



As You Like It

By William Shakespeare
Adapted and Directed by Michael Boynton
Stage Manager El Hataway



DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE & FILM

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE'S



As You Like It

Special Thanks

The cast and crew of *As You Like It* would like to thank the following for their support and assistance in making this show possible:
Emrys Donaldson, Sky Swann, Kelsey Daily and Dave Porfiri.

Cast

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Teacher..... | Carolyn Conover |
| Student 1 (Orlando) | Téa Wilson |
| Student 2 (Oliver, Sir Oliver Martext) | Eleanor Boozer |
| Student 3 (Adam, Audrey) | Alexis Stanfield |
| Student 4 (Charles, Corin) | Carley Carey |
| Student 5 (Celia) | Nikki Walker |
| Student 6 (Rosalind)..... | Laurelle Veasey |
| Student 7 (Touchstone) | Stanton Yarboro |
| Student 8 (Le Beau, Amyens) | Leah Bussey |
| Student 9 ("Usurping" Duke/Phebe). | Maggie Williams |
| Student 10 (Duke Senior, William)..... | Ashlea Key |
| Student 11 (Silvius)..... | Aaliyah Boone |
| Student 12 (Jaques) | Semajé Newton |
| Student 13 (Hymen)..... | Jack Bond |
| Student 14 (Second Brother) | Justice Fulks |

Setting

A local high school, today

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

No flash photography or recording is allowed during the performance.

Artistic Team

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Michael Boynton | Director |
| Alex Hosmer, Murchison Murray | Assistant Directors |
| Carolyn Conover | Intimacy Choreographer |
| Michael Boynton | Fight Choreographer |
| Alison Woodward | Dance Choreographer |
| Carmine Di Biase | Dramaturg |
| Alex Hosmer, Murchison Murray | Assistant Dramaturgs |
| El Hataway | Stage Manager |
| Liesl Cristy | Assistant Stage Manager |
| Stephanie Polhemus | Scenic Designer |
| Addie Zaner | Associate Scenic Designer |
| Cheyenne Oliver | Lighting Designer |
| Grayson Singleton | Assistant Lighting Designer |
| Randy Blades | Costume Designer |
| Skylee Vaughn | Associate Costume Designer |
| Addie Lott | Make-up Designer |
| Danny Tibbitts | Sound Designer |
| Semajé Newton | Intimacy and Dance Captain |
| Stanton Yarboro | Fight Captain |
| James Woodward | Composer |
| "For the Rain I Raineth Every Day", "Hymen's Chant" | |
| Jack Bond, Leah Bussey | Composers |
| "Under the Greenwood Tree," "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" | |

Production Staff

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Production Manager | Ellen Peck |
| Box Office Manager | Lora Spivey |
| Costumer Shop Manager | Ellie Boozer |
| Master Carpenter | Erin Rose Pempel |
| Scenic Charge Artist | Addie Zaner |
| Master Electrician | Cheyenne Oliver |
| Wardrobe Head | Maura Simpson |
| Wardrobe Crew | Amelia Dyal, Devin Knight, Ashleigh Webb |
| Stitchers | Leah Bussey, Amelia Dyal, Adrianna Green, Julianna Hastick, El Hataway, Brett Henderson, Kristin Hill, Alex Hosmer, Ashlea Key, Adrian Langston, Derrick Mobley, Kylie Sargent, Maggie Williams |
| Scenic Carpenters | Glenn Bullard, Vonquel Chapman, Martin Collier, Liesl Cristy, Ashton Crenshaw, Alex Hosmer, Quenell James, Kaya Knox, Manuel Lugo, Logan McConico, Mark Meadows, Mars Millwood, Nikki Walker, Ashleigh Webb, Téa Wilson |
| Scenic Artists | El Hataway, Alexis Stanfield, Kylie Sargent, Brayden Turner, Téa Wilson, Stanton Yarboro |
| Electrician | Ashton Crenshaw |
| Assistant Master Electrician | Grayson Singleton |
| First Hand | Maura Simpson, Skylee Vaughn |
| Stagehand | Mars Millwood |
| Fly Operators | Vonquel Chapman, Quenell James |
| Light Board Operator | Ashton Crenshaw |
| Sound Board Operator | Logan McConico |
| Marketing | Laurellei Veasey, Maggie Williams, Stanton Yarboro |



Carolyn
Conover



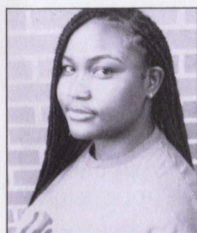
Téa Wilson



Eleanor
Booser



Alexis
Stanfield



Carley Carey



Nikki Walker



Laurellei
Veasey



Stanton
Yarboro



Leah Bussey



Maggie
Williams



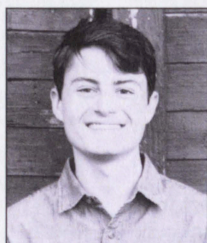
Ashlea Key



Aaliyah Boone



Semajé
Newton



Jack Bond



Justice Fulks

Who's Who in the Cast

CAROLYN CONOVER (Teacher) is Assistant Professor of Performance and Directing at JSU and teaches Acting, Directing, Voice for the Stage, Play Analysis, Improv, and Intro to Theatre. She received her MA in Drama from Indiana State University and her MFA in Acting from Michigan State University. Her book, *The Introverted Actor* (Palgrave, 2020) was nominated for Outstanding Book of the Year by The Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Carolyn is an Intimacy Choreographer, and an Artistic Mental Health Practitioner through the Association of Mental Health Coordinators, a role which focuses on helping actors safely navigate and simulate traumatic content for live theatre.

TÉA WILSON (Student 1 - Orlando) is a junior, here at JSU, majoring in Applied Engineering with a minor in Theatre. She enjoys the theatre program a great deal and has spent many memorable moments on and off the stage. She has participated in other performances such as *The Iliad*, *the Odyssey* and *All Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes Or Less*, director's showcase, scripted studios, and IPA. Now, she is ever so ecstatic to be able to perform some good old-fashioned Shakespeare!

ELLIE BOOZER (Student 2 - Oliver, Sir Oliver Martext) is an Alabama-based actor and costumer and is a proud alumnus of JSU Theatre. Her recent theatrical endeavors include performances with Huntsville Shakespeare such as *Henry V* (Princess Katherine, Fluellen, Williams) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander, Snug, Mote). During her undergrad program at JSU, Ellie had the wonderful opportunity to perform in JSU's productions of *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Emilie du Châtelet) and *The Importance of Being Earnest*

(Miss Prism). Her heartfelt appreciation goes to her exceptional castmates, dedicated crew, and visionary creative team for bringing this beautiful story of love and acceptance to life.

ALEXIS STANFIELD (Student 3 - Adam, Audrey) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre with a Performance concentration and a Psychology minor. This is her first mainstage show at JSU. Alexis was the playback operator for the recent production of *Spring Awakening*. She also played M2 in APO's production of *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*. She absolutely adores this theatre community and wants to thank the cast, crew, and director for this amazing opportunity and learning experience.

CARLEY CAREY (Student 4 - Charles, Corin) is a senior with an Exercise Science and Wellness major with a Theatre and Film minor. She has been in other shows such as *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Madam/Mother/Madam Graffigny) and *Alison's House* (Elsa Stanhope). She has worked in carpentry for shows like *Alison's House* and *The Big Bad Bullysauros*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work. She would also like to thank everyone for coming and seeing the production. Enjoy the show!

NIKKI WALKER (Student 5 - Celia) is a current senior at JSU with a major in Theatre Performance and a minor in History. You may have seen her in JSU's production of *The Big Bad Bullysauros* as Miss Anna and in *Alison's House* as Jennie. Not only does she love being on the stage; but, she also loves working behind it too! Along with performance, Nikki has been working in JSU's scenic workshop and learning how to be a carpenter,

along with learning about design. This past summer she worked as a scenic carpenter for STAGES St. Louis in St. Louis Missouri. She graduates in December and can't wait for what comes next!

LAURELLEI VEASEY (Student 6 - Rosalind) is a senior Theatre Performance major here at JSU and is currently the Alpha Psi Omega President. Her recent credits include the past two One Act Festivals, *Cloudy* (Dan), and *On the Edge* (Sammy) and the APO show, *The Big Bad Bullysauros* (Ryan Rex Jr.) and her last mainstage *The Laramie Project* (Catherine Connolly and others). She also Stage Manages with various companies in the area, most recently *Big Fish* with CAST and *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *all of Greek Mythology*...with JSU. She hopes you enjoy the show!

STANTON YARBORO (Student 7 - Touchstone) is a junior majoring in Theatre Performance and minoring in Communications. She is thrilled to be a part of JSU's production of *As You Like It*! Through her education at JSU, Stanton has been seen in *The Importance of being Earnest*, *Emilie: La Marquise Defends her Life Tonight* and *Spring Awakening*. She worked on scenic painting for *The Iliad*, *The Odessey*, and *All of Greek Mythology*; and assisted with directing *Alison's House*. She is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful community and cannot thank her friends, family, and peers enough. She hopes you enjoy the wonderful roller coaster that is *As You Like It*!

LEAH BUSSEY (Student 8 - Le Beau, Amyens) is thrilled to be back on stage with JSU's Theatre Department. Leah is a senior majoring in Theatre Performance. Previous credits include: Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Harriett in *Boy Gets Girl* with JSU; and Ensemble in *9 to 5*, *Escape to Margaritaville* at Virginia

Samford Theatre. She also has the joy of being a part of The Party Palace of Alabama, creating magic for birthday parties in the Birmingham area. A huge shoutout to her supportive friends and family, and her older brother, Daniel, for teaching her to dream big. Matthew 5:14-16. Enjoy the show!

MAGGIE WILLIAMS (Student 9 - "Usurping" Duke/Phebe) is a senior Theatre Performance major at JSU. As *You Like It* is her third production at JSU. Her previous roles include Adult Woman in *Spring Awakening* and M1 (various roles) in *The Iliad The Odyssey* and *all of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*. She is so grateful to have the chance to act on this stage once more!

ASHLEA KEY (Student 10 - Duke Senior, William) is a junior majoring in Secondary Education with a focus in English and Theatre. She is a member of the Leadership House for Women and an alumni of the Marching Southerners colorguard. This is her first mainstage performance at JSU, having acted previously in off-stage productions such as IPE events and Scripted Studio; most notably, she played Eve in *The Last Daughter*. Ashlea was also a crew member for previous JSU productions, working as a scenic carpenter and stitcher for *Spring Awakening* and *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology*. Ashlea would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her love of the arts and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

AALIYAH BOONE (Student 11 - Silvius) is a junior at Jacksonville State University majoring in Theater Performance with a minor in Business Marketing. This will be her first play with the Jax State Theater Department.

SEMAJÉ NEWTON (Student 12 - Jaques) is a junior at Jacksonville State University majoring in Theatre Performance. She is 20 years old,

and she is excited to be in her first Shakespeare production at JSU! She was also seen in the department's productions of *Alison's House* (Louise) and *Spring Awakening* (Ilse). Semajé has always been passionate about theatre, and she is excited to continue growing in her craft. She also wants to thank the director for giving her this opportunity and the cast for being supportive.

JACK BOND (Student 13 - Hymen) is an 18-year-old freshman majoring in Nursing. He is excited to make his Shakespeare and college debut with this lovely show and lovely cast. He has performed in the theater for eight years prior to this show, including Tom Sawyer in *Tom Sawyer* and as Lumier in *Beauty and the Beast*. He is excited to try a new kind of show and to dive into the world of Shakespeare. He would love to thank the director and this lovely cast for making this experience smooth, fun, and educational!

JUSTICE FULKS (Student 14 - Second Brother) is 21 years old and a sophomore at JSU where she is studying Forensic Science. She loves Shakespeare and is excited to perform tonight, and hopefully more in the future!

ARTISTIC TEAM

DR. MICHAEL BOYNTON (Director/ Fight Choreographer - Associate Professor) holds an MFA from Wayne State University in Acting; an MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts in Musical Theatre Writing; and a PhD from the University of Maryland, College Park in Theatre and Performance Studies. He has worked professionally as an actor with national companies like Crossroads Rep in Terre Haute, Hilberry Rep in Detroit, and the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore. His dramatic writing has been produced nationally and even appeared on Broadway it shows like the musical *Hairspray*. In Alabama, Michael has worked primarily as a director in recent years: past directing credits include *The Tempest*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Into the Woods*, *The Seagull*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Emilie*.

EL HATAWAY (Stage Manager) is a 21-year-old Production Major from Montgomery and is super excited to Stage Manage their first show! They have been involved in the department since Spring of 2022. Previous credits include co-sound designing *Alison's House* (Fall '22), and Assistant Stage Managing for both *Spring Awakening* and Alpha Psi Omega's production of *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology* (Spring '23). Over the summer they had the opportunity to work at Tuacahn Center for the Arts in Ivins, UT and is excited for their next opportunities!

STEPHANIE POLHEMUS (Scenic Designer) Atlanta Lyric: *Guys and Dolls*, *Drowsy Chaperone*, *War Paint*, GET: *Bright Star*, *Leading Ladies*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, 9 to 5, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *My Fair Lady*, *Almost Heaven*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Ring of Fire*, *Tokens of Affection*, Theatrical Outfit: *Safety Net*. Kennesaw

State University: *Reefer Madness* (upcoming), *Spitfire Grill*, *Water by the Spoonful*. BA: University of West Georgia, MFA: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently Manager of Production at the Georgia Aquarium. www.stephaniepolhemusdesign.com

ADDIE ZANER (Associate Scenic Designer) is a senior Theatre Production Major at JSU. This is her first show as Associate Scenic Designer, Addie previously was Assistant Scenic Designer for *Spring Awakening* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Additional credits at JSU include directing *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*, and Stage Manager for *Alison's House* and *The Big Bad Bullysauros!* Addie is also an understudy educator and previously treasurer for our theatre honor society Alpha Psi Omega. Addie is so excited to share this hilarious and beautiful show with everyone who comes to watch and is grateful to have this opportunity for her last show as a student here at JSU. Addie would like to thank her parents, grandparents, and fiancé for being an amazing support system through this beautiful process!

ASHLEE CHEYENNE OLIVER (Lighting Designer) is ecstatic to be Light Designing again for JSU where he obtained a BA in Theatre: Production. He is a PSM based in Oxford, AL. He has worked in theaters all over the country and toured with many Broadway National tours with Production Management and as a Head Carp. Cheyenne is also a Lighting Designer, Director, Performer, and a member of IATSE. He enjoys teaching and leads workshops to local High School kids to teach the younger generation of new artists about theatre.

RANDY BLADES (Costume Designer - Professor of Costume Design and Technology) has built costumes for theatres around the country including the Atlanta Opera, the Alliance Theatre,

and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. His designs have appeared at Penn State, Auburn University-Montgomery, and the Maples Repertory Theatre. His recent costume design of *The Normal Heart* appeared at the St. Louis Fringe festival, The Fort Lauderdale Fringe Festival, and The Hollins Playwright's Lab. Costume Designs at JSU include *An Enemy of the People*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Into the Woods*, and *Antigone*. Randy has an MFA from Penn State in Costume Design, and a BA from Jacksonville State in Drama.

SKYLEE VAUGHN (Associate Costume Designer) is a junior with a Theater Production major here at JSU. This is her first show as an Associate Costume Designer. She previously worked as a costume properties artisan for *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*, stitcher for *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as well as a carpenter on *The Big Bad Bullysauros* and *Allison's House*. Skylee is also the Event Coordinator and LGBT Representative for Alpha Psi Omega. Skylee is very grateful to both the department and Randy Blades for giving her the opportunity to work on this amazing show. She would also like to thank her family, friends, and boyfriend for sticking by her side.

DAN TIBBITTS (Sound Designer) is a senior at JSU majoring in Digital Media and minoring in Theatre. In the Spring of 2021, Dan played the part of Hermia/Snout in JSU's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He hopes to graduate in December!

PRODUCTION STAFF

DR. ELLEN PECK (Production Manager - Professor) is a Professor of Theatre and Film at Jacksonville State University, where she teaches theatre history, dramatic literature, musical theatre history, and stage management. As a historian, she specializes in musical theatre with an emphasis on the early twentieth century. Her book *Sweet Mystery: The Musical Works of Rida Johnson Young* is now available from Oxford University Press. She has presented at several national theatre conferences and published articles in *Studies in Musical Theatre* and *Contemporary Theatre Review*. Ellen has also worked as a freelance Stage Manager for several theatres and opera companies around the country, including Michigan Opera Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Spoleto Festival USA, and Utah Opera. She has been a member of Actors Equity Association (AEA) since 2000. Ellen received her BA in Theatre from Oakland University, and MA and PhD in Theatre History from the University of Illinois.

JOHN DAVIS (Technical Director) is an Alabama native, born in Birmingham. He attended Troy University where he studied technical theatre before graduating from Auburn University at Montgomery with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. He completed his Master of Fine Arts in Technical Production at Florida State University.

JD has experience in technical direction, management, and carpentry with Utah Shakespeare Festival and The Lost Colony, as well as numerous production credits through union and other private contracts across the Southeast. He is grateful every day for the support of his wonderful wife and the exercise he gets from his four feisty working dogs.

ELLIE BOOZER (Costume Shop Manager) is an Alabama-based actor and costumer and is a proud alumnus of JSU Theatre. Her recent theatrical endeavors include performances with Huntsville Shakespeare such as *Henry V* (Princess Katherine, Fluellen, Williams) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander, Snug, Mote). During her undergrad program, Ellie had the wonderful opportunity to perform in JSU's productions of *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Emilie du Châtelet) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Miss Prism). Her heartfelt appreciation goes to her exceptional castmates, dedicated crew, and visionary creative team for bringing this beautiful story of love and acceptance to life.

Dramaturg's Note:

As You Like It is Shakespeare's most explicit dramatization of the metaphor that shaped his vision of humanity: "All the world's a stage." It was in *The Taming of the Shrew*, however, that he first experimented with a metatheatrical frame, opening that play with characters who play its audience. How appropriate, then, that our director, Michael Boynton, uses that play's final, climactic monologue to create a metatheatrical frame for our production of *As You Like It*.

Our production opens with a cruel and obtuse teacher who uses that monologue as a cudgel to subjugate her high school girls. Women, she tells them, "are bound to serve, love, and obey." The girls, though, through their sparkling and innovative performance of *As You Like It*, neither serve nor obey, but they do love, only not in conventional ways.

Gradually, in fact, they show that they know their Shakespeare better than their teacher does. Their bookishness, or nerdiness, is profoundly in keeping with another metaphor that this play explores: the world as book. Orlando hangs comically bad love poems to Rosalind on trees; Duke Senior, in his pastoral exile, sees "tongues in trees" and "books in running brooks"; and a comical Sir Oliver Martext, whose name is highly significant, threatens to join a couple in marriage badly, like an inept carpenter joins green wood.

By exercising their intelligence, the women improve a society marred by men. And Boynton's brilliant, thoroughly Shakespearean framing device makes this a play for our time.

Carmine Di Biase

Director's Note:

The heart of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, which I see as a "pastoral rom com," is a classic breeches role: the brilliant Rosalind, a woman who deftly passes for a man. Gender play defined this character from the start, perhaps more so since female roles were played then by boys.

Rosalind is one of Shakespeare's strongest female characters. Her high intelligence and her idyllic relationship with her cousin Celia contrasts with the strained relationships between Orlando and his older brother Oliver, and between Duke Senior and his younger brother, who usurps the dukedom from him. From the abusive court, the setting shifts to the bucolic Forest of Arden, a refuge for both the good characters and the cruel, where all of the characters rediscover their innate goodness.

The play's gender fluidity, which empowers the play's women, inspired my highly conceptual adaptation of *As You Like It*. With the help of my amazing dramaturg Carmine Di Biase, I culled passages from other Shakespearean works and created a postmodern, metatheatrical frame, set in a high school Health and Sex Ed class for girls. In this way, Shakespeare's original themes celebrate our own queer and trans and non-binary youth, who question the rules that would falsify their identity.

If, as one character says, we will "patiently receive" their "medicine," our young students will teach us what is their truth, even as they perform a theatrical masterpiece that is as fun and playful and beautiful as Shakespeare intended it to be.

Michael Boynton

Up Next!



JSU's Department of Theatre and Film will sponsor the 3rd Annual Student Film Festival on Saturday, March 2, 2024 in the Stone Center Theatre. The Film Festival is focused on the work of re-gional college and high school filmmakers.

Filmmakers selected for entry will also be invited to special work-shops and events to be held on the campus of Jacksonville State University in conjunction with the film festival.

All entries are free.

Entry Deadline: December 9, 2023

Notification Date: February 19, 2024

April 5th—8th
ERNEST STONE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NOISES OFF

a comic Farce by
MICHAEL FRAYN

Directed by CAROLYN CONOVER

April 5, 6, and 8 @ 7:30, April 7 @ 2:30
For Information about the show including how to purchase tickets, use the QR code or go to:
<https://our.show/jsudrama/noises-off>
Tickets are \$12 online or \$14.00 at the box office

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A square QR code located in the bottom right corner of the poster, used for purchasing tickets.