



# As You Like It

## CHARACTER & PLOT GUIDE

Free Shakespeare in Deering Oaks Park: Portland's Favorite Summer Tradition!

### THE SETTING

Welcome to the court. Duke Frederick has seized power, banished his sister Duke Senior to the Forest of Arden, and won't hesitate to banish anyone else who displeases him. Watch your back.

### QUICK PLOT SUMMARY: SPOILERS!

- Rosalind is banished from court by her tyrannical uncle, Duke Frederick, and flees to the Forest of Arden with her cousin Celia and court fool Touchstone.
- There, disguised as a young man named Ganymede, Rosalind encounters Orlando, whom she has fallen for. Orlando, also in the forest to escape his brother Oliver's plots, begins to woo Rosalind (as Ganymede).
- Rosalind encounters the lovesick shepherd Silvius who is wooing Phoebe and a love triangle forms.
- The play explores themes of love and jealousy, gender exploration and identity, and the structures of society vs the freedoms of nature.

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*Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 non-profit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier theatre in the Portland, ME community since 2008.*

*We would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the occupied and unceded territory of the Wabanaki.*



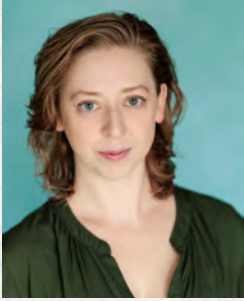
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Thank you for supporting  
this 17-year tradition and  
local Maine artists.



WELCOME!

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE



## **Welcome to *As You Like It* in Deering Oaks Park.**

In many ways, *As You Like It* is a play about transformation—of place, identity, and power. The characters flee a court ruled by tyranny and fear, and in the forest, they find the space to imagine new ways of being. Shakespeare dares us to question societal constraints and gender expectations, and invites us to envision a world where we can show up as our fullest, truest selves—and be met with joy and acceptance.

We've filled this story with the familiar sounds of pop music from the 1960s through the 2010s—not only to make this 400-year-old play feel more immediate and accessible, but to remind us that comfort, connection, and self-discovery echo across decades and generations.

In uncertain times, we need stories like this. Stories that celebrate love in all its forms—and the power of communities rooted in care, not fear. When we come together with empathy, we plant seeds of a more wonderful world.

Thank you for spending your summer evening with us. You belong here: among the wildflowers, loved for exactly who you are. Truly, madly, deeply.

– **KAT MORAROS** (she/they), Director and Fenix Associate Artistic Director

*My deepest thanks and appreciation to Paul, Grace, Shane, and this phenomenally talented cast and crew for bringing their whole selves to this production. It has been an honor to build this story together.*

## ABOUT FENIX THEATRE COMPANY

**Fenix Theatre Company is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. We've been producing dynamic, inclusive, low barrier professional theatre in Portland, ME since 2008, highlighting the talent of local Maine artists. Fenix is run by a volunteer board of directors and productions are sustained by donations.**

Thank you for joining us! Please consider supporting Fenix by:

- Donating (free theater is NOT free to produce!)
- Following us on social media (@fenixtheatre)
- Telling others about the show – word of mouth is our best advertising!

### **Volunteer Board:**

Peter Brown, Artistic Director; Kat Moraros, Associate Artistic Director & Digital Marketing; Benjamin Row, Fundraising; Shane Van Vliet, Production Coordination; Zack Handlen, Tiki Fuhro, and Katelyn Manfre, Grant Writing and more.





# AS YOU LIKE IT CAST BIOS



## **SAMUEL CUTLER (he/him) as Duke Frederick's "Yes Man"/Amiens/Audrey & Musician**

Sam is a musician, songwriter and actor who is thrilled to be returning to the stage for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Previous Shakespeare credits include Prospero and Caliban in *The Tempest* and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* at Playwrights Horizons Theatre Studio. Film and TV credits include Dorian in *An Actor Prepares*, Sebastian in *Irrefutable Proof*, and Himself in the documentary *Better to Live*. Endless love and thanks to the encouragement and support from his friends, his family, and his beautiful Mia.



## **PAUL FIDALGO (he/they) as Duke Frederick/Jaques & Musician**

In an age long past, when the world was young, Paul spent a decade as a professional stage actor and musician, including five years in repertory with the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia, where they also served as music director and composer for several productions. Paul last performed with Fenix as Boyet, Holofernes, and Longaville in *Love's Labor's Lost*, for which they wrote two original songs, and as Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night*. They also recently played Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*, and Eric in *The Humans* at Schoolhouse Arts, and directed nine productions for the UNE Players. Paul holds a master's degree in political management from George Washington University, and is the proud and exhausted father of two incredibly dangerous and amazing offspring. Find more of Paul's music at [youtube.com/paulfidalgo](https://youtube.com/paulfidalgo).



## **J. WILL FRITZ (he/him) as Touchstone**

Fritz is so thrilled to be in his first production with Fenix Theatre. After moving to the Portland area from Kansas City last summer, you may have caught him as Cuddy Banks in *Witch* at Mad Horse Theatre Company or as Lurvy in *Charlotte's Web* with Royal River Players. Other favorite roles of his include Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Barry Glickman in *The Prom*, Charles Wilcox in *The Inheritance Parts I & II*, Oliver River in *Puffs*, Peter Rabbit in *Peter Rabbit* and many more. He would like to thank his partner, Bo for his unwavering support and love. Enjoy the show!



# AS YOU LIKE IT CAST BIOS



## **BECCA GRACEY (she/her) as Adam/Phoebe & Musician**

Becca Gracey moved to Maine last summer and is delighted to perform at Fenix. Most recently she played The White Witch in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* at Portland Players. Past credits include Elizabeth Bennet (*Pride & Prejudice*), Olympia (*Big Love*), Calpurnia (*Julius Caesar*). Film/TV: *Little Women*, *Billions*, *Modern Love*. Training: BS in Theater from Skidmore College, Summer Training Intensive at Shakespeare & Company.



## **JONAS MAINES (he/him) as Charles the Wrestler/Duke Senior Follower/Silvius & Musician**

Jonas Maines returns to the park for his second Fenix show. He appeared previously as Don Adriano de Armado/Dumaine in last summer's production of *Love's Labor's Lost*, and has since performed as Clarke in Waterville Opera House's Winter production of *The Cottage* and as Matthew in Kate Fodor's *100 Saints You Should Know*, in special arrangement with the University of Maine at Farmington. Jonas is based in Augusta, and in his spare time enjoys Dungeons & Dragons, and convincing other people to re-watch *The Lord of the Rings* (this is your reminder to re-watch *The Lord of the Rings*).

Jonas would like to thank his enchanting partner Sarah for her support, and the exceedingly talented artists who lent their passion and skill to this production (This is your second reminder to re-watch *The Lord of the Rings*).



## **LUKE MYERS (he/him) as Oliver/Duke Senior Follower & Musician**

Luke is delighted to return to the park this summer, last seen as Berowne in Fenix's *Love's Labor's Lost*. Recent Maine credits include *Mr. Burns*, *A Post-Electric Play* at Penobscot Theatre Company, and a preview of his upcoming interactive shadow puppet play *A Cry for Kelp* at Mayo Street Arts's annual puppet slam. California credits include PCPA Pacific Conservatory Theatre, SLO Rep, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Playhouse, Shotgun Players, Poltergeist Theatre, and Capital Stage; Minnesota credits include Full Circle Theatre and Open Eye Figure Theatre. Luke produces biennially with the global initiative "Climate Change Theatre Action". Training: UMN/Guthrie BFA, PCPA Conservatory. [www.lkmyers.com](http://www.lkmyers.com)



# AS YOU LIKE IT CAST BIOS



## **PROPHETT (he/they) as Orlando**

Prophett is so grateful to be a part of Fenix for the first time! He has recently been seen on stage and off all around Maine! Recent credits include *Pete the Cat*, *Corduroy*, and *Knuffle Bunny* (Maddy's Theatre), *Into The Woods* (Sound Engineer, Portland Players), *Every Brilliant Thing* (Props Designer, The Public Theatre, Lewiston ME), and on screen in *Clandestine* and *Astral Airways* (Resurgam Productions). Prophett is so thrilled to share this tale with you all, one that is so close to the stories we are all living today. Proph would like to thank everyone who helped make this production what it has become. Much love goes out to his mom, dad, sibling MK, and grandparents for supporting his love for theatre his entire life.



## **AUDRA REED (she/her) as Duke Senior/Corin & Musician**

Audra studied and pursued acting in NYC and London and taught drama to kids in Bronx public schools before pivoting her focus to practice psychotherapy as an LCPC and parent. In getting back to the stage after a way-too-long hiatus, Audra is overjoyed to make her Fenix and Portland stage debut in the park this summer! This production aligns with Audra's passions: Shakespeare, nature, music, collective community building and exploring and expressing authentic identity. It has been such a gift to develop *As You Like It* with so many talented and wholehearted individuals and I am so excited to share it with our audiences! In addition to theatre, Audra is devoted to her kids, pets, homesteading, creative and DIY projects, adventuring near and far and nurturing relationships with friends and family. This show is dedicated to my mom, who celebrates every version of me with unwavering love and acceptance.



## **HOPE RIORDAN (they/them/theirs) as Rosalind**

Hope Riordan is a nonbinary creative based in Portland, Maine. Hope has been a Shakespeare nerd since they were in middle school; forcing their friends to perform murder scenes from *Richard III* (100% true), and memorizing monologues from *Twelfth Night* before they went to bed. Hope strives to make their 5th grade self proud and is honored to be able to tell this loudly queer story this year in particular. Some of their favorite projects to work on include Mad Horse Theater Company's *Women Laughing Alone with Salad* and *Tumacho*, as well as Portland Theater Festival's *Wolf Play*. They are grateful to be continually accepted into Portland's theater community of hardworking, collaborative, and kind humans.





# AS YOU LIKE IT CAST BIOS

**SARABELL WRIGLEY (she/her) as Celia**

Previous credits include: *Love's Labour's Lost*

(Katherine/Jacquenetta), *At The Table* (Sophie), *I Love You Because* (Diana), *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *South Pacific* (Liat), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Meg), *Taming of the Shrew* (Tranio), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Titania), *Macbeth* (Duncan).

Costume Design and Construction: *A Doll's House Part 2* (Berkshire Theatre Award Nominee), *Angels in the Park*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Exit the King*, *Riverdance*, *The Unlucky Cabin Boy*. Film/TV Costume: *Mandalorian Season 2*, *Greyhound*, *Top Gun: Maverick*.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Director:** Kat Moraros

**Music Director:** Paul Fidalgo

**Stage Manager:** Grace Kellar-Long

**Production Manager:** Shane Van Vliet

**Props Designer:** Shane Van Vliet

**Sound Designer:** Chris Fitze

**Costume Designer:** Kristina Skillin

**Fight Choreographer:** Sally Wood

**Fight Captain:** Samuel Cutler

**Intimacy Coordinator:** Hollie Pryor

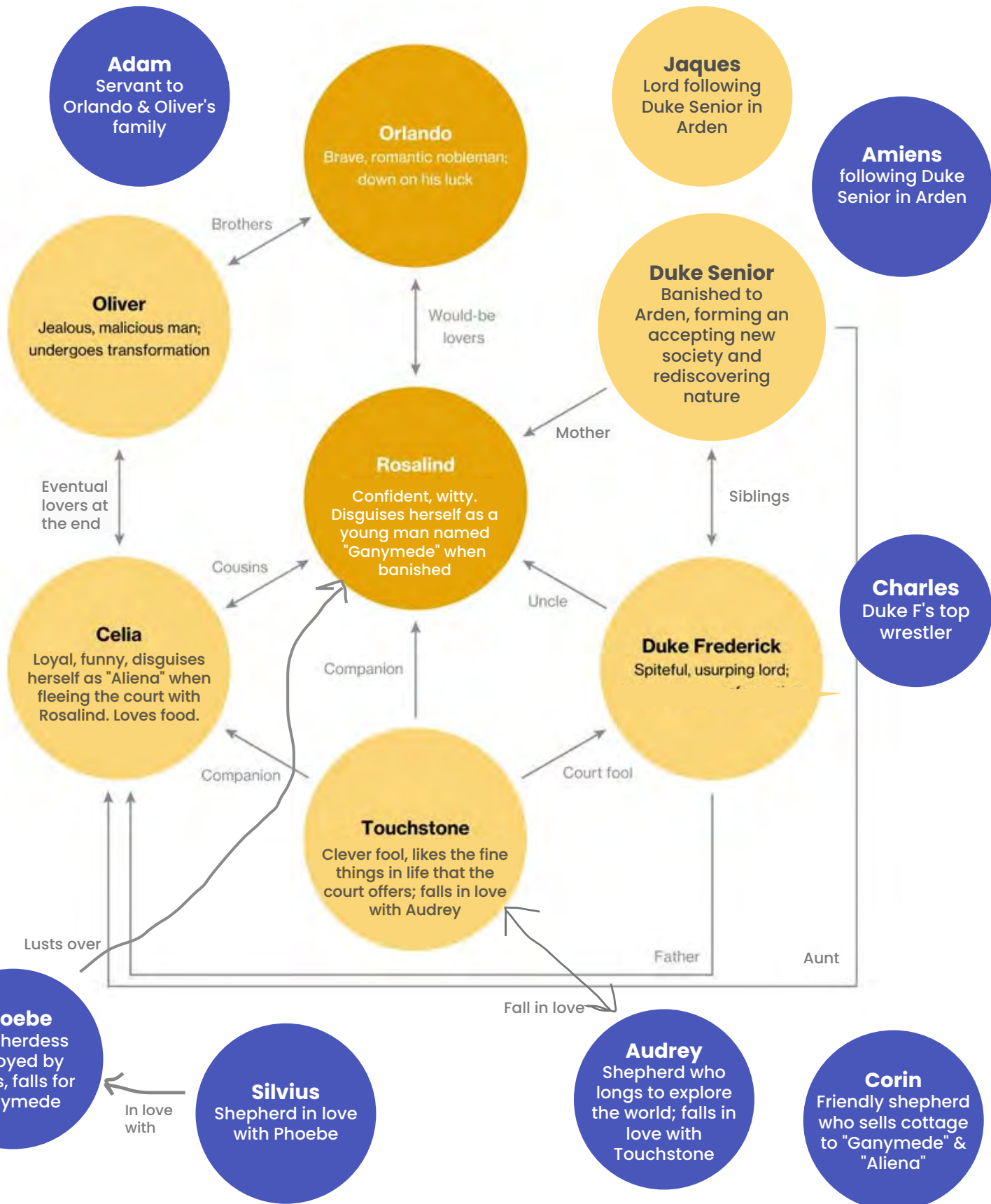
**House Manager:** Sara Schuldt

**Understudies:** Connor Hall, Kat Moraros

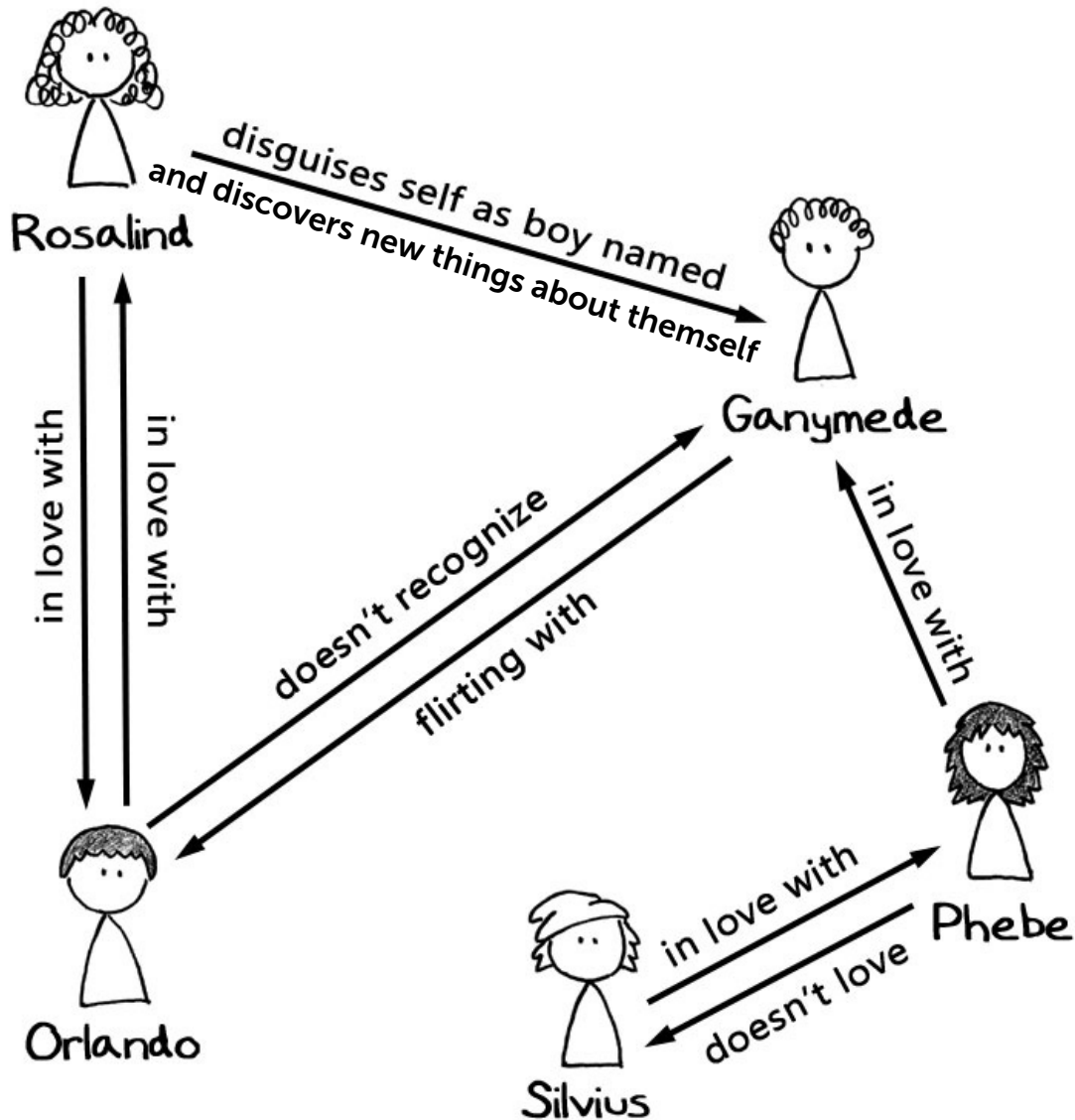
## SPECIAL THANKS

Temple Beth El, Nathan Speckman, Katelyn Manfre, Portland Parks Department, Meg Lydon, Moraros Family, Michael Dix Thomas, Tiki Fuhro, Amy Self, Anna Halloran, Portland Ovations

David Lee Vincent for his generous donation



Wait, what's happening with the love triangles?







## 1. JEALOUS BROTHERS AND POWER PLAYS

Duke Frederick has taken power from his sister Duke Senior and banished her from the court. Orlando has been mistreated by his older brother, Oliver, who hasn't allowed him to be raised like the gentleman he should be. Orlando demands his inheritance from Oliver and they tousele despite their old servant Adam telling them to play nice. Charles the wrestler shows up. Because Oliver is jealous of how much other people like Orlando, he tells Charles it's ok if he ends up hurting or killing Orlando in the wrestling match.



## 2. WRESTLING AND FALLING IN LOVE

Rosalind is unhappy because of her mother Duke Senior being banished. Her cousin Celia, the daughter of Duke Frederick, tries to cheer Rosalind up. Their bestie, the court fool Touchstone, tells them the wrestling match is coming. Orlando talks with Rosalind and she starts to fall for him. Orlando wins the match against Charles. Duke Frederick is displeased when he learns Orlando's parentage. Rosalind gives Orlando a necklace and they both fall more in love. Touchstone warns Orlando he should leave court because Duke Frederick is wrathful.



## 3. BANISHMENT

Rosalind is head over heels for Orlando, and takes a while to admit it to Celia. Duke Frederick interrupts and banishes Rosalind because he doesn't trust her anymore. (The people like her too much and it's dangerous for his power plays.) Celia pleads for Rosalind's case. Ride-or-die Celia tells Rosalind they'll head out to the forest of Arden together. Rosalind is excited about dressing as a man named "Ganymede", and Celia chooses the name "Aliena." They get Touchstone, rally with a song, and flee the court.



## 4. GET OUT OF HERE!

Adam tells Orlando that Oliver plans to burn Orlando's lodgings down while he's sleeping inside, and urges him to flee. Orlando needs his inheritance first - so Adam gives Orlando his life savings to sustain his departure and they head out together.



## 5. OLIVER'S DOWNFALL

Duke Frederick is pissed that Orlando has fled the court, suspecting that Celia, Rosalind, and Touchstone are with him. Duke Frederick siezes all of Oliver's lands and wealth and demands he bring Orlando - dead or alive - back to the court.



## 6. CHEERILY, GOOD ADAM

Adam is very frail and needs to take a break in the journey. Orlando promises to go find him some food.



## 7. ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

- Duke Senior is making the best of banishment, working hand-in-hand with her followers and trying to comfort them as they navigate life in the woods. Her camp contemplates nature and the beauty of the world. Jaques, usually melancholy, appears talking about a fool he met in the woods who made him laugh! (This is unusual for Jaques; now he wants to be a fool).
- Orlando interrupts, accosting the camp and demanding their food. Duke Senior encourages him to just ask for what he needs, and offers him food and gentleness. Orlando is touched, and leaves to go bring Adam to the camp.
- Jaques is inspired to deliver the famous "All the world's a stage" speech, Adam and Orlando return, and are fully welcomed into Duke Senior's circle.



## 8. A NEW LIFE IN ARDEN

Rosalind, Celia, and Touchstone arrive in Arden. Celia is hangry and Touchstone misses the finery of the court. They hide as young shepherd Silvius appears with old shepherd Corin. Silvius shares how deeply in love he is with the shepherdess Phoebe. Rosalind (as Ganymede) talks to Corin and asks him to buy the cottage and flock on their behalf.



## 9. LOVE LETTERS EVERYWHERE!

Orlando is so in love with Rosalind that he's writing love poetry and putting it on ALL the trees!



## 10. COUNTRY LIFE AND MEETING AGAIN

- Touchstone misses life in court, and talks to Corin about country life. Rosalind shows up reading Orlando's love notes; Touchstone teases her about their quality. Rosalind begs Celia to tell her who wrote the letters, and wants to know everything about Celia's encounter with Orlando.
- Orlando shows up having an awkward but good-mannered interaction with Jaques.
- Rosalind approaches Orlando as Ganymede and tells him that she knows how to "cure" lovesick men. At first Orlando insists he's so happily in love he wouldn't be cured. Rosalind tells him she'd cure him if he comes every day to her cottage to "woo" her, calling her "Rosalind". Orlando is so drawn to Ganymede that he agrees.



## 11. TOUCHSTONE AND AUDREY IN LOVE

Touchstone has fallen fast and hard for a shepherd named Audrey. Audrey longs to be a man of the world, and has also fallen hard for Touchstone. Touchstone proposes, they sing a rousing song, and Jaques urges them to go seek a priest and get married the "right" way, not just wildly in the woods.



## 12. WHERE IS HE?

Rosalind is grumpy that Orlando didn't come on time for his wooing session. Corin brings them to watch Silvius attempting to woo Phoebe.



### 13. THE RED GLOW OF SCORN

Silvius sings a song to try to win Phoebe's heart. She's not having it. Rosalind interrupts as Ganymede and urges Phoebe to look on Silvius better, calling him a good man and letting her know she's being too prideful. It backfires and Phoebe falls hard for Ganymede. Rosalind makes a hasty retreat.

- Phoebe works through her feelings for Ganymede, then decides to write him a letter that she'll send via Silvius as messenger.



### 14. YOU'RE LATE! LET'S PLAY PRETEND.

Rosalind playfully berates Orlando for showing up late to his wooing session. Orlando plays along as Rosalind-acting-as-Ganymede-pretending-to-be-Rosalind begins the wooing games. Rosalind makes Celia act as a priest during a pretend wedding. Orlando has to go dine with Duke Senior, and promises to come back within two hours. Rosalind is SOOOOO in love!



### 15. YOU'RE LATE AGAIN! LOVE LETTERS AND OLIVER'S TRANSFORMATION

- Orlando doesn't show up on time. Silvius arrives with a letter from Phoebe. Turns out it's a love letter asking Ganymede to send a love letter back via Silvius. Rosalind tells Silvius to tell Phoebe that Phoebe should love Silvius and Ganymede will never have her.
- Oliver arrives with a bloody handkerchief! Celia ("Aliena") and Oliver fall hard and fast in love. Oliver explains how Orlando rescued him from a lioness, and Orlando's arm was injured which is why he didn't show up for wooing on time. This experience has completely changed him, and he's no longer a bad guy.
- Rosalind faints and Celia asks Oliver to help carry Ganymede home.



### 16. LOVE CONFUSION

- Touchstone and Audrey return, not married yet.
- Orlando and Oliver make up, and Oliver bestows his entire fortune on Orlando because he's so happy to start a new country life with "Aliena". Oliver and "Aliena" plan to get married the next day.
- Rosalind wants to keep playing love games, but Orlando is longing so hard for Rosalind that she decides to reveal herself and marry him the next day.
- Phoebe shows up, angry that Rosalind showed her letter to Silvius, and orders Silvius to explain what it means to love. Love triangles ensue, Phoebe starts to really see and hear Silvius, and finally Rosalind makes a plan to clear everything up if everyone meets together the next day.



### THE END.

- Duke Senior, Jaques, and all the couples show up. Jaques is excited to see the fool (Touchstone) again.
- Rosalind reveals herself to her mother and to Orlando, and they both finally see her for who she really is.
- When Phoebe sees the love between Orlando and Rosalind, she is happy to turn her affection toward Silvius.
- Duke Senior welcomes Rosalind & Celia back into her life, and calls for music!
- Rosalind delivers the epilogue, and then everyone celebrates the power of love and empathy.





# THANK YOU

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AND LOCAL MAINE ARTISTS



## SPONSORSHIP

Interested in helping Fenix grow and thrive? We are always looking to partner with local businesses and organizations as sponsors.

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