



CalPolyPomona

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October 21-30, 2022

University Theatre Building 25



AS YOU LIKE IT

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Melissa Chalsma

Featuring

Stephanie Alvarado, Julian Carrasco, Justin Manuel Castro,
Flora Shuangyun Chen, Aaron Courseault, David Herмосillo,
Natalie Lambert, Dre Lopez, Isaac Medina, Daisy Posadas, Rain,
Olivia Riddle, Ethan Serrano, Sadaf Sharif, Leilani Scott Young

Composer

David Melville

Fight Choreographer

Michael Kachingwe

Scenic Designer

Sophia Gonzales

Costume Designer

Katelyn Lopez

Lighting Designer

Janelle Asti

Sound Designer

Trevor Campbell

Stage Manager

Julia Hibner

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As You Like It is one of my favorite plays. It's full of vibrant and distinct characters. It's a play of dichotomies: touching love scenes side by side with raucous fights, philosophical discourses on the nature of melancholy butting up against slapstick physical comedy. All of it contained in an elegant plot that intersects numerous storylines into one delicious whole.

The main thread of the story is the journey of two cousins, Celia and Rosalind, that are the best of friends. Celia is the daughter of the current Duchess, Frederica. As the play opens, Frederica has stolen the crown from her sister, and banished the former Duchess to the forest of Arden. Rosalind (the banished Duchess's daughter) has remained in the city, detained there by Frederica to be Celia's companion.

In another part of the city, there are two brothers embroiled in a similar dynamic. Oliver is the unkind and angry older brother who has stolen his younger brother, Orlando's, inheritance. In despair over this, Orlando decides to enter into a wrestling match that could very well end in his death.

And so Rosalind, Celia, Duchess Frederica, and Orlando all end up at the wrestling match, where Rosalind and Orlando fall instantly in love. However, Duchess Frederica becomes enraged and banishes Rosalind. Celia, in turn, swears she will never leave Rosalind's side. The two cousins decide to escape to the Forest of Arden to seek Rosalind's banished mother. They go in disguise, with Rosalind dressed as a young man. Upon arrival, they find the forest more welcoming than anticipated, more full of sweet possibility. Celia, looking about their new home, remarks, "I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it."

Meanwhile, Orlando's elder brother, Oliver, is furious his brother has survived the wrestlers, and plots to kill Orlando by setting fire to his home while he is asleep. Warned by a trusty friend, Orlando determines to run away from the city. And thus, they all end up in the forest of Arden. There the city dwellers must learn to live side by side with the country folk, and the two communities go on to form unexpected bonds of friendship and love.

Early in this rehearsal process, the actors, stage management team, and I engaged in a lively discussion about the broader themes of *As You Like It*. Reflecting on the nature of what happens when people from different backgrounds come together, we realized *As You Like It* is in some ways about how community forms. Are the bonds of love stronger than fear? How do disparate people find points of connection? Further, we

reflected on the ways the play expresses the tension between artifice and authenticity: how is it that we become our true selves?

Of course, that we are creating this production in a college setting is part of the unique story of our play. It’s an honor for me to work with so many talented, young theater artists (actors, stage managers, and designers) as they embark on their own journeys of self-discovery. For what is college but a time to explore how to build a community while still honoring our unique selves? The fact that for many of us this was the first in-person theater experience since the start of the pandemic made the experience all the sweeter. Often, arriving at the theater for rehearsal, I would remark to myself, as Celia does, “I like this place, and willingly could waste my time it.” Thank you for being here to experience Arden with us. We hope you like this place, too!

-Melissa Chalsma, Director

CAST

Rosalind	Sadaf Sharif
Celia	Rain
Touchstone	Dre Lopez
Orlando	David Hermosillo
Oliver	Ethan Serrano
Dennis / Mar-text	Aaron Courseault
Corin / Wrestler #1 / Hymen	Stephanie Alvarado
Amiens / Wrestler #2	Daisy Posadas
Duchess Frederica / Senior	Olivia Riddle
First Lord / Second Lord	Justin Manuel Castro
Madame Le Beau / Audrey	Flora Shuangyun Chen
Jacques	Leilani Scott Young
Phebe / Wrestler #3	Natalie Lambert
William	Isaac Medina
Silvius	Julian Carrasco

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Brian S. Newman
Director of Theatre Facilities	Jonathan Bastow
Technical Director	Kenneth Blenc
Associate Scenic Designer	Paige Elwell
Assistant Costume Designer	Justyn Lozano
Assistant Lighting Designer/Programmer/Board Op	Joe Loats
Assistant Stage Manager	Elisa-Belle Tremblay
Assistant Stage Manager	Myles Cox
Properties Leads	Manami Kurakake
.....	Bernice Lopez
Scenic Artists	Hailey Hill, Leslie Parada
Audio Programmer/Board Op	Astrid “Vicky” Avilla
Wardrobe Crew	Luke Teerling, Sara Torres, Sarah Varela
Scene Shop Crew	Anthony Arzate, Noemy Clara,
.....	Leslie Parada, Daniel Marcozzi, Beasley Nang,
.....	Gaven Samano-Tovar, Elisa-Belle Tremblay,
.....	Rosy Sarabia, David Valdez
Costume Shop Crew	Destiny Aviña, Adrien Gibson
.....	Katelyn Lopez, Justyn Lozano, Chelsea Sykes
.....	Serena Gonzalez, Katelyn Lopez
Electrics Crew	Flora Chen, Myles Cox, Joe Loats
.....	Justin Ni, Luke Teerling, Sara Torres
House Manager	Vivian Aguilar
Box Office	Mary Kapella



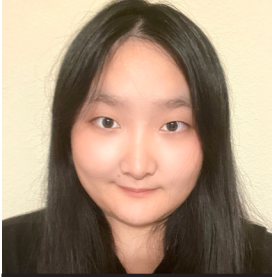
Stephanie Alvardo



Julian Carrasco



Justin Manuel Castro



Flora Shuangyun Chen



Aaron Couseault



David Hermosillo



Natalie Lambert



Isaac Medina



Daisy Posadas



Rain



Olivia Riddle



Sadaf Sharif



Leilani Scott Young

CAST

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Stephanie Alvarado (Corin / Wrestler #1 / Hymen) is a current student training in acting at the Department of Theatre and New Dance at Cal Poly Pomona. They've been apart of *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* as Jenny/Chorus. They are excited to perform in their first Shakespeare show and would like to thank their friends, cast, and crew for all their love and support!!

Janelle Asti (Lighting Designer) is excited to be working on her first production back at CPP in a very long time. Currently she is the Head of Lighting, Sound, and Projection for the Department of Theatre and Dance at Pomona College. She decided during the pandemic to go back and finish her degree in Lighting Design, and here we are now! Her recent works include *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Pomona College and *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* here at Cal Poly. Janelle would like to thank Jesse, Sarah, Brian, and Melissa for working around her crazy full time work schedule, Joe for being the best ALD EVER, and her amazing boyfriend John for his love and support and checking of paperwork!

Paige Elwell (Associate Scenic Designer) is a multimedia artist who's had the pleasure of dabbling in theatre, film, and puppetry. They enjoy daydreaming of funky new worlds and drinking excessive amounts of coffee. Her work can be found at paigeelwell.com.

Trevor Campbell (Sound Designer) is a fifth year Theatrical Production and Design Major. This is his fifth production with the Theater Department and second as a sound designer. In the Future he plans to expand his repertoire of design philosophies by exploring new roles in the department.

Julian Carrasco (Silvius) is a recent graduate of Cal Poly Pomona with a B.A. in Theatre. During his undergraduate career, he has performed in 10 shows. Recently, he played various roles in this school's production of Anna Deavere Smith's, *Let Me Down Easy*. He hopes everyone will enjoy this Shakespeare comedy, and leave with a different understanding of love.

Justin Manuel Castro (First Lord / Second Lord) is a junior transfer, performing in his first show. He is an acting emphasis and hopes to follow his dreams and entertain the world on the big screen. He wants to thank the cast and crew for making his

first production at Cal Poly one to remember and his family and partner Nate for supporting him throughout his journey.

Sophia Gonzalez (Scenic Designer) is thrilled to be returning to design at Cal Poly Pomona as an alumni of the 2020 graduating class. She is an actress and designer who's previous acting credits include the role of Carmelita in the west coast premiere of *The Hall of Final Ruin* at Ophelia's Jump. You can currently find her acting in the immersive theatre production *Delusion: Valley of the Hollows* in the historic Phillips mansion in Pomona.

David Hermosillo (Orlando) is a Cal Poly Alumni who has been featured in previous Cal Poly productions such as: *Let Me Down Easy*, *Polaroid Stories*, *Zorro X2*, and *References to Salvador Dalí*. He is excited to return to the Cal Poly stage alongside his old peers and friends in this wonderful production of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. David thanks his director Melissa Chalsma for the encouragement and endless help throughout this process, he thanks his wonderful family for their love and support and finally all his friends who he loves dearly. David dedicates all his performances to his cousin Victor Basurto Sandoval, an artist in his lifetime, who inspires him to continue to do what he loves. Thank you, and enjoy the show!

Julia Hibner (Stage Manager) is a Senior at Cal Poly Pomona with a General Theatre Major. She is honored and grateful for the opportunity to Stage Manage *As You Like It*. Her past experiences include being Stage Manager for *The Nether*, *The Revolutionists*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, and Production Assistant for Southern California Shakespeare Festival's film of *King Lear*. She would like to dedicate this show to her mother, Nicole, and her brother, Ryan. She wants to thank the Director Melissa Chalsma, the resilient Assistant Stage Manager, our Theatre Faculty, and the lovely Cast for their incredible work and endless support. We are looking forward to sharing the story with you. Thank you!

Natalie Lambert (Phebe / Wrestler #3) is so incredibly grateful to be part of this production of *As You Like It*. Though initially daunted by Shakespeare, she fell in love with the language and musicality of the bard this semester. Natalie is an actress by day, aspiring playwright by night (you could find her vigorously typing on a laptop late into the night, sitting with remarkable poor posture, soaking in the blue light). She is currently working on her graduate school applications, and hopes to attend a playwriting program next year. Things that Natalie cares about include arts accessibility, community engagement, diversity and equity, environmental justice, and the distinct melancholy twang of the 2000s pop-punk era. Natalie wants to thank the absolutely wonderful theatre faculty at Cal Poly.

She would also like to forward this gratitude towards her director Melissa Chalsma, who has been generous with her wisdom, kindness, and grace through our rehearsal process. Natalie is grateful for her dedicated cast mates, management team, designer team, and crew who made this show possible. Finally, she wants to thank her family and boyfriend, who have supported her immensely in her time studying theatre.

Katelyn Lopez (she/her/hers) is a Costume Designer, currently earning a BA in Theatre Design/Technology at Cal Poly Pomona. Her work includes costume designs for *The Thanksgiving Play* at Cal Poly Pomona and costume assistant for *Detained* at the Fountain Theatre. She hopes to attend the Yale - David Geffen School of Drama to pursue an MFA in Costume Design.

Isaac Medina (William) is a Cal Poly student who has been in another show called *The Nether*. He is excited to be in *As You Like It* and many more shows. Isaac is an actor who wants to do as many shows as I can.

Daisy Posadas (Amiens / Wrestler #2) is a Liberal Studies and Theatre with an Acting Emphasis double major at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Some of her favorite past credits include *Mr. Burns: a Post-Electric Play* (Bart Simpson), *ROE* (Connie), *Men On Boats* (Old Shady), and *In the Heights* (u/s Nina, ensemble). She had the wonderful opportunity to train at The Lir National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin this past summer. She is thrilled to be back and working with the Department of Theatre and New Dance on her first Shakespeare production. She would like to thank the lovely cast, crew, and educators who have worked hard to bring this show to life as well as her family and friends for their endless support and for coming out to spend a night in The Forest of Arden!

Rain (Celia) is extremely grateful to be a part of this show. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and audiences members for being apart of this production. You can follow her @themrainydays on Instagram.

Olivia Riddle (Duchess Frederica / Senior) is absolutely ecstatic to be returning to the stage! Prior to the pandemic, her favorite stage roles included Kristine Linde in *A Doll's House* and Juliet Capulet in *Blood On Thy Hands*. On top of those roles, she has done productions with TADW, YMT, and Canyon Theatre Guild. She has also been an assistant director, and Production Manager for Menagerie Theatre Works in Los Angeles. Prior to returning to her education at CPP, she worked as a theatre educator for middle school children. Olivia would like to thank her wonderful fiancé Ryan, her cat, and her family for their support in her academic goals. No pare, sigue, sigue.

Sadaf Sharif (Rosalind) is a fourth year at Cal Poly Pomona and is ecstatic to be back on stage, performing in front of a live audience. Her previous credits include *The Revolutionists* (Olympe De Gouges), *Fefu and Her Friends* (Christina), and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Elaine). She would like to thank her family, friends, and educators at Cal Poly Pomona for continuously providing her with love, encouragement, and room to grow as an artist. She hopes you enjoy the show, just as you like it!

Elisa-Belle Tremblay (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Second-Year at Cal Poly Pomona. This will be her third production as Assistant Stage Manager, with previous shows including *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play* and *Thanksgiving Play*. She hopes to Stage Manage in the future at Cal Poly and professionally for residencies, theatre, and live events. She hopes everyone enjoys the show and design elements as much as she does! She would like to thank Brian for giving her the opportunity and Julia for being a wonderful Stage Manager!

Leilani Scott Young (Jacques) is a 5th year Civil Engineering major and Theater minor. She currently works at WestLAND Group as their survey mapping intern in Ontario. When she isn't taking care of her residents at the village, she is singing, dancing or acting to maintain balance in her world of STEM. She has been ensemble in many musicals such as *In the Heights* and *Legally Blonde* and had her first lead roles in *The Revolutionists* as Marianne Angelle and in *Sweet Charity* as Charity. She is very excited to help tell the story of Melancholy Jacques and hope to make her mentors proud! Enjoy the show!

WELCOME TO THE CAL POLY POMONA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

About Us: Cal Poly Pomona's Department of Theatre and New Dance awards undergraduate degrees in theatre, emphasizing theatrical production and the "doing" of theatre. At the same time, the Department offers courses in all aspects of theatre, both artistic and academic. After completing the theatre major at Cal Poly Pomona, students are prepared to begin their careers or specialized training in professional theatre, television or film; to go for advanced training in graduate schools; or to go into teaching in high schools. We are proud to boast alumnus in numerous professional positions throughout the entertainment industry.

Our Mission: The Department of Theatre and New Dance provides opportunities within a diverse and inclusive environment to explore and develop meaningful, innovative ideas that engage the interdependence of process and creation. Students develop critical thinking and disciplinary excellence through experiential learning, collaboration and interdisciplinary practices to prepare them to be current and relevant artists. Students work within established and experimental processes utilizing trends in new technologies, community and contemporary performance practices.

We thank you for your attendance during this production, and we especially wish to thank the following for their support of the arts here at Cal Poly Pomona:

- Dr. Soraya M. Coley – President of Cal Poly Pomona
- Dr. Jennifer L. Brown – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Iris Levine – Special Assistant to President
- Dr. David Horner – Interim Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
- The Cal Poly Pomona Foundation for its continuous support of our department

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at Cal Poly Pomona respectfully acknowledge the original caretakers of this land, the Tongva peoples, and all of their ancestors, elders, and descendants, past, present and emerging. We also recognize this land known as Los Angeles County today is also home to many Indigenous peoples from all over, and we are grateful for the opportunity to live and work here as guests on these lands, the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva.

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & NEW DANCE

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Bernardo Solano - Professor, Department Chair
Linda Bisesti-Reidy - Professor, Head of Acting
C. Julian White - Professor, Movement and Acting
Sarah Krainin - Assistant Professor, Head of Design
Jesse Portillo - Assistant Professor
Brian S. Newman - Assistant Professor
Joshua Truett - Assistant Professor

Adjunct Lecturers, Theatre

Lily Bartenstein • Tom Bryant • Colin Campbell • Melissa Chalsma
Doug Cooney • Jill Holden • Michael Kachingwe • Nancy Kyes
Paulo Lima • Tashara Moorehead-Gavin • Paula Weston Solano
Dylan Southard • John Sylvain • Diana Wyenn

Adjunct Lecturers, Dance

Suchi Branfman • Kim Gadlin
Zachary Groenewold • Jeremy Hahn • Manny Macias

Scene Shop

Kenneth Blenc - Technical Director
Jonathan Bastow - Director of Theatre Facilities

Theatre Staff

Marie Maslowski - Department Administrative Coordinator
Chelsea Sutton - Publicist