

SHREWD PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# As You Like It

Directed by Lily Wolf with Original Music by T. Lynn Mikeska

FEB.19 - MAR.6

THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS AT 8PM

TRINITY STREET THEATRE
901 TRINITY STREET, AUSTIN, TX 78701







## **AS YOU LIKE IT**

# Written by William Shakespeare Directed by Lily Wolff

#### **CAST**

Rosalind	Shannon Grounds
Orlando	Kriston Woodreaux
Celia	Robin Grace Thompson
Oliver	Andrea Smith
Touchstone	Julie Moore
Audrey/Duke Frederick	David Boss
Sylvius	Kevin Moxley
Phoebe	Valoneecia Tolbert
Jacques	Molly Fonseca
Duke Senior	Fritz Ketchum
Le Beau/Amiens/William	Taylor Flanagan
Corin/Charles the Wrestler	Michael Mergen
Adam/Sir Oliver Martext	Robert Deike
First Lord (Etienne)/Jacques De Boys .	Taji Senior Gipson

#### **CREW**

Director	Lily Wolff
Assistant Director	Clarissa Smith Hernandez
Stage Manager	MIndy Griffin
Composer	T. Lynn Mikeska
Costume Designer	EL Hohn
Lighting Designer	Patrick Anthony
Scenic Consultant	BP Houle
Master Electrician	Reagan Tankersley
Text Director	Robert Matney
Fight Choreographer	Travis Dean
House Manager	Mark Ocegueda
Photographer/Graphic Designer	Kimberley Mead
Videographer	Jose Lozano

### AS YOU LIKE IT - CAST & CREW BIOS

Andrea Smith - Oliver

Andreá has been involved in the Austin theatre scene for the past 15 years, as an actor, director, choreographer, and producer. She last played with Shrewds in Big Love, which was one of her favorite experiences, ever! Andreá is a company member of Shrewd, a company member of the Vortex, president of the board of directors of The Hidden Room Theatre, and a member of the B. Iden Payne Awards Council. When she's not working on a production, she works in Human Resources, which provides its own particular brand of theatre. And after more than a year off the stage, Andreá is really excited to work with such a tremendously talented group of folks, on such a fun play!

Clarissa Smith-Hernandez

Clarissa Smith-Hernandez is from El Paso, Texas and has recently made her home here in Austin. She is the founder of Green Apple Theatre Collective, in where she produced and directed John Cameron Mitchel's 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' in 2007 and again in 2011 as well as Topdog/ Underdog by Suzanne-Lori Parks in 2012. Clarissa hopes to continue to grow her Green Apple Collective tree here in Austin in hopes that she can help to provide the theatre community a place to play and perform all genres of work. Clarissa has performed with the University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) Dinner Theatre as well as with UTEP's University Players. Clarissa earned her degree in Theatre Education from UTEP and now currently works as an Administrative Assistant for the Theatre and Dance department at the University of Texas at Austin.

**David Boss** 

This is David's (only his mother calls him that nowadays) 24th Shakespeare production, 2nd time in As You Like It, 1st time with Shrewd and 1st time playing a woman. He is a regular performer with Austin Shakespeare and a core acting company member of 7 Towers Theatre with whom he was last seen as Larry in "Closer." He has also performed with The Hidden Room, Breaking String, Present Company, The Vortex, and Last Act, among others.

**EL Hohn** 

EL is a critically acclaimed costume designer, currently earning her MFA at the University of Texas. Recent credits include Fixing Timon of Athens with the Rude Mechanicals, Emma When You Need Her for Shrewd Productions/Vortex Repertory, and The Wild Party for the University of Texas.

Fritz Ketchum - Duke Senior

Fritz Ketchum has directed and performed professionally for nearly 30 years for many theatres in Atlanta, Athens and Savannah, Georgia, and in Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. With a M.F.A. in Directing and Acting from the University of Georgia, Ms. Ketchum has served on the Theatre Department faculties of Texas Christian University (TCU), the University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Georgia, and the Dallas Community College system. Ms. Ketchum specializes in Directing and Period Styles, and was a Guest Artist with the Kennedy Center in 2008. Since relocating to Austin, Ms. Ketchum has been nominated for Best Direction for her productions of A Delicate Balance, Rapture Blister Burn, The Importance of Being Earnest and Freud's Last Session by Central Texas Live Theatre. This coming year she will be directing Arthur Miller's

The Price for Jarrott Productions. She has appeared on stage in various regional theatres, including the ZACH Theatre's production of Harvey and Circle Theatre of Fort Worth's production of Becky's New Car. She is an Equity Membership Candidate for Actors' Equity Association.

Julie Moore - Touchstone

Julie just moved back to Austin after traveling and doing art stuff around the country, including a super weird residency at the Elsewhere museum in Greensboro, NC. In Austin you may have seen her in productions with La Fenice (the Lure of the Maiden's Chest), Trouble Puppet (Wars of Heaven Part 1), the Vortex (Changelings) and Rudy Ramirez/Sky Candy (Cosmicomics). Or you may not have, you're probably busy.

**Kevin Moxley - Sylvius** 

Still a relatively new arrival to Austin, Kevin's only local credit was with The City Theatre's recent production of The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940. Kevin has performed across the country in a variety of disciplines including circus, dance, and opera. A big proponent of high-quality performance for and with young audiences (death to pedantic singing/dancing vegetables!), Kevin spends his time offstage working as a Teaching Artist.

Kriston Woodreaux - Orlando

Having recently relocated from Chicago, As You Like It is not only Kriston's theatrical debut in Austin, but also his first time on stage since 2012. Not for lack of trying, though. He spent four years competing on collegiate forensics teams where he got to exercise a different niche of performance. A five-time national champion, and sixteen-time state champion, Kriston now coaches mostly in the Austin area. He's excited to be welcomed by Shrewd to work with such a stellar production team, and cast.

Lily Wolff

Lily is a British-American theatre director, with a passion for new plays, based in Austin since 2008. Lily is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Most recent directing projects include: workshop productions of two brand spankin' new plays by Michener Center playwright Tegan Mcleod, NEVER SUCH RAIN and COLD WATER ARMY (The Back Pack & UT Lab Theatre); ScriptWork's OUT OF INK 2015 (Hyde Park Theatre); The Austin One Minute Play Festival (SVT/Ground Floor); 14/48 Festival (The Vortex); GIDION'S KNOT (SVT; Capital T's New Directions 2014); STOP KISS (ÚT Lab Theatre); staged readings of Barbara Hammond's VISIBLE FROM FOUR STATES and Johnna Adams' RATTLERS (Contemporary American Theatre Festival); Assistant Directing fellowships at the Contemporary American Theater Festival 2012 & 2014 (WV) and Cornerstone Theatre Company 2011 (CA); conceiving, cooking and performing EAT ME: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MENU, a site-specific dinner event held on several houseboats on the Thames river; and as part of her Masters degree, directing and performing CARGO, a collaboratively-devised, all-female performance developed at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and performed in Battersea, London and on Kerrera Island, Scotland.

Michael Mergen

Michael has 20 years theater and film experience, with more than 40 productions to his credit as an actor, producer, director and designer. Michael has appeared in more than 20 Shakespearean and other

Elizabethan plays, with companies including Shakespeare at Winedale, Austin Free Shakespeare Society, Bedlam Faction and Hidden Room. Most recently, Michael was honored to be chosen to play Nick Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream for the 45th Anniversary Reunion of Shakespeare at Winedale. Michael is also a company member of Rude Mechs theater collective.

**Mindy Griffin** 

Mindy Griffin graduated from Southwestern University with a BA in theatre, and a shamefully low GPA, but hey, if you've got good grades, you're devoting too much time to studying and not enough time to the theatre. Since then she has worked as the resident stage manager, prop master, company manager and master of excellence at Know Theatre of Cincinnati, prop goddess at Bristol Valley Theatre in Naples, NY, and an assortment of other stage managey proppy jobs here and there. For the past five years, she has served on the board of directors for Last Act Theatre Company, as well as being the production stage manager, props master, and as needed, (and somewhat begrudgingly) costume designer and scenic artist. Running a company with her best friends (the tiny, badass, grumpy women who GET THINGS DONE) is one of the greatest artistic experiences, and she cannot wait for Austin to see what they've got coming up next! In her spare time before rehearsals, Mindy teaches pre-k, which is the greatest job ever for someone with such a low maturity level. After all the theatering and teaching is done, she is grateful to be marrying a good man who tolerates her theatre habit, and makes her dino-nuggets and macaroni and cheese after a long day at rehearsal.

**Molly Fonseca** 

Mollý is very excited to work with Shrewd for the first time! She was most recently seen in Street Corner Art's The Great God Pan and Waiting for Lefty. She has previously worked with Hyde Park Theatre, Penfold Theatre and Cap T among others.

**Patrick Anthony** 

Patrick Anthony is a freelance designer and master electrician based in Austin, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Loyola University: New Orleans, and studied Scene Design at the Lir Academy of Trinity College Dublin. He teaches Stagecraft at Southwestern University. Patrick is a Shrewd Company member and has designed with Shrewd Productions since 2011 starting with Big Love, for which he received of the 2011 B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Lighting Design.

**Robert Deike** 

Robert Deike is a tactical theatrical, parachuting into productions, quickly getting boots on the ground for rehearsal, all with the simple objective of surviving till the last curtain call. A veteran thespian with almost thirty years of theatrical service, Robert has seen action in the trenches of Stoppard, Dickens, Mamet, Johnson, Sondheim (where he was awarded the Purple Heart), and others, but the majority of his theatrical command has been spent prosecuting the ongoing (400 + years!) campaign against Iron Will, the West's most redoubtable (and white and male) playwright. If you have a problem, if no one else can help, and you can find him (really, that's the easy part)... maybe you can hire Mister D!

Robin Grace Thompson (Celia) is a teaching artist and museum director/

curator here in Austin. She spends her summers out in the piney woods with Camp Shakespeare at Winedale and is excited to be working on Shakespeare back in the big city. She holds a BA in Theater from St Edward's University and was a member of the Actor's Theatre of Louisville Acting Apprentice Program in '05-'06. This is her first time to perform with Shrewd and most of the actors in this magical ensemble. She has previously worked with Whirligig, ScriptWorks, Mary Moody Northen Theatre, Palindrome Theatre, Salvage Vanguard Theatre, and Breaking String Theatre.

**Shannon Grounds** 

Shannon Grounds is the Producing Artistic Director of Shrewd Productions, and a proud company member of Hyde Park Theatre and Vortex Repertory. She has also worked with various other companies around town including Scriptworks, Present Company, Scottish Rite, Hidden Room, Salvage Vanguard, and Austin Shakespeare, among others. She has won a few awards and been nominated for many others, which she hopes makes you think she's a little bit fancy. She is incredibly grateful to Lily Wolff for her brave and insightful direction, to the extraordinary group of artists that made this show possible, to her supportive husband Dave, who cleaned the living room while she was at rehearsal, and lastly, to her two real-life Celias - her sister Shelly Hawkins and her BFF, Shannon Dove. You can catch Shannon on stage next in Agent Andromeda: The Orion Crusade with Sky Candy.

T. Lynn Mikeska

T. Lynn Mikeska is an actor, writer, and musician. She currently lives in Austin, Texas. She is a founding member of Shrewd Productions and has performed, composed and designed for numerous Shrewd productions, to critical acclaim and award nominations. Lynn was recently a semi-finalist in the Chronicle short story competition. She has many facets.

Taji Senior Gipson

New to both Shrewd Productions and performing, Taji's love for the creative arts runs deep. She recently made her stage debut at The Vortex Theater in Krysta Gonzales poignant, original drama, Robin Hood: An Elegy, which explored and tackled America's history with state-sanctioned violence against African Americans. When she's not exploring Austin's fascinating world of theater, Taji is helping build the next generation of women leaders as a Marketing and Communications professional for the local chapter of a global non-profit.

**Taylor Flanagan** 

Though she is new to Shrewd Productions, Taylor Flanagan has been Taylor Flanagan (Le Beau, Amiens, William) is beyond excited to be working with Shrewd for the first time in this hilarious, tender, innovative production. Lily, Clarissa, Lynn, Mindy, E.L., the cast, and the entire creative team have made this process an absolute joy. Up next: you can catch Taylor in Richard III (Lady Anne) and The Lark (Joan) with the Baron's Men. If you would like to learn more about her, you can always check out her website: TaylorFlanagan.weebly.com

Valoneecia Tolbert

Valoneecia Tolbert is an Austin Texas Native (Unicorn!). She spent her last seven years in New York as a broker before falling back in love with acting and working with groups like My Own Delirium, and on the OWN Networks "Unfaithful". Previously in Austin, you may have seen her in

works with Austin Shakespeare Festival, The Vestige Group, Yellowtape Productions and Pro-Arts Theatre.

# SPECIAL THANKS - WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

The Awesome Foundation - Austin Chapter, Zac Crofford, Travis Dean, Rob Matney, Liz Fisher, The UT Austin Department of Theatre and Dance, Seth Koslov and Henry Wolff, Sarah Zeringue, Abby Pilling and Adam Sultan.



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# Shrewd Productions



Raise your voice.

Championing unique perspectives and emerging artists, Shrewd Productions is focused on women's voices, new plays, and work developed though a collaborative artistic approach. We are committed to creating high-quality theatrical experiences that are thoughtful, provocative, and entertaining, featuring the work of female and LGBT artists as we seek to provide a broader array of voices in American theatre and for Austin audiences.

Shrewd has been honored by 48 nominations and multiple awards from the Austin Critic's Table, B. Iden Payne Committee and Austin Theatre Examiner and inclusion on multiple "Best Of" lists in the Austin Chronicle. We are proud to be a member of the Austin New Works Theatre Community, building Austin's professional theatre community devoted to the development of original work.

Recent productions include the world premieres/first productions of Liz Fisher's Deux Ex Machina, Katie Bender's Still Now, Reina Hardy's Glassheart, Jenny Connell Davis' The Dragon Play and Beth Burns' The Long Now as well as critically lauded productions of Charles Mee's Big Love directed by Robert Faires at the Long Center, and Joshua Conkel's multi-award winning MilkMilkLemonade. Previous Shrewd productions include the world premieres of Monika Bustamante's Io: a myth about you and Stillborn: a bedtime story, and Cyndi Williams' Where Are They Now?; regional premieres of Kidnapped by Craigslist by Katie Goan and Nitra Gutierrez and Trash Anthems by Dan Dietz; and original collaborations Cheater, Feast of Fools and Xmas Unwrapped.

Visit us at www.shrewdproductions.com