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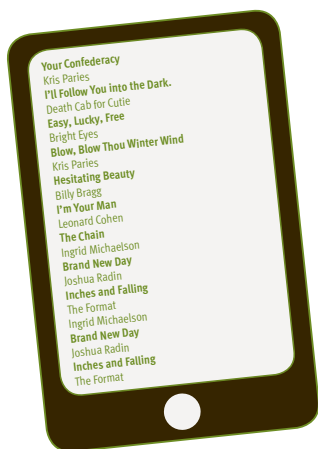


You

Like



It



**Study Guide**  
Zach Archuleta,  
dramaturg

# Shakespeare and As You Like It

## Shakespeare Info

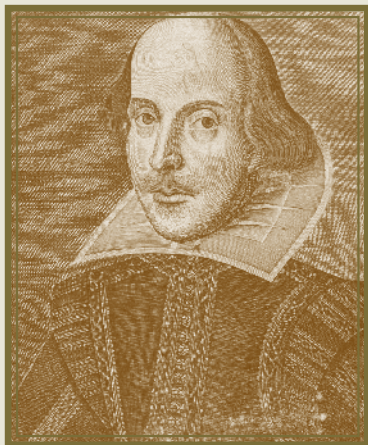
Born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England

Born in 1564

Married Anne Hathaway in 1582

Was an actor for King Chamberlain's Men, later called the King's Men. He primarily wrote plays for this troupe and was a part owner.

Most likely first wrote and performed *As You Like It* in 1599; after *Much Ado About Nothing* and before *Twelfth Night*. Most likely put on around the same time as *Henry V* and *Julius Caesar*.



## As You Like It Interpretations

- Originally based off a contemporary Elizabethan story called *Rosalynd*
- 1723 – Rewritten as Charles Johnson's *Love in a Forest*—also mixed in *Richard II* and the fairy play from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 1933 film version introducing Laurence Olivier in a traditional pastoral representation, and the 2006 version with Kenneth Branagh placed in 19th century Japan



Shakespeare has often been reinterpreted to fit its contemporary audiences. How does this performance's interpretation improve or detract from Shakespeare's script?

# Dramaturg's Note

As Kymerly Mellen's note mentioned, this play presents many different viewpoints. It covers everything from the "pretty pastoral [to the] dark explorations of the psyche, and an indictment of a power-hungry urban society" (Gay, 48). It is not an easy undertaking. In preparing for this performance it has been important to question how the audience would receive it. We wanted to present something our audiences would understand—so we made it contemporary. Then to the fit description of Duke Frederick's coup, we looked to recent coups in developed countries such as Kosovo and Czechoslovakia. We especially noticed how those displaced often lived in slums adjacent to the very cities where the coup had occurred. There was ruthless brutality and many stories of people killed, separated, and tortured for information. These experiences influenced what you will see on stage.

It is important to remember that this story is billed in anthologies and in our mind as a comedy. It fits that genre in many ways. There is a joyous wedding at the end. But we will have to travel through a dark and bitter forest as well as a blooming and hopeful one to see it. On the way there will be fools, best friends, laughter, and lots of the complicated lovers found in a typical romantic comedy at the movies.

However, as I discovered in my own directing experience, comedy—while often lighthearted or even plain farcical—can still be instructive, and take us on important personal journeys. Love is this story's paramount journey. The love in this show varies between bawdy, sappy, familial, charitable, passive/aggressive, and angst ridden. One easily sees that "love is the emotion to which the good characters retreat until evil plays itself out; it is a restorative force in a corrupt society" (Maurer). At the end of this show, we will get to decide whether this was a pointless frolic to lighten our mood, or a commentary about the foolishness that often accompanies any form of love.

Violence, laughter, love. They are all part of our lives, of the world we live in. They affect us, our family, our children, our friends, and our community. Now it is our choice to see if this story helps us understand how they all happen simultaneously every day of our lives. □

# What Genre Is This Play?

Many interpretations of *As You Like It* have compared the usurpation of the dukedom to current political problems such as the Cold War.

**Duke Frederick:** Bring him dead or living or return no more.

## The Importance of the Court

**Touchstone:** Why if thou never was't at Court, thou never saws't good manners: then thy manners must be wicked, and wickedness is sin, and sin is damnation: Thou art in a perilous state.

## A Family View of the Court

**Oliver** says his brother Orlando is “a secret and villanous contriver against me his natural brother: therefore use thy discretion, I had as lief thou didst break his neck as his finger.”

## How Does Our Version Compare?

“The effect was overwhelmingly funereal, not to say sinister. These were the bored, idle, and corrupt rich; no-one smiled; the men grimly challenged each other . . . this ‘court’ was the home of a tough, loveless gangster, whose conversion is never remotely likely.”

How does the portrayal of the dukedom's coup affect the overall meaning and enjoyment of the play for you?



## A Rural Opinion

**Corin:** Those that are good manners at the Court, are as ridiculous in the country, as the behavior of the county is most mockable at Court... Sir, I am a true laborer; I earn what I eat: get that I wear; owe no man hate, envy no man's happiness...and the greatest of my pride is to see my ewes graze, and my lambs suck.

**Duke Senior:** Now my Coe-mates, and brothers in exile: Hath not old custom made this life more sweet then that of painted pomp? Are not these woods more free from peril then the envious Court? This winter wind, which when it bites and blowes upon my body even till I shrink with cold, I smile, and say This is no flattery: the elements are counsellors that feelingly persuade me what I am: Sweet are the uses of adversity and this our life exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in every thing.

### [In Arden]

"the infected body of the world is far away, out of range. What they make fun of instead is what they can find in Arden –pastoral innocence and romantic love, life as it might be rather than life as it is."

—C. L. Barber

"The play as a whole is not comic, though we call it a comedy; the comical matter is a mocking accompaniment to a serious action, romantic and pastoral in character, which enlists our sympathetic participation."

—C. L. Barber



# “True is it, that we have seen better days ”

## Close to Home Facts

- **1 in 34 Utah homes** are threatened by **foreclosure**—5th highest in the nation
- **15,015 homeless Utahns** sought shelter last year
- **Half** of chronically homeless in Utah . . . County are **unsheltered**.

**Duke Senior:** Thou seest, we are not alone unhappy: This wide and universal theatre presents more woeful pageants than the scene wherein we play in.

The Food and Care Coalition in Provo served more than 100,000 meals and provided shelter for an equivalent of 2,200 nights in 2008. This along with other services costs was equal to 1.3 million dollars. They have recently lost 80% of former funding.

Do you feel a need to help those who are suffering from economic, political, or environmental displacement? If so, here are some organizations that you can contact.

## Provo

Food and Care Coalition: [www.foodandcare.org](http://www.foodandcare.org)

801-373-1825

\$10 Feeds one person for a day

\$25 Shelters one person for a night

\$50 Mentors a client for a week

\$100 Work training for a week

## LDS Emergency

### Humanitarian Relief

[www.ldsphilanthropies.org/humanitarian-services](http://www.ldsphilanthropies.org/humanitarian-services)

## Red Cross

Haiti Relief:

[www.Redcross.org](http://www.Redcross.org)

or Text “HAITI” to 90999 to make a \$10 donation to the Haiti Relief Fund

To donate to other US disasters:

text “GIVE” to “2HELP” (24357) to donate \$5 for US disaster relief efforts.

All texting donations will be billed to your next monthly phone bill.

What role do the more rural or indigent people play in this performance?

Are they destitute?

What help do they give and what help do they receive in relation to the other characters?

# Rosalind's Love Advice Blog

Post March 16, 2010

There is a man haunts the forrest,  
that abuses our young plants with carving  
Rosalind on their barks; hangs odes upon  
hawthornes, and elegies on brambles; all  
(forsooth) defying the name of Rosalind.  
If I could meet that fancy-monger, I would give  
him some good counsel, for he seems to have the  
Disease of Love upon him.

**Comment by Jaques:** I pray he mar no  
more trees with writing Love-songs in  
their barks.

Post February 15, 2010

Men have died from time to time, but not for love...  
Men are April when they woo, December when  
they wed.

**Comment by Jaques:** The worst fault  
you have, is to be in love.

Post January 6, 2010

There is no true lover in the forrest, else sighing  
every minute, and groaning every hour would  
detect the lazy foot of time, as well as a clock.

**Comment by Silvius:** Thou hast not  
lov'd. O Phebe, Phebe, Phebe.

Post January 3, 2010

You foolish shepherd, wherefore do you follow  
her? You are thousand times a properer man then  
she a woman. 'Tis such fools as you, That makes  
the world full of ill-favored children.

Common types of lovers:

A reference for vigilant  
woosers:

**Petrarchan Lovers:** These  
are the types that only  
see perfection in their  
supposed lovers, and  
suffer from unsolvable  
pain in their lover's  
absence. Look for the  
common signs: Lean  
cheek, dark sunken eyes,  
and trying continually to  
write a song or poem for  
their love.

**The Sudden Lover:** This  
person critiques all the  
love around them. Then  
suddenly they end up  
married and no one  
knows exactly how it  
happened.

**The Chemical Lover:**  
This type of lover sees  
no value in the deeper  
parts of the relationship,  
but will give in to their  
hormones in order to  
have a relationship.

# Amien's *As You Like It* Playlist

## Your Confederacy

Kris Paries

## I'll Follow You into the Dark.

Death Cab for Cutie

## Easy, Lucky, Free

Bright Eyes

## Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind

Kris Paries

## Hesitating Beauty

Billy Bragg

## I'm Your Man

Leonard Cohen

## The Chain

Ingrid Michaelson

## Brand New Day

Joshua Radin

## Inches and Falling

The Format



Lyrics for end of show sing-a-long! Please join in!

Inches and Falling:

**And I love love,  
I love being in love,  
I don't care what it does to me.  
With a HEY! and a HO! and  
a HEY NANNY NO!  
We'll take our chances,  
We'll rise above,  
We'll last until the end cause  
I love being in love!**

*As You Like It* has the most songs of any of Shakespeare's plays. Some scholars have said that these songs do little to drive the action. Do the contemporary songs in this version help move the action?

Shakespeare probably put so many songs in this play as a way to compete for audience attendance from The Blackfriars, a local choir.

"In foreclosure filings, Utah is 5th-highest." *Salt Lake Tribune*. January 13, 2010.

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