

Characters

The play features four actors and an audience volunteer covering a total of 21 roles. All four actors wear a base costume of linen shorts and ankle socks in a unique colour per actor, brown boots and khaki linen shirts. Character changes are signified by small but distinctive costume additions, each with their own distinctive regional accent.

Sarah - white woman with medium-length blonde hair:

- **Celia** – neutral Northeastern accent, wears a grey skirt initially and then a yellow dress with golden headdress when disguised as **Aliena**.
- **Oliver** – RP accent, wears a black waistcoat and yellow shirt, with yellow tinted glasses.
- **Silvius** – Scottish accent, wears a patched jacket and straw hat.
- **Yellow Lord of Arden** – neutral Northeastern accent, yellow beanie.

Isobel – white woman with medium-length brown hair

- **Rosalind** – neutral Northeastern accent, wears a grey and red skirt initially and then a red linen jacket covered in multicoloured stars and a red moustache when disguised as **Ganymede**.
- **Jaques** – RP accent, wears a tattered long black coat and a red top hat.
- **Adam** – raspy northern accent, has a grey wool beard, wears a green fishing hat and a backpack with various camping objects hanging off it.
- **Red Lord of Arden** – neutral Northeastern accent, red beanie and fishing rod.

Joel – white man with blonde cropped hair and a large moustache and beard

- **Phoebe** – Scottish accent, wears a hair net, blood stained apron and bicep length rubber gloves.
- **Amiens** – neutral northern accent, wears a blue felt hat shaped like a tulip. Often plays the guitar.
- **Charles** – American accent, wears a blue leotard & cycling helmet with mohawk.
- **Le Beau** – French accent, wears a blue shawl, sunglasses and fan.

Josh – white man with cropped brown hair and a moustache

- **Orlando** – neutral north-west accent, wears a paisley waistcoat and headband with fringe attached. Often plays the ukulele.
- **Duke Senior** – Yorkshire accent, wears a long green coat and has a green moustache pointing upwards.
- **Duke Frederick** – nasal RP accent, wears a black blazer with peacock feathers on it, has a green moustache pointing downwards.
- **Corin** – Scottish accent, wears a green tattered cardigan, carries a shepherd's crook.
- **Green Lord of Arden (Steven)** – neutral northern accent, wears a green beanie.

Audience Interaction

One audience member is brought onstage throughout the show to play a variety of roles:

- **Stag** – given a pair of antlers and hunted.
- **Sheep** – wears a woolly jumper with pom poms and makes sheep noises, the audience member also has a “for sale” sign that changes to “sold”.
- **Lioness** – wears a mane around their head and has to fight Orlando.
- **Hymen (forest god)** – wears the stag, sheep and lioness costume to be the forest god of marriages and plays bells during the final wedding scene.

Set & Props

Stage – end-on staging (audience sit facing the front of the stage) with natural lighting. Minimal set remains static throughout.

- **Main set** – a 2m square of natural coloured fabric hangs down to the ground with stars painted on and a zip in the middle for entrances/exits. There is orange fringing around the top of the fabric.
- **Forest hangings** – when the show moves into the forest of Arden, two hanging drop down from under the orange fringing with floral paintings on them in a folk art style in vivid blues, greens, reds and yellows.
- **Bunting** – white tattered bunting hangs from the set going down to two bicycles.
- **Love Letters** - love notes are hung on the bunting during the interval.
- **Bikes** – two blue/green Pashley bicycles are either side of the stage, with objects and bags hanging off them.

Running Gags & Repeated Visual Cues

- **Wrestler** – every time Charles the wrestler poses it's accompanied by a sound effect e.g. the parp of a bike horn. Later in the play his neck cracks with a sound effect created by a plastic bottle.
- **Wrestling** – the wrestling match is set in a WWE style arena created by two actors holding ropes to mimic the ring, Charles uses a chair to hit Orlando and one of the actors rings a bell to signify each round.
- **Falling in love** – every time someone falls in love a bell rings. Rosalind gives Orlando a chain made of karabiners and a bicycle reflector.
- **Transformations** – Celia and Rosalind decide to disguise themselves to flee to the Forest of Arden, Celia changes into a yellow dress with a gold headdress to become Aliena, Rosalind disguises herself as a man called Ganymede, wearing an red blazer and her red hair clip as a moustache.
- **Hunting** – the lords of Arden hunt the audience member as a stag. Every time they move towards the audience member, the audience member must step

away. When the lords fire an arrow at the stag the actors start to move in slow-motion, the yellow Lord of Arden carries the arrow to the stag mimicking the flight of an arrow. Duke Senior runs alongside the arrow and catches it just before it hits the stag. As soon as Duke Senior snatches the arrow the scene snaps out of slow-motion.

- **Food stealing** – Celia and Jaques both steal picnic food during the show (if it's available), this food is fed to the puppet of Adam's beard.
- **All the World's a Stage** – during the famous Jaques speech the other three actors use bicycle wheels, pumps and helmets to create bike riders at each age of man mentioned in a poem e.g. the whining schoolboy is created by one bard holding two wheels under the green bard, another bard holding a pannier bag to the green bard's back as a satchel, the green bard wears a pair of round glasses and holds onto a bike pump which acts as handlebars and pretends to pedal – making a tableaux of a young boy riding to school.
- **Love poems** – during the interval love poems are hung on the set, and Orlando has been hanging love notes around the forest and carving them into trees.
- **Lamb birth** – the audience member dressed as a sheep gives birth to a sock puppet lamb.
- **Phoebe falling in love with Ganymede** – when Phoebe meets Ganymede, Phoebe immediately falls in love and starts mimicking Ganymede's actions. Silvius looks on and sings sadly alongside the sock puppet lamb.
- **Oliver and Celia costume changes** – when Celia and Oliver meet Sarah performs both characters, switching between each of the costumes with Joel puppeting the vacant one each time, Joel enters the stage when Sarah shouts "NOW". They initially spin between costumes and end up throwing them into the air and catching them between lines. Oliver kisses the Celia dress at the end of the scene.
- **Orlando and Duke Senior costume changes** – in the final scene Josh puppets Orlando's fringe on a stick, and Duke Senior's moustache on a stick so he can quickly change between them. Duke Senior's moustache pops up when Orlando and Rosalind try to kiss.
- **Ganymede into Rosalind** – when Rosalind transforms out of Ganymede in front of everyone else onstage, she changes back into her grey skirt backstage, then simply removes the moustache onstage, to great surprise.
- **Wedding** – during the wedding the audience member is responsible for ringing bells to bless the marriage (dressed in all of the animal costumes).