All the World's a Stage in Shakespeare Carolina's Newest Production

Winthrop University
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA — “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.”

That often-quoted line comes from William Shakespeare’s pastoral comedy “As You Like It” — and Shakespeare Carolina certainly hopes audiences will like it when they bring the play to life for a two-week run, beginning July 17 at Winthrop University’s Johnson Hall.

Of course, audiences should expect some twists to the classic tale, all done in the Shakespeare Carolina Way: “From the ostentatious and techno-driven world of the court, to the merry and idyllic forest of Arden, ‘As You Like It’ subverts the traditional rules of a romance,” the acting troupe promises.

Shakespeare Carolina veterans Nathan Rouse and Katie Bearden tackle the role of lovers Rosalind and Orlando.

The play begins with the exile of Duke Senior by his younger brother, Frederick. The Duke’s daughter, Rosalind, is allowed to remain at court because of her close friendship with Frederick’s daughter Celia. Orlando falls in love with Rosalind at first sight, angering Frederick and prompting Rosalind and Celia to flee into the forest of Arden. What follows is a game of love, lust, mistaken identity and hilarious confusion of gender roles.

This production marks the fourth full summer residency at Winthrop for Shakespeare Carolina. Past productions include “Antigone,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “The Tempest” and “The Taming of the Shrew,” along with several others.

Show times are 8 p.m. July 17-19 and July 24-26 and 3 p.m. July 20 and 27. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and students. Buy tickets online or purchase them at the door.

Shakespeare Carolina is a culturally diverse organization that promotes color and gender blind casting. Shakespeare Carolina seeks to promote the universality of the classical canon to audiences that may not otherwise be exposed to the works of world’s greatest playwright. It is Shakespeare Carolina’s goal to grow into one of the region’s premiere cultural institutions, providing educational outreach as well as educational, technical and artistic opportunities for all segments of York County’s population.