

# As You Like It information

Hello,

Hopefully this pack contains everything you need to know if you're thinking of being in our production of As You like it at Polesden Lacey in 2012. If I've missed something, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

There is a long history of top quality productions of Shakespeare plays at Polesden Lacey so we have a high mark to hit, but judging by the team I'm lucky enough to be building round me, I think we have a chance to be the best yet.

My production will concentrate on getting as much humour out of the play as possible, within the confines of the script, plot and characters. I want a hard working but fun team and I hope we will all get a lot out of the production.

I hope to be able to work with people of all experience ranges and would welcome anyone enthusiastic to audition. There will be plenty of opportunities for all. I also need a singer (Amiens) so please have a think about this.

I am really looking forward to this production, hope to see you at auditions.

Regards,

Paul Longhurst

## ***Production team***

**Director:** *Paul Longhurst*  
paul@paullonghurst.com or 07958229060

**Production hero and Paul's right hand lady:** *Fiona Steel*  
fiona\_steel@yahoo.co.uk or 07557091368

## ***Production information***

Performances will be 14th, 15th and 21st, 22nd July 2012 at the National Trust's open air theatre (main stage) in Polesden Lacey. These will all be matinee performances.

## ***Auditions***

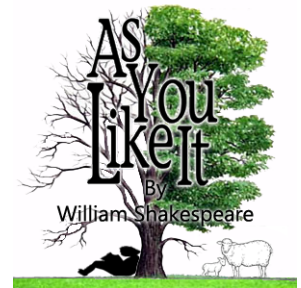
### **Where and when**

These will be at Follett Hall at the United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS at 2pm on Sunday 8th January 2012 and 15th January 2012. We only have the room until 5:30 pm.

### **Audition notes**

Audition line numbers may vary depending on which version of the play is used. Contact me if you have any problems.

Please try to learn the audition pieces if you can. Not only could this be good for you in future to have a Shakespeare audition prepared but it also helps me to understand your audition and acting



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approach better. Having said that, if you must read it from a script or paper then it won't count against you. At the end of the day, if you're going to do a better audition with a script in your hand, do that.

You may be asked to read other auditions. Please let me know if this will be a problem, or if you only want to audition for one particular role.

### Characters

The characters approximate number of lines is given in brackets. There will be cuts which haven't yet been finalised so these may change.

<b>Rosalind</b> Playing age: 20-30 (677 lines)	The heroine of the play. Rosalind is the daughter of the exiled Duke Senior, and the constant companion of her cousin Celia. She is independent-minded, strong-willed, good-hearted, playful and terribly clever. Rather than slink off into defeated exile, Rosalind resourcefully uses her trip to the Forest of Arden as an opportunity to take control of her own destiny. When she disguises herself as Ganymede, a handsome young man, and offers herself as a tutor in the ways of love to her beloved Orlando, Rosalind's talents and charms are on full display. Rosalind teaches those around her to think, feel and love better than they have previously, and ensures that the courtiers returning from Arden are gentler than when they fled to it.
<b>Orlando</b> Playing age: 20-30 (297 lines)	The youngest son of the late Sir Rowland de Bois, and younger brother of Oliver. Orlando is a handsome young man who, under his brother's neglectful care has languished without a gentleman's education or training. Regardless, he considers himself to have great potential, and his victorious battle with Charles proves him right.
<b>Duke Senior</b> Playing age: 45-65 (109 lines)	The father of Rosalind and the rightful ruler of the dukedom in which the play is set. Having been banished by his usurping brother, Frederick, Duke Senior now lives in exile in the Forest of Arden with a number of loyal men, including Lord Amiens and Jacques. Far from resenting his banishment, Duke Senior celebrates his life in the forest and his freedom from the rivalries and corruption of the court. Duke Senior demonstrates himself to be a kind and fair-minded ruler.
<b>Jacques</b> Playing age: 30-60 (225 lines)	A faithful lord who accompanies Duke Senior into exile in the Forest of Arden. Jacques is a man possessed of a hopelessly melancholy disposition. Jacques stands on the sidelines of life, watching and judging the actions of the other characters without ever fully participating in the action around him. Jacques alone refuses to follow Duke Senior and the other courtiers back to court, and instead resolves to assume a solitary and contemplative life in a monastery.

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<p><b>Celia</b> Playing age: 20-35 (108 lines)</p>	<p>The daughter of Duke Frederick and Rosalind's dearest friend. Celia's devotion to Rosalind is unmatched, as evidenced by her decision to follow her cousin into exile. To make the trip, Celia assumes the disguise of a simple shepherdess and calls herself Aliena. As we see from her extreme love of Rosalind and her immediate devotion to Oliver, whom she marries at the end of the play, Celia possesses a loving heart and is an ideal foil to Rosalind.</p>
<p><b>Duke Frederick</b> Playing age: 50-70 (69 lines)</p>	<p>The brother of Duke Senior and usurper of his throne. Duke Frederick's cruel nature and violent temper are displayed when he banishes his niece, Rosalind from court without reason. That Celia, his own daughter, cannot mitigate his unfounded anger, demonstrates the intensity of the duke's hatefulness. Frederick mounts an army against his exiled brother but aborts his vengeful mission after he meets an old religious man on the road to the Forest of Arden.</p>
<p><b>Touchstone</b> Playing age: 30-50 (275 lines)</p>	<p>A clown or jester in Duke Frederick's court who accompanies Rosalind and Celia in their flight to Arden. Although it is his job, as a professional fool, to criticise the behaviour and point out the folly of those around him, he does so in a very different style from Rosalind. Compared with his mistress, Touchstone is hilariously vulgar and unromantic.</p>
<p><b>Oliver</b> Playing age: 20-35 (147 lines)</p>	<p>The oldest son of the late Sir Rowland de Bois and sole inheritor of the de Bois estate. Oliver is a loveless young man who begrudges his brother, Orlando, a gentleman's education. He admits to hating Orlando without cause or reason, and goes to great lengths to ensure Orlando's downfall.</p>
<p><b>Silvius</b> Playing age: 16-35 (75 lines)</p>	<p>A young shepherd, desperately in love with the proud and disdainful Phoebe. Silvius prostrates himself before Phoebe, who refuses to return his affections. In the end, however, he wins her over.</p>
<p><b>Phoebe</b> Playing age: 16-35 (86 lines)</p>	<p>A young shepherdess who distains the affections of Silvius. She falls in love with Ganymede, who is really Rosalind in disguise, but Rosalind tricks Phoebe into marrying Silvius.</p>
<p><b>Lord Amiens</b> (doubled with <b>Hymen</b>) Playing age: any (67 lines)</p>	<p>A faithful lord who accompanies Duke Senior into exile in the Forest of Arden. Lord Amiens is jolly and loves to sing. Songs in 2:5, 2:7, 4:2 and possibly 5:3 with pages. Hymen - the God of Marriage</p>
<p><b>Charles</b> Playing age: any (41 lines)</p>	<p>A professional wrestler in Duke Frederick's court. Charles demonstrates both his caring nature and his political savvy, when he asks Oliver to intercede in his upcoming fight with Orlando: He does not want to injure the young man and thereby lose favour among the nobles who support him. Orlando is victorious.</p>
<p><b>Adam</b> Playing age: 60-80 (65 lines)</p>	<p>The ancient former servant of Sir Rowland de Bois. Having witnessed Orlando's hardships, Adam offers not only to accompany his young master into exile, but also to fund their journey with the whole of his modest life's savings. He is a model of loyalty and devoted service.</p>

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<b>Corin</b> Playing age: any (68 lines)	A shepherd. Corin attempts to counsel his friend Silvius in the ways of love, but Silvius refuses to listen.
<b>Audrey</b> Playing age: 30-50 (18 lines)	A simpleminded goatherd who agrees to marry Touchstone, despite the fact that she understands very little of what he says.
<b>William</b> Playing age: 16-35 (11 lines)	A young country boy in love with Audrey, and thus Touchstone's rival.
<b>Le Beau</b> Playing age: 30-50 (46 lines)	Member of Duke Frederick's court. His loyalties to the old regime are apparent when he warns Orlando that Duke Frederick may turn against him.

**There will not be any children under the age of 16 (at the time of performance) in the production.**

### Audition pieces

(PART - Act:Scene, line numbers)

ORLANDO – 1:1, opening speech

JAQUES – 2:7, lines 12-43

ROSALIND and CELIA – 3:2, lines 159-240

ROSALIND and ORLANDO – 3:2, lines 268-385

TOUCHSTONE and CORIN – 3:2, lines 11-75

SILVIUS and PHEBE – 3:5, 83-144

DUKE SENIOR and AMIENS and LORDS – 2:1

DUKE FREDERICK with Rosalind and Celia – 1:3, lines 39-87

ADAM with Orlando – 2:3

LE BEAU with Rosalind, Celia and Touchstone – 1:2, lines 86-138

OLIVER and CHARLES – 1:1, lines 90-161

AMIENS – to sing any song of his choice (will have to be unaccompanied)

### Final notes

This promises to be a fun and exciting project for everyone. I hope to push everyone hard, and to put on the best production we possibly can.

I'd be please to answer any questions. My email is [Paul@Paullonghurst.com](mailto:Paul@Paullonghurst.com).

Thanks,

Paul Longhurst