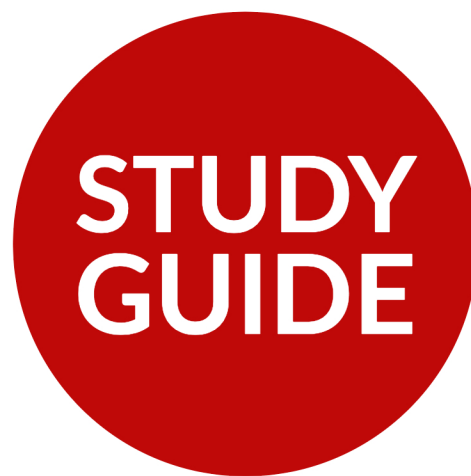


Theatre & Dance Presents

As You Like It

by William Shakespeare



Keene
STATE COLLEGE

Performance: 11/15/2019

As You Like It

“As You Like It” was first performed in 1599 by Shakespeare’s company, the Lord Chamberlin’s Men at the Globe Theater. The play has become an audience favorite but provided audiences in 1599 with a bit of a surprise. “As You Like It” departed from the usual drama of the period, providing a jolt of realism rarely seen by Elizabethan audiences. It was over a century before the play was mentioned or staged again after the first performance. Of course, for today’s audiences, access to the ideas, concepts, and language of the play might also seem strange, dated, or downright foreign. The goal of this teachers’ guide is to help make the Keene State College production of “As You Like It” by William Shakespeare accessible and provide exercises to complement our staging of the play.

The Design Process

The process of bringing a play from the text on the page to what audiences see on the stage is complex. The director formulates a directorial concept, which refers to the overall plan for the design of the production.

Each member of the design team, the costume designer, scenic designer, and lighting designer partake in conversations with the director to take the play from the page to the stage.



« All the world's a stage. »»



Design Concept

Generally, the ideas generated by these collaborative discussions are developed along a central idea or selected from one of the themes of the play; this central theme in turn influences the way that the production is designed, becoming its design concept.



Design Goals

- > Inspire a feeling of community.
- > Create a space of intersection for the audience and actor.
- > Design a platform to focus on the ideas debated in the play rather than create a concept highlighting one specific aspect of the text.



- > For fun, come dressed in a 1970s inspired outfit and become a part of the costume design!

As You Like It

In thinking of the overall messages of the play, as there are many, the director considered Shakespeare's use of "As You Like It" to provide social commentary.

Shakespeare accomplished this by mining the cultural obsessions of his time and incorporating them into entertaining formats that resonated with London audiences. Topics deemed detrimental to the moral fiber of London society were transformed into appealing theatrical events that escaped censorship.

Jeannie-Marie Brown, the director, found parallels between our present world, the period in which the play was written, and the early 1970s. As such, in exploring how all the world is a stage, we are inviting audience members to attend the production in a 70s inspired outfit.

Thinking About Costumes

Arden came into focus quickly with earthy influences reflective of a music festival culture and 1970s clothing. Political balls and state dinners influenced the costuming for courtiers at Court. All the costumes are colorful. At Court, there is a formality, and in Arden, costumes reflect flowing lines or casual earthy-tones.



The designer, Joseph Blaha, worked with the director to flesh out the circumstances of the play and the costuming needs.

Rosalind's Transformation



At court (left)



Ending (above)



Ganymede (right)

Who
is
who
in
Arden?



Guess
which
characters
are
in
these
costumes!



Class Exercise

Can you imagine what the characters should look like? Create your own images of the main characters in “As You Like It” by drawing or collaging. Think about ways you can highlight their social standing; what about costumes helps define character status? What other character traits can influence your costume choices?

Lighting and Sound

Lighting and sound are closely linked in a theatre production and not fully realized until technical rehearsals. Technical rehearsals begin the week before a show opens with a focus on incorporating all technical aspects into the production.

The lighting designer creates a lighting plot and master schedule of instruments. The production electrician hangs all the lights in preparation for the designer to focus the lights. The focus ensures lights are pointing in the right direction to provide illumination on the stage, set, and of course, the actors.

Try to notice how light defines space!