

FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players presents

William Shakespeare's

As You Like It

**July 9 through
August 14, 2010**

Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

Director: Karintha Touton

Assistant Director: Jeremy speed schwartz

Producer: Ron "Adam" Dunberger

Westchester Playhouse

8301 Hindry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

www.kentwoodplayers.org / (310) 645-5156

Tickets: \$18; \$2 discount for students, seniors and servicemen

As You Like It

by William Shakespeare

Director: **Karintha Touton**
Assistant Director: **Jeremy Speed Schwartz**
Producer: **Ron “Adam” Dunberger**

Set Design
**Karintha Touton and
Jeremy Speed Schwartz**

Lighting Design
Richard Potthoff

Costume Design
**Joshua Speed Schwartz
and Kathy Dershimer**

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Orlando Lorenzo Bastien
Adam..... Scot Renfro
Oliver/Martext..... Mark Mayes
Charles Marco Antonio Garcia
Rosalind Meredith M. Sweeney
Celia Alison Stebbins
HesperiaMelodie S. Rivers
Touchstone..... Drew Fitzsimmons
Duke Frederick/Duke Senior Rick Gates
AmiensMartin Feldman
Corin Catherine Rahm
Silvius David Neiman
Jaques.....Susie McCarthy
Audrey.....Lauren Billingsley
Phebe..... Caity Engler
William/Hymen..... Jordan Bland
Video Segments Greg Abbott, LeVanna Atkinson-Williams, Gail Bernardi,
.....Sheridan Cole Crawford, Liz Reinhardt, Ben Lupejkis
..... Samantha Miles, Allyson Haller, Jacob Nixon, Beth Benedict

The action takes place in the city and the forest of Arden.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players

Directors' Note

As You Like It was written in 1599-1600, a time in England of great upheaval. New precedents in gender roles, social status, and technology dominated an increasingly urbanized London. The country was already largely bankrupted from continuing military endeavors against Spain and Ireland. It was a time that was not altogether different from today.

As a response, Pastoral Romance, a genre developed in Italy, gained popularity in poetry, art and theater. The hallmarks of these stories are a forced retreat from urban life, idealization of the rural and the in-depth discussion (and criticism) of love. What Shakespeare adds to the pastoral archetypes in *As You Like It* is a biting commentary not only on life in the city, but on the country folk as well. He achieves this with the addition of two characters to the source material (Thomas Lodge's *Rosalynde*): Touchstone and Jaques. With these characters Shakespeare offers contradictory criticisms of the world, teasing out the dualities of city and country and the foolishness and seriousness of love.

Four Hundred Years later, Pastoral Romance has made its comeback. There is already a pastoral revival in popular film, music and art. With clutter and confusion of modern life and the resulting over glorification of a simpler time, we as directors posit that the time is right to re-examine the idealization of the rural under a satirist gaze.

This is the second time we have collaborated in bringing this play to the stage. In this interpretation, we have felt compelled to make some new choices which, while not traditional, augment the story we want to tell. While these choices certainly can stand without explanation, perhaps a brief note will aid for those who prefer a reformation-era interpretation.

We have chosen to update the setting of the city to the modern, primarily to draw parallels to the world we currently live in. In addition to modern garb, this interpretation also required the introduction of the ubiquitous visual media that has become so much a part of our landscape. Some characters traditionally played within the existent cast we have instead inserted on-stage media to enhance the centrality of these elements. Moreover, we have adapted sections from Shakespeare's other comedies to round out the content on the screens.

Taking a cue from the script, we have left the Forest of Arden in a timeless state that blends the modern with the classic and speaks more to an imagined ideal country than any particular place in time. As characters enter the forest they bring with them elements of their own psyche, manifesting a strange combination of Shakespeare, The Modern, and the Fantastical. Just as costumes in Shakespeare's time were a combination of normal Elizabethan clothes and elements that would refer to the time period of the play, we have combined Elizabethan with modern dress in this space.

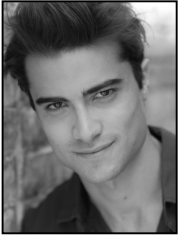
Perhaps one of the biggest changes we embarked on was making Jaques female. As we teased out this choice, we found that it only strengthened her relationships with both Touchstone and Duke Senior, made her melancholy even more vitriolic, and, hopefully, made for a more entertaining show.

Both the title and the epilogue point to this play being written primarily with the audience's enjoyment in mind, and it has been our goal to do just this... create an experience that you will enjoy. We charge you to like as much of this play as please you. For that which does not please, consider it our stalking horse, under whose presentation we will shoot our wit (and maybe even a deer or two).

Enjoy!

-Karintha Touton and Jeremy Speed Schwartz

About the Cast



Lorenzo Bastien (Orlando) – After playing Trent Conway in *Six Degrees of Separation* and Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Lorenzo Bastien is back with Kentwood Players as Orlando in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. He wants to thank Jeremy and Karintha for coaching him into the big fight with such patience, diligence and never-ending passion. And a special thanks to Drew Fitzsimmons, Meredith Sweeney and Mark Mayes for always being in his corner.



Lauren Billingsley (Audrey) – Lauren is excited to be making her Kentwood Players debut. Having just recently relocated from Baltimore, Lauren was last seen in *Circus Play* and *The Ruzante Project* at Germano's Trattoria. She has also previously appeared as Teresa Panza in *Don Quixote* and the Lady in Black in *Ghost Sonata*, both at Vpstart Crow. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in drama from Hull University in the UK. She hopes to be making many more appearances in the Los Angeles area in the future. Lauren thanks her boyfriend Jake for his love and support in this and all her adventures.



Jordan Bland (William/Hymen) – Jordan was seen in the Kentwood Players productions of the drawing room comedy *Present Laughter* and the knee slapping family musical *Li'l Abner*. He's a fun guy and would never stab your father through a curtain, or take a rufie from a priest, or even smother someone with a pillow so he thought Shakespeare just wasn't in his cards. Hurray for this talented cast and crew. Now he once again has a place to play.



Caity Engler (Phebe) – Caity is happy to be back on the Kentwood stage after last being seen here in *A Murder Is Announced*. Most recently, she co-wrote and starred in *Cupidity* at Theatre 68. When not on stage or in front of the camera, Caity spends her time baking, and then offsets the effects of her pies with swimming. Lots of swimming. Enjoy the show! www.caityengler.com



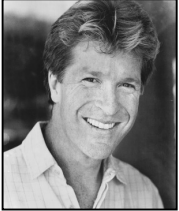
Martin Feldman (Amiens) – After a long hiatus from acting, Martin is thrilled to continue performing, making his first appearance for Kentwood Players. He recently appeared as Mr. Van Daan in a production of *Yours, Anne* at Sinai Temple. He works in IT support by day, studies vocally with Tova Morcos, and is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music.



Drew Fitzsimmons (Touchstone) – Having just directed *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Drew is glad to be back on the stage under Karintha and Jeremy. Much thanks. Drew's recent Kentwood credits are Evil Eye Fleagle in *Li'l Abner*, the Detective in *Six Degrees of Separation*, Honey in *Drive* and Tulsa in *Gypsy*. Other favorites have been the Emcee in *Cabaret*, Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, Ray in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and Harold Hill in *The Music Man*. Love and Bing to Meredith.



Marco Antonio Garcia (Charles) – Marco is electrified to be back with Kentwood. He is indebted to these spirits of the stage that have graciously and kindly allowed him to step momentarily into their shoes and celebrate their passions, follies and heroics with the audience. He would like to thank everyone who made this production happen, his parents and his wonderful life! Enjoy the show!



Rick Gates (Duke Frederick/Duke Senior) – Rick trained (predominantly) at the Actors and Directors Lab & Theatricum Botanicum. He taught acting at Hollywood Center Theatre and Zephyr Theatre. He's done more than four dozen plays. Having acted professionally in film and TV for 25 years, he took a long sabbatical to raise two daughters, who liked improvised bedtime stories about two little girls and their adventures in the Forest of Arden. They're at college; he's at home in the Forest.



Mark Mayes (Oliver/Martext) – Mark has recently been seen in Los Angeles productions of *She Stoops To Conquer*, *The Zoo Story* and *The Merchant of Venice*. He appeared in Kentwood Players' *Romeo & Juliet* as Benvolio, *Six Degrees of Separation* as Geoffrey and *The Importance of Being Earnest* as Moulton/Gribsby. Mark studied acting with Nina Foch.



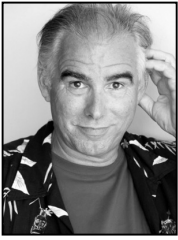
Susie McCarthy (Jaques) – Susie is honored to be included in this convention-breaking production of *As You Like It*. Big thanks go to Karinthia and Jeremy, two of Kentwood's newest, brightest shining lights. Susie's past Kentwood productions include *A Little Night Music*, *Company*, *Follies*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Wake*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *George Washington Slept Here* and *A Murder is Announced*. Other favorite past productions include *Wit*, *The Lion in Winter* and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. This one's for her brother, Rick.



David Neiman (Silvius) – David loves working on this show with everyone involved. He thanks the Kentwood Playhouse for the opportunity and his family and friends for the support. He gives special thanks to his parents, Luka Bazeli, Neil Nash, Steve Rollman, John Hendricks, Brandon, and Rob Brownstein.



Catherine Rahm (Corin) – Catherine is enjoying this change of pace from the vixen she played in last year's *Present Laughter*. Although she works in theatres all over the area, she always enjoys coming back to her Kentwood home, and this marks her 13th mainstage role here. She has also directed two Kentwood Kids productions and two mainstage productions at Kentwood, including last year's award-winning *Working*.



Scot Renfro (Adam) – For Miss Kim



Melodie S. Rivers (Hesperia) – After a very long hiatus, Melodie is excited to be a part of this production. You may have seen her work in the Kentwood Kids productions, *Charlotte's Web* or *The Wizard of Oz* – she assisted with make-up while her son Logan performed. She would like to thank the directors for giving her a chance to take the stage again and Liz for reintroducing her to theater. Most of all, she thanks her remarkably supportive family.



Alison Stebbins (Celia) – Alison is currently studying recording engineering at LBCC. She has an MA in Voice Studies from CSSD and a classical acting degree from LAMDA. She is very happy to be performing as Celia this summer for the Kentwood Players. It has been an exciting and challenging process and she feels honored to be working with such a strong and joyful group.



Meredith M. Sweeney (Rosalind) – Meredith is thrilled to be working alongside this talented and beautiful cast. Kentwood audiences may remember her as Catherine in *Proof*, Alais in *The Lion in Winter*, Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* and Daisy in *Li'l Abner*. Meredith would like to thank Christine and Susan for helping bring Shakespeare back to the Westchester Playhouse and sends an enormous thank you to Karintha and Jeremy for their spirited guidance on this incredible journey. Love to Drew.

About the Production Staff

Karintha Touton (Director) – Karintha is happy to be working once again with cohort and friend Jeremy Speed Schwartz. They have co-directed many projects over the years, including *As You Like It*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *Measure for Measure*. This production would be nothing were he not by her side. Karintha makes her directorial debut at Kentwood after assistant directing *The Odd Couple*, co-producing *Lion in Winter*, and Stage Managing *Gypsy*. If “thank you” were enough, she would say it to Adam and Liz who deserve more accolades and praise than she could possibly express. What a wonderful cast and crew – she is so blessed to have had a chance to work with them all! Love also to Todd, who has my heart.

Jeremy Speed Schwartz (Assistant Director) – Jeremy is thrilled to have the opportunity to work such an incredible cast, production crew and especially his long-time friend and artistic collaborator Karintha Touton. He is happy to be returning to stage directing after several years of focusing on film and installation art. In his other lives, Jeremy is an animator, programmer, lecturer, and sometime musician. There are far too many people to thank, but Jeremy would like to extend enormous gratitude towards Liz Reinhardt for her invaluable contributions to this show, and to the many members of the Kentwood Players that have been so helpful throughout this process.

Ron “Adam” Dunberger (Producer) – Adam is overjoyed to work with such a great cast and crew. Many kudos to our esteemed directors for their vision. Adam has also been a stage manager and has acted as Dr. Finsdale in *Li'l Abner* and as Frid in *A Little Night Music*. In his spare time, Adam aspires to act more on stage and in film.

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Liz Reinhardt
Assistant Stage Manager	Melodie S. Rivers
Script Supervisor	Liz Reinhardt
Booth Crew	Russell Ham
Music Director.....	Ben Jaffe
Video Director.....	Jeremy Speed Schwartz
Fight Choreographer.....	Drew Fitzsimmons
Sound Design	Todd Averback
Original Graphic Design.....	William Silva and Liz Reinhardt
Lobby Design	Marcy Agreen
Master Builder.....	Marco Antonio Garcia
Set Construction	Mike La Stelley, Drew Fitzsimmons, Daniel Frederick, Scot Renfro
Set Decoration	Scot Renfro, Marco Antonio Garcia
Costume Construction	Sheridan Cole Crawford, Shirley Hatton, Liz Reinhardt, Valerie Ruel
Properties.....	Sheridan Cole Crawford and Jim Crawford
Publicity Photos.....	Jeremy Speed Schwartz and Adam Dunberger
Audition Assistance.....	Jeanne Spain and Max Heldring Stormes
Hospitality Coordinator	Brenda Frederick
Box Office	Cynthia Adent

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Marcy Agreen, Shari Barrett, Jenny Boone, Maria Cohen, Greg Daem, Hal Fisher, Bethany Frederick, Brenda Frederick, Daniel Frederick, Ezekiel Frederick, O'thaniel Frederick, Janice Garcia, Marley Garcia, River Garcia, Russell Ham, Gretchen, Trey and April Luna, Julia Maggs, Lori A. Marple-Pereselete, Virginia Mekkelson, Melvin Miller, Calia & Fred Minzter-Wolf, Michael Mottmann, Barry Nackos, Tony Pereslete, Victor Reinhardt, Robyn Rothstein, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Jeanne Spain, Max Stormes, Shawn Summerer and the cast and crew of *As You Like It*

Special Thanks

Melodie S. Rivers and Mark F. Hannig, Bobi Garland, The International School of Motion Pictures (Takeya Aso, Seiko Nagao, Sayaka Noguchi, Takanori Yano and Chisako Yokoyama), William Sandalls, Mike La Stelley, Michael Mottman, Shawn Summerer, Harold Dershimer, Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Greg and Alta Abbott for Bambi's Mom

Special Special Thanks

To Liz Reinhardt, who has been ever so much more than our Stage Manager. Quite dramatic as a kid, Liz started lending a hand behind-the-scenes even in high school. Whether it be costume designing, stage managing, graphic design, or publicity, Liz has her hand in productions at theaters all over Los Angeles. For the work she has done, on this show, at Kentwood, and for community theater as a whole, we thank her from the bottom of our hearts!

During the performance please turn your pagers to silent,
and turn off your cell phones and alarms on your digital watches.
There is no louder sound in a theatre than the rattle of cellophane.
Please unwrap your candy or cough drops before the play begins.

Kentwood Players is a Member of the
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You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Green Room.
Please use the outside stairway at the rear of the theater.

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website
www.kentwoodplayers.org

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Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

Dracula, a Drama

By Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston
from Bram Stoker's novel
September 10 – October 16, 2010
Director: Shawn K. Summerer

Annie, a Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin
November 5 – December 11, 2010
Director: Susan Goldman Weisbarth

Farndale ... Murder Mystery A Comedy

By David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr
January 14 – February 19, 2011
Director: Scott Martin

Parade, a Musical

Book by Alfred Uhry
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
March 18 – April 23, 2011
Director: Ben Lupejkis

Special Theatre Parties

A special Theatre Party planned for your organization or group can be a financial success as well as an entertaining evening (or matinee) at the theatre. For further information call:
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From Shakespeare to Simon, from Sondheim to Hammerstein, we have worked diligently, putting in countless volunteer hours, keeping our prices low enough to allow all in our community access to a magical evening or matinee in the theatre.

Now, we need your help. We have some critical improvements that will be beyond what we as a small community theatre can manage. We need a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system, and most of our facility needs to be updated. For the first time in our history, we are asking our wonderful patrons and dedicated community members to partner with us and become sponsors of our beloved theatre.

There are many ways you can help. Of course, we welcome your contributions no matter how large or small. Together we can keep quality theatre in Westchester at prices that are still affordable for our audiences. Please take a look at our sponsorship opportunities and if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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