



As You Like It



Introduction to Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, *As You Like It*. Places the work within the author's oeuvre and explores the nature of Shakespearean comedy. An outline of the plot is provided and the various characters are introduced. The pastoral tradition, the notion of rural versus urban life, the "ages of Man" and the condition of melancholy are considered. The roles played by fools and clowns in Shakespeare's work and "gender bending" theatrical conventions are also discussed. Key scenes and passages are presented for closer analysis.

Shakespeare's gender bending games

Ganymede

MISS LITTON AS "ROSALIND" & MY FIVE BELLEW AS "ORLANDO" IN "AS YOU LIKE IT" LONDON STEREOGRAPHIC CO. COPYRIGHT

SAMPLE SLIDES

Act 2, scene 7

All the world's a stage,
 And all the men and women merely players;
 They have their exits and their entrances;
 And one man in his time plays many parts,
 His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,
 Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;
 Then the whining school-boy, with his satchel
 And shining morning face, creeping like snail
 Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
 Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
 Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
 Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,
 Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
 Seeking the bubble reputation
 Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
 In fair round belly with good capon lin'd,
 With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
 Full of wise saws and modern instances,
 And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
 Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,
 With spectacles on nose and pouch on side,
 His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide
 For his shrank shrank; and his big manly voice,
 Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
 And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
 That ends this strange eventful history,
 Is second childishness and mere oblivion;
 Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing.



40 Slides, Audio & Video 1 x 75 Minute session