for his shepherdess, Phebe, who has fallen in love with Ganymede!

Orlando has also met the banished Duke Senior and his men, including the melancholy clown, Jaques, who delivers one of Shakespeare's most famous soliloquies: "All the World's a Stage."

Oliver comes to the Forest of Arden, too. He falls asleep under a tree, is attacked by a lioness, and saved by valiant Orlando. Oliver tells Ganymede and Aliena of Orlando's bravery, how Orlando was injured and could not honor his meeting with Ganymede, and shows the young women Orlando's blood-stained handkerchief as proof. Ganymede faints; and Aliena and Oliver fall instantly in love.

The next day Rosalind and Celia reveal themselves; Celia and Oliver are married; Phebe realizing that she cannot marry Ganymede marries Silvius; and Rosalind and Orlando are wed.

Duke Frederick has a change of heart and returns the kingdom to the rightful ruler, Duke Senior. The brothers are re-united. Everyone celebrates and plans to leave the Forest of Arden where their eyes and hearts have been opened and return home to the Court.

"I like this place,
And willingly could waste my time in it."
Celia

William Shakespeare's

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I LIKE THIS PLAY, AND WILLINGLY WOULD SHARE IT WITH YOU

A note from Diane Timmerman, Executive Artistic Director

Indy Shakes is choosing to produce AS YOU LIKE IT for you and your students because it is an enjoyable play with relatable characters who love and laugh and fight and live life to the fullest. There is adventure, romance, comedy, betrayal, and joy. The story is easy to follow, and the characters seem like people we know today.

I think this is the perfect play for schools because this production will bring Shakespeare alive for students in compelling ways that spark their imaginations, make them think, and bring them joy.

My hope is that the electric experience of interacting with our Traveling Troupe's AS YOU LIKE IT production will be so satisfying for your students that they will want to go to more theatre productions, participate in theatre in your school, and perhaps even develop a lifelong appreciation for theatre.

Movies and television and YouTube are great! But theatre is magical because all of the humans are alive and present in the same room, breathing the same air, hearing the same sounds, and interacting as real, live human beings in real time. When you are part of the audience, you and your students are in the Forest of Arden together with Rosalind and Celia and Orlando and Oliver and all of the characters Shakespeare created for this play.

Together, you and your students, with our actors, are making theatre happen—you are co-creating this remarkable and unique performance of AS YOU LIKE IT!

Our Traveling Troupe will give students the opportunity to observe, analyze, and value theatre, as they watch a professional theatre performance, learn about themselves, and are introduced to Shakespeare.

Indy Shakes inaugurated our Traveling Troupe to fulfill three complementary objectives:

- ONE** to introduce school-age children to Shakespeare and professional theatre;
- TWO** to increase our student audiences' understanding and enjoyment of Shakespeare and professional theatre; and
- THREE** to help equalize access to arts education for Indianapolis children.

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A GIFT OF JOY

A note from Zack Neiditch, Director

When Indy Shakes' Executive Artistic Director Diane Timmerman asks you to direct a Shakespeare play, you say "Yes" because she is giving you an exceptional artistic gift!

And I really like AS YOU LIKE IT because of the joy that you both sense and feel in Shakespeare's carefully crafted, lovely, spot-on words. Certainly, there are elements of anger and sadness, longing and despair, and cruelty as well as kindness in AS YOU LIKE IT. But, overall, the play is such a joyful experience that it is indeed AS YOU LIKE IT's joy that stays with you. After all, three couples find each other and the joy of love; four brothers (fathers and sons) whose relationships were fraught with pain, loss, and enmity are reunited; and separated daughters and fathers find each other again, each reveling in the joy of family; and a kingdom is rightfully and joyously restored to Duke Senior. What was lost, or never known, is found and made true.

My favorite scene occurs near the end of the play when Orlando, Rosalind, Silvius, and Phebe converge on each other. It is a great example of how modern, ever-relevant, and ever-timeless Shakespeare can feel in terms of timing and style.

And speaking of ever-relevant, after seeing this

production of AS YOU LIKE IT, I want students to take away a feeling of comfort with Shakespeare or even a demystification of him. I want them to experience and know that Shakespeare is far easier to understand and enjoy than they may have thought.

I think that it is important for students to see a play by Shakespeare, to see how that style can be made current, to realize how a play written in 1599 can still speak to them—and speak with humor and connection to their feelings, experiences, and desires. Being comfortable with Shakespeare's language—knowing that they can "get it"—can help students become confident that they can indeed learn something unfamiliar, something new, such as a foreign language. It is knowing and realizing that "I can do that!"

The short introduction that I wrote for our production of AS YOU LIKE IT tells students a little about Shakespeare, brings them into the action, and lets them know that the actors will be there to help them know what is going on, rather like student guides. The actors' asides, when they occasionally speak as themselves, will help clarify the story and add a touch of humor.

So for you and your students: listen, please, as our company of actors invites you to "Lean forward and enjoy!"

MAJOR THEMES

Love

Foolishness & Folly

City vs. Country

Identity

Gender

Cross-dressing

Friendship

Family

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564 – 1616)

THE BARD OF AVON

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564, in the English market town of Stratford-on-Avon. Today, Stratford offers plays by Shakespeare in two theatres: the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the Swan Theatre on the banks of the River Avon.

Shakespeare is buried in the riverside Holy Trinity Church in Stratford, directly in front of the altar. It is believed that he himself wrote the warning on his gravestone not to move his body from its final resting place:

“Good friend for Jesus sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blessed be the man that spares these stones,
And cursed be he that moves my bones.”

One of eight children, Shakespeare was born to John, a glove-maker, and his wife, Mary Shakespeare. Shakespeare was educated at the local grammar school and married Anne Hathaway when he was 18. Together he and his wife had three children, a daughter and twins, a boy and a girl.

In the late 1580s, Shakespeare moved to London (about a four-day walk from Stratford) to try to support his family by becoming an actor; but soon he turned his hand to writing plays and poetry. In 1594, he joined a troupe of actors called the Lord Chamberlain's Company. This Company took the wooden boards from their playhouse and carried them across the Thames River to build what would become one of the most famous theatres in England, the Globe Theatre. A modern reconstruction of the Globe was opened in 1997.

Shakespeare became the main playwright for the Company, creating two plays each year, and also helped manage the Company, sharing in the profits. His plays were extremely popular, and his reputation grew. In 1603, the company became the King's Men

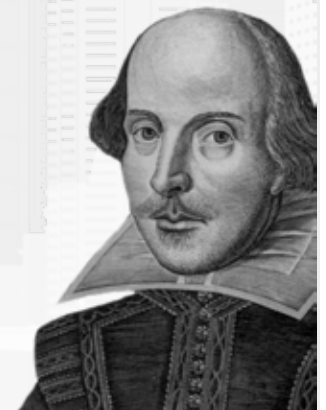
when James I was crowned as King of England, and Shakespeare stopped acting to concentrate on writing and managing the Company. In all, this Bard of Avon wrote 38 plays, 2 narrative poems, 154 sonnets, as well as additional poems.

Retiring to Stratford as quite a wealthy man in 1611, Shakespeare was known to be good Company and, not surprisingly, quite witty. His knowledge of the human spirit and the human condition, his innate and brilliant understanding “of what makes us tick,” and his literary genius expressed through his ever-alive, ever-meaningful, and ever-current plays have made him most rightfully one of the most revered playwrights of all time.

Speaking to his best friend, Horatio, Hamlet says of the father he adored:

“He was a man. Take him for all in all,
We shall not look upon his like again.”

In these lines spoken by Hamlet, we find a most apt description of Shakespeare as well.



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AN AS YOU LIKE IT GUMBO

A gumbo is a delicious stew containing a varied mixture of different ingredients, aromas, and colors to entice your appetite. Our AS YOU LIKE IT gumbo is a pre-show mixture of thoughts, questions, and fun facts to enhance your enjoyment of the play.

PRE-SHOW THOUGHTS

Before seeing AS YOU LIKE IT, here are some pre-show ideas to think about.

Indy Shakes' Company member Ryan Artzberger (some of your students may have seen Ryan playing Scrooge in the Indiana Repertory Theatre's production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL) directed our 2017 Mainstage production of AS YOU LIKE IT. Here are some of his answers to what he loves about the play:

I love that AS YOU LIKE IT, like all art, is about building bridges, about making connections.

I love that at its core it embraces the sentiment: build a longer table.

I love that Rosalind's immense intelligence can't prevent her from falling head over heels in love at first sight.

I love that it hints at the idea that we all have within us the capacity to change.

I love that it is a play that says, love is real, art matters, human connection is the whole point.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What qualities do you think a best friend should have?

Do you believe that someone can fall in love at first sight?

Do you think that each of us has the ability to change?

DOUBLING

In Indy Shakes' production, 13 characters are played by 6 actors! Each character that an actor plays will have a slightly different costume so that your students can tell who is who; but the actors also have to depend upon their talent to make each character different and believable.

Look for the costume differences when you see each character.

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS BEFORE?

These everyday expressions that people use today came from AS YOU LIKE IT:

All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players

Too much of a good thing

Sweet are the uses of adversity

Forever and a day

Neither rhyme nor reason

And thereby hangs a tale

Bag and baggage

We have seen better days

William Shakespeare's

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AN AS YOU LIKE IT GUMBO

DID YOU KNOW?

The role of Rosalind, AS YOU LIKE IT's heroine, is the largest female role in all of Shakespeare's plays; she speaks 721 lines in 201 speeches (but Hamlet has more than twice as many lines).

Nearly 40 percent of the lines in AS YOU LIKE IT are spoken by women, which was quite unusual.

On stage in Shakespeare's time, female roles were played by young men, so Rosalind was played by a young man pretending to be a young woman pretending to be a young man, Ganymede, in the Forest of Arden—Whew!

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, ROMEO AND JULIET, TWELFTH NIGHT, HAMLET, and KING LEAR are Shakespeare's most performed plays.

Shakespeare has been credited by the Oxford English Dictionary with introducing almost 3,000 words into the English language.

The Royal Shakespeare Company sells more than half a million tickets a year for Shakespeare productions at their theatres in Stratford-on-Avon, London, and Newcastle—introducing an estimated 50,000 people to a live Shakespeare performance for the first time.

Shakespeare has been translated into 80 languages, including Klingon (a STAR TREK language) and Esperanto (an international language).

The longest word in Shakespeare's plays is honorificabilitudinitatibus in LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST.

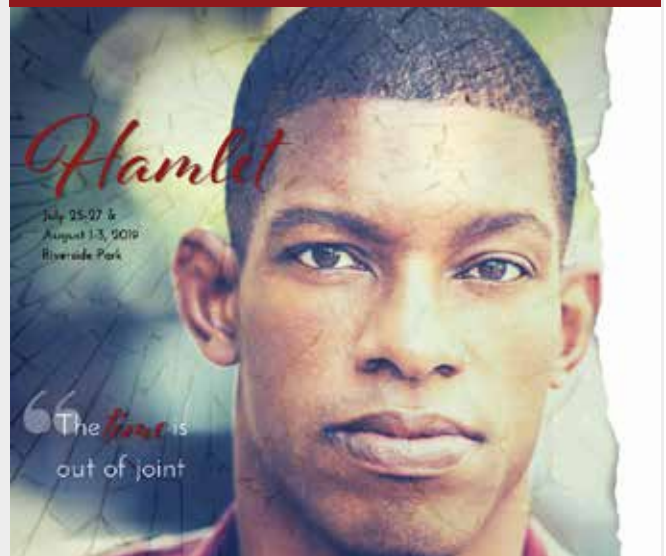
How many words can you make from honorificabilitudinitatibus?

SHAKEPEARE'S SOURCE: A PASTORAL

Shakespeare based AS YOU LIKE IT on a popular novel called ROSALYNDE, written by Thomas Lodge in 1590, which was based on an earlier poem called THE COOK'S TALE OF GAMELYN.

In literature, we have genres or kinds of plays (for example, AS YOU LIKE belongs to the comedy genre); poems; and novels. ROSALYNDE belongs to the pastoral romance genre—a love story that takes place in the countryside, usually involving lords and ladies from Court.

**COME SEE INDY SHAKES THIS
SUMMER PERFORMING A FULL-
LENGTH PRODUCTION!**



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POST-PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Shakespeare sets most of the action in AS YOU LIKE IT in the Forest of Arden?
2. Did you think that the play was funny? Why or why not?
3. Do you have brothers or sisters? Do you compete with one another? What do you like/dislike about your brother or sister? Why?
4. Why do Orlando and Oliver not get along?
5. Who was your favorite character? Why?
6. Would you have liked Rosalind as your best friend? Why? What characteristics of friendship do Celia and Rosalind share with the friends that you have?

WRITING

Write a review of AS YOU LIKE IT.

- What was your favorite part of the play?
- How did seeing the play make you feel? Why?
- What ideas did the play make you think about?
- How did the set, props, and costumes used by the Traveling Troupe work together to tell the story?
- Would you recommend the play to a friend? Why or why not?

If you would like to share your review, please e-mail it to info@indyshakes.com.

LINKS

- <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/>
Excellent source of all things Shakespeare with frequent updates
- <http://www.bardweb.net/>
First-rate summaries about Shakespeare and Elizabethan England
- <https://www.rsc.org.uk/as-you-like-it/the-plot>
The Royal Shakespeare Company
- <https://www.folger.edu/as-you-like-it>
Folger Shakespeare Library
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HEJ5FMZTBc>
AS YOU LIKE IT Highlights: The Old Globe
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72pyUuNLuoE>
2013 AS YOU LIKE IT: The Royal Shakespeare Company
- <https://www.tor.com/2018/03/27/13-shakespeare-adaptations-aimed-at-teens/>
Thirteen Shakespeare Movie Adaptations Aimed at Teens
- https://d20szsgzbrkwr.cloudfront.net/res/teacherhandbooks/TH_AYLI_10-11.pdf?pdf=AsYouLikeIt1011handbook
Chicago Shakespeare Theatre Teacher Handbook: AS YOU LIKE IT

FURTHER READINGS

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- Epstein, Norrie. The Friendly Shakespeare: A Thoroughly Painless Guide to the Best of the Bard. New York: Penguin, 1993.
- Gay, Penny. As She Likes It: Shakespeare's Unruly Women. London: Routledge, 1994.
- Greenblatt, Stephen. Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare. New York: W.W. Norton, 2005.
- Spurgeon, Caroline. Shakespeare's Imagery and What It Tells Us. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005 (1935).
- Thomson, Peter. Shakespeare's Theatre. London: Routledge, 1984.