

The Brampton Guardian - Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.

## **As You Like It a light comedy**

### Shakespeare in the Square

**KATHARINE SEALEY**

As You Like It, as presented by the fourth annual Shakespeare in the Square festival, is a light and engaging comedy.

The show runs Fridays through Mondays until August 4.

The second installment of this year's festival, it is the story of a girl and her cousin, who, after being banished by the one's father, disguise themselves so that they may follow a young man. Of course, being Shakespeare, there are lots of other things going on as well.

Shakespeare wrote this comedy for the common people, hence the title, and as such it is packed with things like wrestlers and hissable bad guys in eye patches, and the open-air setting is the perfect venue for this story, which takes place mainly in the forest.

Although not one of the better known Shakespeare stories, it does contain his famous 'all the world's a stage' speech that most people will recognize instantly.

Margaret Thompson gives a great performance as the show's centre, Rosalind, with Tim Maclean well-matched as Orlando, the object of her affection. This talented cast also features plenty of comic relief, including Adam Bailey as Le Beau, Jake Willett as Silvius/Charles, John Terranova as Touchstone and Leah Whal as Phebe.

The highlight of the show, as always, is the high-speed, instant relay recaps at the end Acts One and Three. These improvs, done in modern English, are fast becoming a well-loved tradition at the festival.

As You Like It is directed by Andrew Lamb, with original music by Mike Gauthier.

Admission is free, though donations are encouraged. The play is on at Ken Whillans Square, next to City Hall. Show time is 8 p.m. Bring a lawn chair. Free parking is available under City Hall.

For more information, call 905-874-2800.