

ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

THE STATE THEATRE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Heather Vander Ark
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Arizona Theatre Company to present magical comedy by Shakespeare *As You Like It* transforms Temple of Music and Art into enchanted Forest of Arden

Shakespeare bounds joyously back onto the stage as Arizona Theatre Company presents *As You Like It*, Shakespeare's magical celebration of romance, passion and the triumph of love in the Forest of Arden. Staged by nationally renowned director Sharon Ott, this spectacular and stunningly beautiful new production promises to be one of the most lavish and exciting plays of the season with a cast of twenty-five. *As You Like It* will preview on February 26, open to the press March 3 and play through March 18 at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Avenue in downtown Tucson. It will continue its run March 23 through April 9 at the Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix. *As You Like It* is a co-production with Seattle Repertory Theatre. Production Underwriter is Bank One.

Come, grab Rosalind by the hand and flee into the enchanted Forest of Arden. Dressed as a boy to avoid capture, she lives among the other exiles from her uncle's court, an exuberant free spirit in an earthly paradise. The wisest and wittiest of Shakespeare's heroines, Rosalind teaches the ways of the world to the lovesick Orlando and the other joyously smitten exiles. And when it is time to leave the magical forest, they go triumphantly, a quartet of happy lovers, off to make a better world.

"*As You Like It* is a great adventure as well as being one of Shakespeare's almost perfect comedies," says director Sharon Ott. "It takes a kaleidoscopic approach to the topic of love in all its forms; its chaotic ability to heal and rupture. This group of people, who have been exiled from their home, are able to make radical changes in themselves simply by being thrown from their everyday existence. They burst through their boundaries and we get to watch that positive spiritual growth happen."

SHARON OTT (*Director*) has been Artistic Director of Seattle Repertory Theatre since 1997, where her directing credits include *A Doll's House*, *Alligator Tales*, *Pygmalion*, *Sisters Matsumoto* and *Golden Child*. She came to Seattle from the San Francisco Bay Area where she was the Artistic Director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre for 13 years. Under her leadership, Berkeley Rep presented an eclectic mix of classics and new plays which culminated in the 1997 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. She has been the recipient of the Bay Area Theatre Critics Awards, both Hollywood and Bay Area DramaLogue Awards, Los Angeles Theatre Critics Awards, San Diego Theatre Critics Awards, an Obie Award as well as the 1996 Arts Achievement Award from San Francisco Focus Magazine. She also received the Paine Knickerbocker Award for Lifetime Achievement for her artistic direction at Berkeley Rep. In 1998, Ms. Ott gave the keynote address at the Arizona Theatre Alliance Statewide Conference.

Tickets for *As You Like It* range in price from \$20 to \$32 and are available at the ATC Box Office and all Dillard's

(more)

David Ira Goldstein, *Artistic Director*

Jessica L. Andrews, *Managing Director*

TUCSON D P.O. Box 1631, TUCSON, AZ 85702-1631 D (520) 884-8210 D FAX (520) 628-9129
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ticket outlets with discounts for seniors, students and the military. Half price *Rush Hour* tickets are available for all performances one hour prior to curtain at the ATC Box Office only (subject to availability). For more information or to charge tickets, call ATC at (520) 622-2823 or Dillard's at (800) 638-4253. For group discounts, call (520) 884-8210.

ATC will offer a *Pay What You Can* performance on Tuesday, February 29 at 7:30 PM. A limited number of tickets will go on sale at the Temple of Music and Art at 10 AM on the day of the performance and are limited to two tickets per order with a suggested minimum donation of \$5.

ATC offers audio described performances for patrons with visual impairments Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 PM and Wednesday, March 15 at 2 PM. Each performance will include a tactile tour one hour prior to curtain. Braille and large-print playbills are available upon request from the House Manager. American Sign Language interpreted performances are offered Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 PM and on Wednesday, March 15 at 2 PM. Patrons with hearing impairments will receive a biography of the interpreters, a description of the play and name signs of each character. Tickets for the audio described and ASL interpreted performances are available through the ATC Box Office at (520) 622-2823. Patrons with hearing impairments may access the box office via Arizona Relay at (800) 367-8939 (TTY/ASCII).

As You Like It continues its run March 23 through April 9 at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix. Tickets are available at the ATC Box Office, the Herberger Theater Center Box Office and all Dillard's ticket outlets. For more information, call ATC at (602) 256-6995, Herberger Theater Center at (602) 252-8497 or Dillard's at (480) 503-5555.

THECAST

Returning to ATC stages are Laurence Ballard, Kim Bennett, Ben Brittain, Clayton Corzatte, David Dollase, Roberto Guajardo, Leslie Law and Jeff Steitzer. Making their ATC debuts are Lise Bruneau, Jack Clay, Andrew DeRycke, David Gehrman, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Julie Briskman Hall, William Mark Hulings, Peter Jacobs, Dan Kremer, Roberto Robinson and Akemi Royer. Also appearing are Karrie France, Kathryn Knapp, Jamie Mingo, Gladys Robinson-Marquez, Harmony Schreiter.

LAURENCE BALLARD (*Jaques*) is returning to ATC where he appeared in *The Old Matador*, *Shadowlands* and *M. Butterfly*. He has worked at A Contemporary Theatre, Arena Stage, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Tadashi Suzuki's company in Japan, among others. KIM BENNETT (*Duke Frederick*) returns to ATC where he was last seen in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *Scapin*. He recently appeared at American Stage in *The Price* and *How I Learned to Drive*. Arizona credits also include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and *Ghetto*. BEN BRITTAİN (*Dennis/William*) appeared in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* for ATC last season. He has worked at The Cleveland Play House, The Phoenix Symphony, Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Phoenix Theatre, TheatreWorks, In Mixed Company and Childsplay. LISE BRUNEAU (*Rosalind*) has appeared in Seattle Repertory Theatre's productions of *Pygmalion* (directed by Sharon Ott) and *An Ideal Husband*, American Conservatory Theater's *Angels in America*, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's *Lady from the Sea*, *Triumph of Love*, *An Ideal Husband* and David Edgar's *Pentecost*. Most recently she played Vivie in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at Baltimore's Center Stage. JACK CLAY (*Le Beau, Sir Oliver Martext*) appeared in *Golden Child*, *An Ideal Husband*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Crucible*, *All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, among others. Now retired from teaching, he was formerly head of the Professional Actor Training Program at the University of Washington and directed a similar program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas for twenty years. CLAYTON CORZATTE (*Adam*) appeared at ATC in *Other People's Money*. He is an Obie Award winner and Tony nominee celebrating his forty-ninth year in professional theatre. He has acted and directed at The Guthrie Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Cleveland Play House, Arena Stage, Old Globe Theatre and others. ANDREW DERYPCKE (*Jaques de Boys*) appeared in *Halcyon Days*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *She Stoops to Conquer* and has performed at The Group Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre and Tacoma Actors Guild. He was seen in the American premiere of *Vinegar Tom* off-Broadway at the Harold Clurman Theatre. DAVID DOLLASE (*Charles, Amiens*) last appeared at ATC in *Dreams from a Summer House*. Broadway and national tour credits include *Grand Hotel*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Showboat* and *Man of La Mancha*. He has appeared with Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Walnut Street

Theatre of Philadelphia, West Coast Ensemble in Los Angeles and Tacoma Actors Guild, among others. DAVID GEHRMAN (*Silvius*) is a member of Seattle's Printer's Devil Theatre and the sketch comedy group Bald Faced Lie. He has performed at Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Annex Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre and A Contemporary Theatre. LORENZO GONZALEZ (*second lord to Duke Senior*) has worked at El Teatro Campesino, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Fort Worth Shakespeare in the Park and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He teaches along the West Coast and is actively involved with the Virginia Avenue Project. ROBERTO GUAJARDO (*Corin, Hymen*) appeared in ATC's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Shadowlands*, *One Crazy Day*, *The Tempest* and *The Matchmaker* and many ATC workshops. Other Arizona credits include performances with Invisible Theatre, Borderlands, Flagstaff Festival of the Arts, Actor's Lab, Arizona Jewish Theatre, Actors Theatre of Phoenix and Phoenix Theatre. JULIE BRISKMAN HALL (*Celia*) spent six seasons as a member of The Guthrie Theater acting company where she appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Triumph of Love*, *A Woman of No Importance* and *Molly Sweeney*. Most recently she appeared in the world premiere production of *Lobster Alice* at Jungle Theater. WILLIAM MARK HULINGS (*Orlando de Boys*) was last seen in Arizona in The Acting Company's production of *As You Like It*. Other credits include *Arms and the Man*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *The Illusion* and several productions at The Guthrie Theater including *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, *Death of a Salesman* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. PETER JACOBS (*Oliver de Boys*) has acted and directed in San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. He spent six seasons with California Shakespeare Festival and, in Seattle, directed the 1998 Fringe Festival hit *Black Irish*. He appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol*, *All in the Timing*, *Chaps!*, *Blithe Spirit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Tuna Christmas*. DAN KREMER (*Duke Senior*) spent 14 seasons with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where his credits include *Oleanna*, *The White Devil*, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the premieres of Mark Medoff's *The Majestic Kid* and Kristine Thatcher's *Emma's Child*. He has also appeared with Alabama Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Playwrights Horizons and Portland Center Stage. LESLIE LAW (*Audrey*) returns to ATC where she appeared in *Scapin*. She has also appeared at Village Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Festival, Center Stage, A Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Civic Light Opera. A familiar face at Seattle Children's Theatre, she just finished playing in *Time Again in Oz*. ROBERTO ROBINSON (*Lord to Duke Senior*) recently appeared as Thelonious Monk in *Epoch Blue*, his first playwriting experience. Other credits include *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Comedy of Errors*, all with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. AKEMI ROYER (*Phebe*) performed in Los Angeles in Fusion's bilingual production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Other credits include *Marisol's Christmas*, Samuel Beckett's *Come and Go* and *Under Milk Wood*. She recently finished writing, producing and performing in *Vamos!* at The Edge Of The World Theatre Festival. JEFF STEITZER (*Touchstone*) returns to ATC where he last appeared in *Scapin* (AriZoni award). Other appearances at ATC include *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and the world premiere production of Steven Dietz' *Private Eyes*, a part he subsequently recreated for Seattle Repertory Theatre. He has acted at The Empty Space Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Festival and Tacoma Actors Guild.

DIRECTION AND DESIGN

KATE EDMUNDS (*Scenic Designer*) designed *The Heiress* for ATC. She has worked with Sharon Ott on *Heartbreak House*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Doll's House* and *The Sisters Matsumoto*. Ms. Edmunds is designer-in-residence at American Conservatory Theater where her designs include *Hecuba*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *Antigone*. She has designed for American Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Center Stage, Mark Taper Forum, Goodman Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Arena Stage, among others. NANCY SCHERTLER (*Lighting Designer*) designed the Broadway productions of *Abbey's Song*, *Fool Moon* and *Largely/New York*, which garnered a Tony Award nomination. For twenty years she has designed for regional theatres including American Repertory Theatre, Center Stage, Mark Taper Forum, Goodman Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Arena Stage, among others. Off-Broadway work includes *The Brides of the Moon* and *Falsettoland*. PAUL TAZEWELL (*Costume Designer*) designed costumes for ATC's *The Gershwins' Fascinating Rhythm* and the subsequent Broadway production. He also designed costumes for the Broadway productions of *Bring in Da' Noise*, *Bring in Da' Funk* (Tony nomination) and *On the Town*. Off-Broadway credits include *Dinah Was*, *City Center Encores!*, *Li'l Abner* and *Playboy of the West Indies*. He has designed extensively for Arena Stage, The Guthrie Theater, Goodman Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, Hartford Stage Company and Milwaukee Repertory Theater. LOREENA McKENNITT (Composer) owns and manages her own record label, Quinlan Road, with offices in Stratford, Canada

and London, England. Since 1985, she has released seven albums, including *Live In Paris And Toronto*, *The Mask And Mirror* and *The Visit* and has sold over eight million records worldwide. Her 1997 album, *The Book Of Secrets*, and its single, “The Mummies’ Dance,” became Top Twenty Billboard chart successes. STEPHEN LeGRAND (*Sound Designer*) designed sound for ATC’s production of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* last season. He is a composer and sound designer whose work has been heard at The Public Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, LaJolla Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre and Intiman Theatre. He served for nine years as resident designer at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. STEFAN MARK DOLLAK (*Music Director*) is director of the Phoenix-based early music ensemble *Bartholomew Faire* and plays a number of instruments, including the lute, hurdy gurdy and the pipe and tabor. He also sings regularly with *Cappella Vallisolis* and has performed with the Alliance Française de Greater Phoenix and the Phoenix Bach Choir. TYNE TURNER (*Voice and Speech Coach*) has coached for Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theater Center and Milwaukee Repertory Theater, among others. Ms. Turner has served as a full time faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Southern Methodist University. DANIEL PELZIG (*Choreographer*) has choreographed *Privates on Parade* at Roundabout Theatre Company, *Lady in the Dark* for City Center and numerous other plays and musicals at theatres throughout the country including Goodspeed Opera House, Sundance Theatre Lab, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and many productions for Huntington Theatre Company. GEOFFREY ALM (*Fight Director*) returns to ATC where he directed fights for *The Illusion*. His credits include work at Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre and Seattle Children’s Theatre. This summer he will be directing fights for Seattle Opera. CHRISTINE SUMPTION (*Dramaturg*) is Artistic Associate at Seattle Repertory Theatre where she moved after a three-year stint in Japan. She served as resident director at Theatre Company Subaru in Tokyo and co-directed a Japanese language production of *As You Like It*. She has directed at The Group Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Seattle Children’s Theatre and Seattle Repertory Theatre, among others. RICHARD E. T. WHITE (*Dramaturg*) is chair of the theatre department at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. He has directed at regional theatres throughout the U.S. including Old Globe Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Alliance Theatre Company, California Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE (*Co-Producer*) was founded in 1963 and is led by Artistic Director Sharon Ott. One of America’s premier non-profit resident theatres, Seattle Repertory Theatre has achieved international renown for its consistently high production and artistic standards and was awarded the 1990 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. With an emphasis on entertaining plays of true dramatic and literary worth, Seattle Rep produces a season of nine play on its two stages along with educational programs and a new play workshop series.

Production Stage Manager for *As You Like It* is Joseph Smelser. The Assistant to the Stage Manager is Mindy Johnson.



