



Established in 1905. The City of London's premier amateur theatre company

## Roll up! Roll up!

Audition for the Sedos production of Shakespeare's

## ~ As You Like It ~

## The Greatest Show on Earth!

Alright, we're blowing our own trumpets a bit, but we can aim high, can't we? The greatest show on earth we may not be, but the greatest cast at Edinburgh we can certainly achieve. We are looking for actors and actresses who enjoy being part of a company, building characters from scratch, and having a giggle on and off stage.

If you like the sound of stick on moustaches, high jinks and a good old fashioned knees up, come along to our workshop on Sunday, 13 May. Better yet, book an audition slot for the 20th of May.

### **The Team**

Director: Zoe Thomas-Webb

Assistant Director: Charles Golding

Producer: Kaytie Lee

Assistant Producer/Stage Manager: Valentine Monot

Production Design/Costumes: Edith Webb

### **Performances**

Edinburgh

19 August – 27 August (1 preview, 8 performances)

Zoo Venues, The Monkey House

London

TBD

[ayli082012@gmail.com](mailto:ayli082012@gmail.com)

Email Val to sign up for the workshop and to book an audition slot.

## Audition Details

### **Workshop**

Sunday, 13 MAY, 2-5  
Ocean House

Meet the production team, hear about the concept of the show, and learn the details of traveling to Edinburgh! Then perhaps join us at the pub after. ☺

### **First Audition**

Sunday, 20 MAY

The first audition will take about ten minutes. When emailing Val for your timeslot, please state whether you prefer a morning slot (10-12) a midday slot (12-2) or an afternoon slot (3-5) and we will try to accommodate.

**Please prepare one Shakespeare monologue** that closely relates to the primary character you are auditioning for. It isn't necessary to memorize your monologue, just be comfortable enough with it to take direction.

**Please prepare a short, unaccompanied song.** If you don't sing, please don't think this excludes you from auditioning—just skip this step.

**Please indicate in your initial email whether you play any musical instruments.** If you don't play, please don't think this excludes you from auditioning.

We will make every effort to notify you of results as soon as possible after your audition.

If you cannot make the audition on 20 MAY, we will try to arrange an alternative time after the workshop or before the recalls, if possible.

### **Audition Fee**

There is a £5 audition fee, waived for current Sedos Members. If you are cast, your audition fee will be deducted from your participation fee.

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## **Recalls**

Sunday, 27 MAY (2-5)

The recalls will involve games, group scenes, and some voice work. Although we will attempt to take up as little of your time as we can, there will be some waiting.

## **Rehearsals**

The first read-through will be held 10 June.

A formal schedule will sent to the cast, but generally rehearsals will take place:

Tue & Thur 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Sunday, 12:00pm – 5pm

### **Location:**

The workshop, auditions, and rehearsals will be held at Ocean House, unless otherwise advised. See the VENUES map link on the Sedos website's main page.

## Edinburgh Performances

Performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival is more than a show week—it's also a fantastic holiday, a whirlwind of theatrical spectacle, and the chance to test your performance mettle in renowned venue, The Monkey House at Zoo Venues. It's a great location, right next to the Pleasance, a leading comedy/theatre venue. The Monkey House is a 90-seater thrust stage, and ZOO are a friendly and helpful company who really get on board with every show they produce.

As we realize most of our cast will have to take time from work to participate, we will obviously ensure you have plenty of free time to see shows, explore the city and soak up the vibe.

That said, joining the *As You Like It* cast will require commitment. In addition to performances, you will have allotted flyering time and marketing participation.

## London Performances

In addition to our exciting run at the Monkey House, *As You Like It* will have a London run, perfect for inviting your friends and family.

### **Preview Performances**

We are working to secure a dress rehearsal and two preview performances in London to take place the week before we leave for Edinburgh. Details will be released as soon as they are finalized.

### **The London Stock Exchange**

Upon our triumphant return from Edinburgh, we'll meet once again for a gala performance at the London Stock Exchange. This will be an evening performance mid-week, the perfect opportunity to extend the fun! (To be finalized.)

## Participation Costs

We have tried to keep the costs associated with going to Fringe as low as possible. Please note you will be responsible for your own food and drink during the run.

### **Accommodation:**

We have booked two four-bedroom flats to share, which means doubling up in double bedrooms for nine nights, checking in on Saturday 18 AUG and checking out 27 AUG. Cost is **£210 per person** for the 9 nights.

### **Train Travel:**

We will book train tickets the moment they are available. Traveling the morning of 18 AUG and returning the night of 27 AUG. **Approx. £50 roundtrip.**

### **Sedos Membership Fee:**

Everyone cast in AYLI who is not already a member will be required to join Sedos. Membership includes insurance in case of emergency. The **£30 membership fee** is good for a year—benefits include free auditions and discounted ticket rates for Sedos shows.

### **Sedos Participation Fee:**

Everyone cast in AYLI must pay a **£30 participation fee**. (If you were not a member at auditions and paid the £5.00 audition fee, this amount will be credited towards your participation fee.)

**Total amount due for those already members: £290.00**

**Total amount due for new members: £315**

A payment schedule will be discussed at the first rehearsal.

## Our vision

The circus: a place where things aren't quite as they seem, where people go to change their fortune, where life seems magical and can be just as you like it. What better setting for our multi-venue *As You Like It*? Inspired by circus and Edwardian music hall acts, we are building an all-singing, all-dancing production of one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies.

By trimming *As You Like It* to a fringe-friendly one hour, we have chosen to highlight the timeless themes of friendship, family, and homosexuality. In the most drastic update, the male character Silvius is now Silvia, a woman openly in love with another woman.

A simple approach to set and technical considerations will accentuate the text. All props and costumes are drawn from and returned to the wicker hamper, in keeping with the methods of travelling troupes who took their show and their message wherever they went. Modern dress serves to demonstrate that the social structures of Shakespeare's time are by no means "ancient history", and that the freedom and self-definition sought by the characters remain pressing concerns for their contemporaries today.

Celia and Rosalind, Orlando and Oliver, Silvia and Phoebe...the characters portrayed by our merry band fall in love despite faults and differences. They despair, they swoon, they exult and they try to deny it. Without dismissing the itching existence of foolishness, adultery and lust, *As You Like It* comes down on the side of marriage. It's a play that praises patience, kindness and faithfulness. Yet marriage is not presented merely as a way of playing it safe—it's a gamble, and not one to be taken lightly.

## Character Breakdown

**Rosalind** (20s) The most prominent of all of Shakespeare's heroines, a strong, opinionated woman whose capacity to love those around her is deeply infectious.

**Celia** (20s) Rosalind's cousin, the woman least impressed by all this lovelorn angst, she is witty and sarcastic until she meets Oliver. Suddenly, love is more inviting.

**Orlando** (20s) The poet in such consuming passion for Rosalind that he's incapable of seeing the forest for the trees upon which he etches his love.

**Phoebe** (20s/30s) Pursued by Silvia, Phoebe falls for the disguised Rosalind, so we never really know if she is truly attracted to the girl or the boy.

**Silvia** (20s/30s) Like Orlando, her love consumes her, so she seems completely unconscious of the emotional dangers Fortune may have in store.

**Oliver** (20s) Orlando's brother has the greatest character arc through the play as he starts loving his selfish city life and ends remorseful and in love with the forest.

**Duke Ferdinand/Duke Frederick** (40s/50s) Ferdinand, father of Celia, is the paranoid, bitter city Duke. Duke Frederick, father of Rosalind, is the relaxed and wise country Duke. (Played by one actor.)

**Jacques** (30s-50s) Duke Ferdinand's friend, melancholy and slightly amused at the escapades of the others, who delivers one of the most famous Shakespearean speeches.

**Touchstone** (30s-50s) Duke Frederick's clown is the wisest of all of Shakespeare's fools, always eager for fun and yet equally ready to give astute and poignant words of wisdom.