

Salisbury International Arts Festival

As You Like It Old Wardour Castle

The 2011 Salisbury International Arts Festival saw the popular return of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. A performance of one of the famous comedies, 'As You Like It', directed by James Dacre, was played out against the magical and mystical backdrop of Old Wardour Castle. The play ran over three evenings, 31st May – 2nd June and there's no doubt that it's one of the all-time favourites of the Festival.

'As You Like It' is a hilarious satirical comedy where people are constantly fooled by one another's disguises. Our main protagonist, Rosalind (Jo Herbert) falls in love with Orlando (Gunnar Cauthery) when she sees him at a wrestling match. Soon after, her Uncle banishes Rosalind out of jealousy, temporarily frustrating her romance! Consequently Rosalind disguises herself as a man and ventures into the Forest of Arden in order to find her also-banished father. Yet again she meets Orlando and the utterly side-splitting slapstick unfolds from there. The intriguing romance had everyone hanging onto every line so as not to miss anything of the twists or turns and the performance was very well crafted.

For those who knew the plot, it was easy to watch and very enjoyable. For anyone not familiar with it there was potential to confuse because of the rapid appearance and reappearance of a small cast in multiple roles. One off-beat but very funny feature in the play was when the whole cast had to be on stage so a cardboard cut-out was used to represent one character. This added to the richness and the satire of the comedy; if there had been a roof, it would have been raised. However, the talent and timing of the players seemed to me to keep enough momentum to avoid it. It goes without saying, the Globe Theatre never disappoint so when you next hear of them performing, I bid thee to see them!
Touring until the 10th September.

Jenny Snell