As you Like It – Audition notice for Summer 2027 show at Cleeve House

Audition date:
Saturday 5th Dec – 9.15–12 or 2–4.30 The Royal Oak, High Street, Corsham

Show and tech dates:

4th – 10th July

The Summer show at Cleeve House will be *As You Like It* – directed by Jacky Crosher

As You Like It is one of Shakespeare's well-loved pastoral comedies. It follows Rosalind as she is banished from the court of Duke Frederick (her uncle) – but not before she and young Orlando fall for each other. Seeking out her exiled father in the Forest of Arden with her devoted cousin, Celia, Rosalind disguises herself as a young man, Ganymede, Celia disguises herself as a shepherdess, Aliena. They find safety and eventually, love, in the Forest of Arden. With other court characters and people from the forest joining them in a joyful farce, this production is set in the 1660s

Casting – 12–15 actors with some doubling, Mixed cast of men and women with people generally playing to gender. There will be some ensemble work and music for the play's songs

Rehearsals will be on Sundays 10 – 4 and Thursday evenings, from April. Please make sure you can attend most of the rehearsals, especially Sundays. Some additional rehearsals may be needed nearer the show dates. Doubling roughly as follows depending on number in the cast.

Email me if you'd like to attend with your preferred audition character or characters. Either bring an audition piece or I can send you one, no worries if you're not sure, we'll try to find the right fit. **jackycrosher@gmail.com**

"Jacky is the most relaxed and encouraging director, with such a fantastic imagination and eye for detail" Natalie Verhaegen, comic Shakespearean actor

"A rollocking production that keeps the audience entranced. The director creates such a wonderful melange of art styles to tell this tragedy" Antony and Cleopatra - Bath Drama's Autumn 2025 show – Ian Diddams, Devizine

Character descriptions:
Court of Duke Frederick:

- Duke Frederick, Duke Senior's younger brother and his usurper, also Celia's father
- Rosalind, Duke Senior's daughter
- Celia, Duke Frederick's daughter and Rosalind's cousin
- Touchstone, a court fool or jester
- Le Beau, a courtier
- Charles, a wrestler

Household of Old Sir Rowland de Boys ('of the woods'):

- Oliver de Boys, the eldest son and heir
- Jacques de Boys, the second son, announces Frederick's change of heart
- Orlando de Boys, the youngest son
- Adam, a faithful old servant who follows Orlando into exile
- Dennis, the servant who announces Charles's arrival in Oliver's orchard

Exiled court of Duke Senior in the Forest of Arden:

- Duke Senior, Duke Frederick's older brother and Rosalind's father
- Amiens, an attending lord and musician
- Jaques

Country folk in the Forest of Arden:

- Phebe, a proud shepherdess
- Silvius, a shepherd
- Audrey, a country girl
- Corin, an elderly shepherd
- William, a country man
- Sir Oliver Martext, a curate
- Hymen; God of marriage