

Ogden Shakespeare Festival “As You Like It” Character Descriptions



Character descriptions are given to help auditioners determine areas of interest. Ages and descriptions are general. All roles are open. All genders, ethnicities, ages, and levels of experience are invited to audition. If you have any questions about character descriptions, please reach out to Director, Jennifer Hughes at the following email address: jen@ogdenshakesfest.org.

Rosalind (PRINCIPAL), late teens to early twenties, Shakespeare's brilliant protagonist, embodies wit, charm, and intelligence. She engages in playful banter with a sharp tongue yet remains compassionate and caring, loyal to friends and family. Resourceful and resilient, she tackles challenges with grace and determination, embracing independence and agency. Despite adversity, she maintains a positive outlook, finding humor even in difficult times. Rosalind describes herself as taller than her cousin, Celia, and disguises herself as Ganymede to enter the Forest of Arden. This role is for a female-identifying actor.

Celia (PRINCIPAL), in her late teens to early twenties, stands as one of Shakespeare's most devoted characters. Her unwavering love for her cousin defines her loyalty and compassion. Despite her privileged background, Celia remains humble and empathetic, navigating challenges with grace. A romantic at heart, she believes in love's power to overcome obstacles. Disguised as Aliena, Ganymede's sister, Celia joins Rosalind in their journey to the Forest of Arden, embodying resilience and optimism. This role is for a female-identifying actor.

Orlando (PRINCIPAL), in his late teens to early twenties, is characterized by his noble stature, rugged charm, and passionate spirit. Courageous and honorable, he stands up for what is right and treats others with respect regardless of social status. A romantic at heart, Orlando is driven by love and adventure, showcasing loyalty and kindness. He falls in love with Rosalind at the very beginning of the play. Like her, he has to escape to the Forest of Arden where he encounters his love in disguise. The mistaken identity makes for much of the humor and fun throughout the play. This role is for a male-identifying actor.

Touchstone (SUPPORTING), a mature character, a witty and quick-witted jester known for his sharp tongue and clever humor. He possesses a mischievous charm, often using satire and wordplay to entertain those around him. Despite his jesting nature, Touchstone is also a keen observer of human behavior, offering insightful commentary on the world around him. He serves as a foil to the other characters, highlighting the absurdities of their actions and beliefs. Touchstone provides comic relief even as he adds depth to the play's themes of love, loyalty, and self-discovery. This role is for a male-identifying actor and/or a non-binary actor who can play a male role.

Oliver (SUPPORTING), twenties to thirties, the antagonistic older brother of Orlando, cunning and manipulative, driven by jealousy and a desire for power. He undergoes a transformation throughout the

play, ultimately experiencing redemption and growth through his interactions with other characters, particularly Orlando and Rosalind. His journey from villainy to redemption adds depth and complexity to the play's exploration of human nature and relationships. This role is for a male-identifying actor.

Duke Frederick (SUPPORTING), a mature formidable character, often depicted as the primary antagonist of the play. He is characterized by his ambition and ruthlessness, willing to manipulate and deceive to maintain his grip on power, including usurping the court from his brother, and banishing his niece from court. Like Oliver, he experiences a change of heart and renounces his tyrannical ways, highlighting the capacity for change and growth within each individual. This role is for an actor of any gender.

Duke Senior (SUPPORTING), a noble and dignified mature character, often portrayed as a wise and benevolent ruler. He is typically depicted as a compassionate and empathetic leader, beloved by his followers. As the rightful ruler of the court, he serves as a symbol of justice and fairness in the play. His exile to the Forest of Arden allows him to rediscover himself and forge meaningful connections with others. He embodies themes of resilience, redemption, and the transformative power of nature. This role is for an actor of any gender.

Jacques (SUPPORTING), a mature, complex and enigmatic character, known for his melancholic demeanor and philosophical nature. He possesses an existential view of life, making speeches on the absurdities of society. Despite his cynicism, he has a deep sense of empathy and compassion, particularly for those who suffer. His interactions with others, particularly Rosalind and Orlando, provide moments of introspection and self-discovery, adding depth and richness to the play's exploration of themes such as love, identity, and the passage of time. This role is for any actor of any gender.

Corin (SUPPORTING), an older character, a humble shepherd, embodies qualities of honesty, integrity, and hard work. His earthy, grounded nature serves as a contrast to the courtly figures in the play, highlighting the simplicity and purity of rural life. His interactions with characters such as Rosalind and Orlando provide moments of reflection and insight, adding depth and richness to the play's exploration of themes such as love, friendship, and the pursuit of happiness. This role is for an actor of any gender.

Adam/Sir Oliver Martext (SUPPORTING), Adam, the kindly old servant to Orlando, is faithful to the end. Despite his age and frailty, Adam possesses a resilient spirit and a strong sense of duty. He embodies qualities of integrity, loyalty, and compassion, serving as a source of wisdom and guidance for the younger characters in the play. Sir Oliver Martext, a bumbling and ineffectual clergyman. Despite his title, Sir Oliver Martext is portrayed as incompetent and easily manipulated by other characters. He often serves as a foil to the more serious and capable figures in the play, highlighting the absurdities of human behavior. This track is for a male-identifying actor.

Le Beau/Phebe (SUPPORTING), Le Beau, twenties, a courtier known for his flamboyant and effusive personality, is a colorful and lively character, often providing comic relief in the plays. Well-connected and gregarious, frequently engaging in gossip and socializing with other members of the court. He is

often tasked with delivering news and messages to the other characters. Phebe, twenties, a shepherdess is headstrong, independent, and unafraid to speak her mind. She adds depth and complexity to the play's exploration of themes such as love and identity, showcasing the resilience and strength of rural women in Shakespeare's world. This track is for a female-identifying actor and/or non-binary actor who can play any gender.

Charles/Silvius (SUPPORTING), Charles, twenties, a wrestler known for his strength and prowess in the ring. He is typically portrayed as a formidable and intimidating figure, with a muscular build and a stern demeanor, dominating his opponents with ease. Despite his brutish exterior, Charles may possess a sense of honor and integrity, adhering to the rules of the sport even when faced with temptation. Silvius, twenties, a lovelorn shepherd, is romantic and sensitive, deeply devoted to his beloved, Phebe. Despite facing rejection and heartache, Silvius remains steadfast in his love. His character adds depth and emotion to the play's exploration of themes such as unrequited love and the transformative power of affection. This track is for a male-identifying actor.

Amiens/Audrey (SUPPORTING), Amiens, twenties to thirties, a musician, is typically portrayed as a serene and contemplative character, with a soothing presence that brings harmony to the world around him. He is attuned to the beauty of nature and the human spirit, using music to express the deeper emotions and truths of life. Amiens' character adds depth and richness to the play's exploration of themes such as love, friendship, and the passage of time. This character will sing in the play. Audrey, twenties to thirties, a shepherdess, is unpretentious and down-to-earth, content with the simple pleasures of life. She possesses a kind heart and a generous spirit, often helping those in need without seeking recognition or reward. Audrey's character adds warmth and authenticity to the play's portrayal of rural life, showcasing the virtues of humility and kindness in Shakespeare's world. This track is for a female-identifying actor/singer/musician, and/or a non-binary actor/singer/musician who can play any gender.

First Lord/Hymen (ENSEMBLE), First Lord, any age, is a companion to Duke Senior and contributes to the sense of community and camaraderie within the forest setting. Hymen, any age, is a symbolic character, representing the spirit of marriage and love. As the embodiment of love and matrimony, Hymen's role in the play is typically celebratory and joyous, bringing couples together in harmonious union. His presence adds a sense of magic and wonder to the play, highlighting the importance of love and unity in Shakespeare's world. This character will sing in the play. This track is for an actor of any gender.

William/Jacques de Boys (ENSEMBLE), William, twenties to thirties, a simple and straightforward shepherd or a rustic inhabitant of the Forest of Arden. He adds authenticity to the portrayal of rural life in Shakespeare's world, showcasing the virtues of simplicity and sincerity. Jacques de Boys, twenties to thirties, is a nobleman, the brother of Orlando and Oliver. He adds depth to the plot and provides insight into the social hierarchy and political dynamics of the court. This track is for a male-identifying actor.