

AS YOU LIKE IT

19 - 31 JULY

Racks Close, Quarry Street, Guildford, Surrey

The award-winning Guildford Shakespeare Company's 15th Open Air Season continues in July with Shakespeare's gloriously sunny comedy **AS YOU LIKE IT**, staged in a former chalk quarry.

Full of beautiful songs, enchanting characters, and a fabulous feel-good story, **AS YOU LIKE IT** is a celebration of human nature's desire to forgive and forget, to love and to laugh.

To escape the tyrannous Duke Frederick's reign, Rosalind escapes with her cousin and a cheeky jester into the Forest of Arden, a playground of hopes and dreams. Away from the stifling court, this merry trio discover that the outdoors have more to offer than just refuge, and where freedom of thought liberates, so too can romance flourish for each and every one.

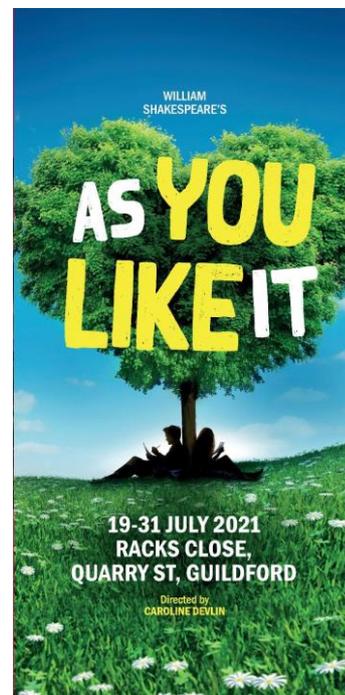
Director **CAROLINE DEVLIN** returns to GSC following her feel-good triumph with *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2019, and marks her 10th year of collaborating with the company. This production will have a 1930s setting.

CAROLINE DEVLIN: *"It's truly thrilling to be preparing one of Shakespeare's most glorious comedies for this long-awaited season! As You Like It seems particularly apt, not just in its gorgeous wit and celebration of love but its poignant examination of our relationship with the natural world. With echoes of Europe in 1939, escape to Arden is all the more necessary and beautifully realised. Love and liberty in all its forms shapes this joyous story, leading some of Shakespeare's most iconic characters, Rosalind and Orlando, Touchstone and Jacques on a hilarious, touching and joyful journey."*

AS YOU LIKE IT features the largest female character in all Shakespeare - Rosalind – played by **NATASHA RICKMAN**. Natasha was last with GSC for their open-air pilot event in August last summer, *Thy Eternal Summer*. She also directed the company's online live *A Christmas Carol* featuring Brian Blessed and Penelope Keith in December.

The play also has some of Shakespeare's most recognisable phrases and speeches including the famous *"All the world's a stage"* speech by Jacques, played here by GSC's own actor-manager and Co-Founder **SARAH GOBRAN**.

The venue for the Forest of Arden is **RACKS CLOSE**, a former chalk quarry in the heart of Guildford town centre. Now a luscious oasis of green, the venue has played host to the company's previous shows *Robin Hood* (2018) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2017).



GSC Actor-Manager Sarah Gobran



Natasha Rickman



Press Release

Date: **21 MAY 2021** Use: **IMMEDIATE**
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ACTING COMPANY

NATASHA RICKMAN
ROBERT MASKELL
SARAH GOBRAN
RACHEL SUMMERS

COREY MONTAGUE-SHOLAY
JAMES SHELDON
TOM RICHARDSON
MATT PINCHES

ARTISTIC TEAM

CAROLINE DEVLIN, director
NEIL IRISH, designer
MATT EATON, sound designer

ANETT BLACK, associate designer
INDIANA LOWN-COLLINS, assistant director

TICKETS

Full **£26.50**
Concessions **£23.50**
(over 65, students, Equity, Jobseekers, Reg Disabled)
Children **£16.50** (under 16)

Family tickets **£78** (2 children, 2 full)
Schools **£15** pupils (1 teacher free for every 10)

Preview 19 July £18.50 (£16.50 children)

DATES

As You Like It **19 – 31 July**
Evenings 7.30pm, Saturday matinees 2.30pm

PRESS NIGHT 21 JULY, 7.30pm

BOOKING & FURTHER DETAILS

www.guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk

PRESS

Matt Pinches matt@guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk
07971 234141



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Note to Editors

Guildford Shakespeare Company is an award-winning, site-responsive theatre company. Established in 2006 by actor-managers Sarah Gobran and Matt Pinches, it has produced over 40 shows in unique venues including Guildford Cathedral, Watts Gallery, West Horsley Place and a Flemish Spiegeltent. In 2015, Brian Blessed OBE played the title role in *King Lear*. Its Education and Outreach works with over 5000 people young and old every year including free-to-access social inclusion programmes. GSC is one of the largest producers of home-grown theatre in the region.

In August last year GSC piloted Guildford's only outdoor event in association with Guildford Borough Council, bringing over 800 people to the town's Castle Gardens. During the last 12 months GSC have continued to stage original shows online, producing 9 live productions, seen by over 4000 households worldwide. Together with their ongoing education and outreach work, the theatre company created 145 jobs for freelance artists, and winning a number of local awards for their commitment to the community.