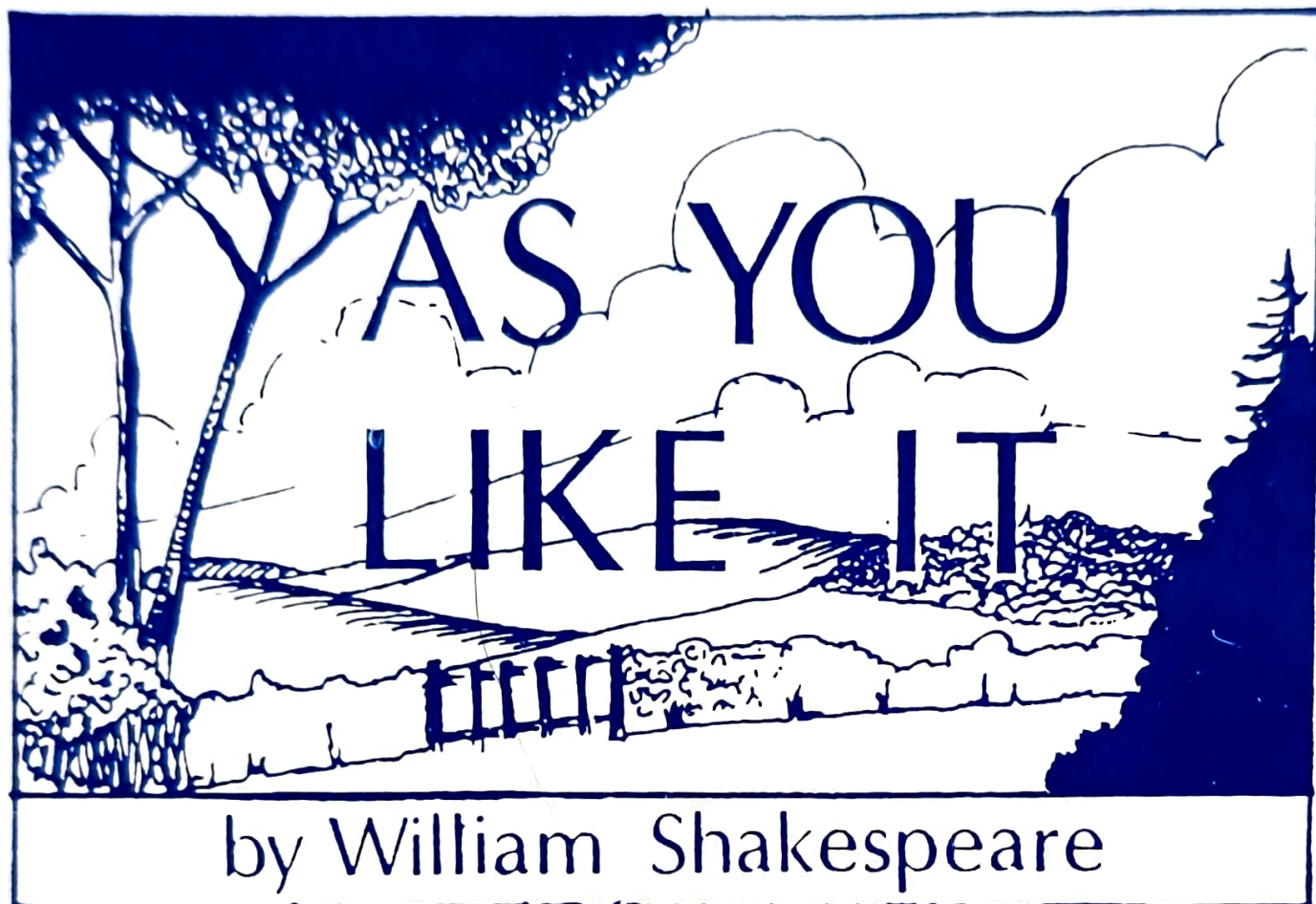




The Bard of Avon returns to Kanata with another of his golden comedies. The ageless tale of Rosalind and her seductive romp in the Forest of Arden.

March 3-6 1993

KANATA THEATRE

presents



As You Like It

by William Shakespeare

CAST

in order of speaking

OSWALDO	George K. Thompson
ADAM	Kevin L. Murphy
DUKE	James A. Russell
DUKE	Christa Watson
CHARLES THE WIFE STEEL	Mark Spencer
FLICK	Michael Vermeesch
OSWALD	Alexis Lapointe
TOUCHSTONE	Nail Robertson
JAQUEL	Daniel Jefferson
DUKE FREDERICK	John Chaffey
DUKE SENIOR	Lionel King
AMPHIBOLUS	Michael Vermeesch
FIRST FOREST LORD	Tim Moses
SECOND FOREST LORD	Earl McLaughlin
FIRST DUKE OF ARDEN ATTENDANT	Sally Hallowell-Carroll
SECOND DUKE OF ARDEN ATTENDANT	Rebecca Scott
COORN	Glenn Huxley
SYLVUS	Rob Johnston
JACQUEL	Jim Holmes
AUDREY	Maria King
MARCE	Jeanette Harrison
PHILIP	Sherry L. Abode
WILLIAM	Rob Mitchell
JACQUEL DE ROYS	James Stone
EDDIE	Bill Wake
STEP DANCER	Kevin Boales
FOREST COMPANIONS	Stewart Wheeler, Lucas Cornelisse

The Play directed by
Jim Holmes

There will be one intermission

The use of cameras or tape recorders during the performance is not permitted.
The Canadian School Board has adopted a policy of No Smoking in schools.

Kanata players meet Bard's challenges

Theatre Review

As You Like It
Kanata Theatre
Earl of March High School, Kanata
19th Saturday, 8 p.m.

By IRIS WINSTON
Local Correspondent

Probably the greatest challenges for a community theatre presenting Shakespeare are to make the play understandable to the audience and to find actors for the large number of male roles.

The Kanata Theatre production of *As You Like It*, which opened Wednesday, meets the first challenge and copes with the second. This is an intelligent and well-conceived presentation of one of William Shakespeare's best-known pastoral comedies.

Actors converse rather than declaim (thank goodness) and, for the most part, give the impression of understanding and meaning what they say. This despite some convoluted puns, Elizabethan English and 16th century dramatic conventions.

On opening night, the awkward moments and slowing of pace came not because of lack of understanding or difficulty in delivering blank verse but because of too many fluffed lines.

Director Jim Holmes has dealt with his casting problem by employing women in some of the minor roles. Expedient perhaps, but not completely successful. It is, for instance, piling to see ladies in waiting to Duke Frederick with ships in hand.

This despite the fact that the lead character, Rosalind, spends most of her time masquerading as a man (and the role was almost certainly played by a boy originally). But this change of dress is central to the plot of *As You Like It*.

Rosalind's uncle, Duke Frederick, John Chaffey, has over-

thrown his older brother, Rosalind's father, Lionel King who has escaped to the Forest of Arden with a group of loyal followers.

Frederick allows Rosalind (Andrea Fajrup) to stay at court as company for his daughter, Celia. Michelle Sisson. But her presence soon offends him and she, too, is banished.

With Celia and the Fool Touchstone (Neil Robertson), Rosalind escapes to the forest disguised as a young man. Meanwhile, Orlando (George K. Thompson) the older son of another lord, is cheated of his inheritance by his brother, Oliver (James A. Russell). He also finds his way to the Forest of Arden, but not before he has met and fallen in love with Rosalind at the Duke's court.

They soon meet again, but she now appears to be a young man. However, this is a comedy and eventually this, and the assorted other tangles are untied.

Holmes has selected a setting reminiscent of the Ottawa Valley in the 19th century for this production of *As You Like It*.

This provides an opportunity for a step dancer and a fiddler to strut their stuff. They and, even more, the magnificent singing voice of Michael Vermeesch enrich the show.

Fajrup is a graceful and effective Rosalind, handling the role with a light touch. She deals with the male half of her character by parodying maleness, deepening her voice and strutting occasionally. Thompson is convincing as Orlando and it is impressive to see such a good performance from an actor who has been on stage only once before.

Robertson delivers an amusing Cockney version of Touchstone and Jim Holmes is a gruff, melancholy Jaques.

Winston is a freelance writer who covers community theatre for the *City*.



Problems, buddy? John Chaffey (Duke Frederick) and James A. Russell (Oliver) in Kanata Theatre's production of Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It*. The play runs March 3-6 in the Earl of March Theatre. For more information call 592-1715. Anita Antonucci photo.



As You Like It Holmes puts Shakespeare in long ago Ottawa Valley

Kanata Theatre

Kanata Theatre hopes its forthcoming production of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* will show Kanata audiences why, almost 400 years after his death, the bard of Avon remains the world's most produced playwright.

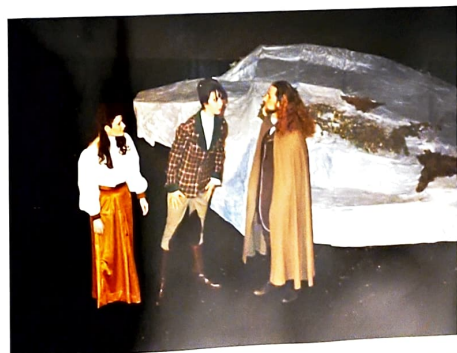
Kanata has chosen to bring *As You Like It* right home to the Ottawa Valley by setting and costuming it in a place and time that may suggest to the audience pre-confederation Bytown.

For director Jim Holmes, this is not a radical reinterpretation of Shakespeare's play. The themes of Shakespeare's play were present in the rough frontier town that became Ottawa: proximity to wilderness and to farming and pastoral communities, disparities of class and wealth, the exercise of power by a self-appointed aristocracy that even referred to itself as lumber "barons," and town dwellers whose life was marked by violence and brutality and who idealized a countryside they imagined to be filled with beauty and virtue. Much of Shakespeare's purpose was to show the gap between this ideal and reality.

Kanata's *As You Like It* will not be a literal resetting of the play. "We are taking great care to put on stage Shakespeare's play and not a revised or updated version of it. But we needed a point of reference for designing the play, and this Ottawa valley thing allowed us to use stepdancers, fiddlers, loggers, itinerant preachers and other ingredients that we hoped will make the production a lot of fun for the audience."

Kanata Theatre's only previous Shakespeare was *Twelfth Night* which it produced in 1984. That production was warmly received by critics and audience alike. Why then did it take nine years to do another? "No particular reason," said Holmes, "but they do involve very large casts and a lot of rehearsal time." Kanata's production has been in rehearsal since early November and will have been rehearsed more than 130 hours by the time the play opens March 3.

As You Like It runs in the Earl of March Theatre, 4 The Parkway, Kanata from Wednesday, March 3 until Saturday, March 6. Tickets are \$8 or \$4 for students and seniors of Wednesday and Thursday nights only. For ticket information call 592-1715.











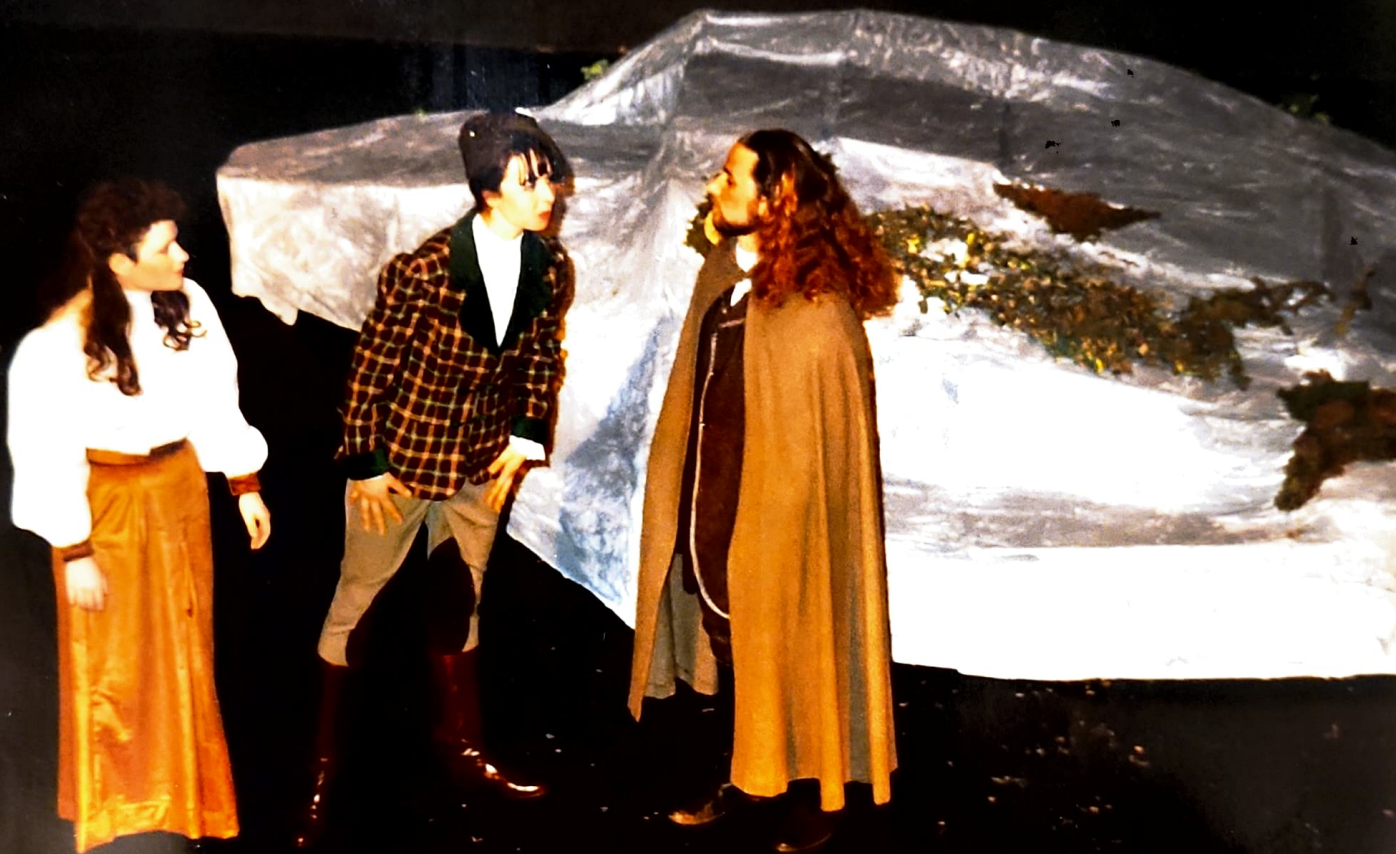












Kanata players meet Bard's challenges

Theatre Review

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Until Saturday; 8 p.m.

By **IRIS WINSTON**

Citizen correspondent

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