

Humber River Shakespeare ? As You Like It to be performed this summer

It will be a combination of love, laughter, tricks, song, disguise and transformation when the Humber River Shakespeare Co. presents *As You Like It* as their annual offering for the area.

Now in the sixth season of outdoor summer touring through the area for the troupe, this comic romp of the Bard follows Rosalind, the daughter of a banished duke, out of the court and into the Forest of Arden: an imaginary place where love and charity can find sanctuary from the cruel world of the court. Disguised as a boy, she seeks out her father and his friends. Here she meets Orlando again, and in the guise of a young man, counsels him in the art of love.

From the cold and hostile court to the blossoming charity and forgiveness in the forest, *As You Like It* is about love, in all its forms. Brothers, lovers, friends and foes are tricked, tried and tested in this pastoral pastiche of life, love, wisdom and wit. A wrestling match, music, a banished duke and a celebration of country life combine to move, delight and inspire in this classic comedy. As in Shakespeare's day, all performances are staged in the open air, with a focus on actors ? not elaborate sets ? to tell the Bard's timeless stories.

?This allows us to have a direct connection with our audiences and ensures that theatre is affordable and accessible to all,? commented Artistic Producer Sara Moyle.

The production is directed by Artistic Director Kevin Hammond, who is currently assistant director of *Measure For Measure* at the Stratford Festival.

Humber River Shakespeare is working with 2013 presenting partners The Ontario Arts Council and Arts Society King.

?We are pleased to have such generous support from these organizations, which allow us to continue to create and produce professional theatre and educational programs for a growing audience base,? Moyle said. ?The relationships we've built with local organizations, businesses and volunteers are also essential to our success.?

The touring schedule for this summer will see a number of performances throughout Peel and York Regions, as well as Toronto. Local performances will include July 9 and 10 at Dick's Dam Park in Bolton; July 11 and 18 at Schomberg Fairgrounds; July 14 and 26 at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg; and July 19 and 20 at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, Alton (tickets will be available online starting June 1 for this performance).

All performances start at 7 p.m., except Sundays, which start at 2 p.m.

Admission is pay-what-you-can at the park, but the suggested donation is \$15 per person. For more information, go to the website at HumberRiverShakespeare.ca