Performance Season
Tuesday 5 June until Saturday 9 June

Venues
As You Like It
Grant Street Theatre, Grant Street, Southbank
The Merchant of Venice
Studio 45, with a Box Office at 28 Dodds Street, Southbank

Duration
110 minutes, no interval

Admission
$22/$16, bookings are essential

Note
This performance contains simulated smoking on stage and haze/smoke effects.

Shakespeare Season 2012
As You Like It
Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Melanie Beddie
Presented by Acting Company 2012 and Production students
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**Cover Image Credit:**
Images courtesy of Shakespeare Season project teams.
Welcome to the School of Performing Arts, at the VCA. A place of vision, investigation and discovery. The School encompasses the departments of Dance, Production and Theatre, and is committed to offering intensive training for emerging artists, through excellent teaching and research practice within a vibrant, productive and collaborative atmosphere. Each department has its own unique training programs, which honour both contemporary and traditional developments in the performing arts.

Students train to be dancers, choreographers, theatre makers, animateurs, directors, actors, stage managers, production artists and technicians. Our teachers and guest directors, designers and choreographers are practising artists, selected for their commitment to learning, a belief in the individual, and a vision for the future. The School’s aim is always to present work that is both challenging and inspiring to our audiences and many of our graduates are making a significant contribution to the profession at an international and national level.

We hope you enjoy the Season and look forward to seeing you again.

— Geraldine Cook, Head/School of Performing Arts
Throughout their third year of training at the VCA the acting students engage in a variety of productions. This year Company 2012 have already collaborated on a major new work with director Bagyrana Popov, a project that asked of the actors to devise a new work in response to Sophocles’ classic text Antigone. Later in the year Company 2012 will work on a Contemporary Play as their graduating project.

This Shakespeare project is an opportunity for the actors to use what they have learnt about performing Shakespearean text through monologues and scenes during their second year of training. These productions provide an opportunity to bring those skills to the floor and to engage with a Shakespearean text within a production context and while working with third year designers and professional directors. At this stage in their training the focus of the actor’s task is to come to grips with heightened language in performance and to consolidate and apply their training within a very short time frame, as well as working within a directorial vision.

We hope you enjoy the Season and look forward to seeing you at the School’s forthcoming productions in 2012.

- Melanie Beddie, Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
ABOUT THE SEASON

Within the confines of a learning institution it is easy to lose sight of the fact that a primary aspect of theatre making is about communicating to an audience. Theories are discussed, skills are developed and strong bonds are formed within the various disciplines of the school but it is not until you, the audience, play your part that a real assessment of our success can be made.

All performing arts practice is collaborative by its very nature and it is through projects such as these that students gain first hand experience of the commitment, creativity and compromises (not necessarily a bad thing!) required for a group to come together and make a piece of theatre.

This is the first time that production students have worked on the Shakespeare works, an annual Theatre project, and this represents a great opportunity to explore the universal themes and rich imagery of these classics texts. Guided by experienced and generous directors the design, lighting and stage management students have the opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired in a practical context.

My hope is that the energy and enthusiasm that all the students bring to these productions translates into a very stimulating and enjoyable theatre experience for you, the audience.

– Greg Clarke, Lecturer/Production (Design)
As You Like It is believed to have been written in 1599 or 1600 and is from the middle period of Shakespeare’s writing. It is usually described as a pastoral comedy and it sets the highly constructed world of the court (with all its injustice and social hierarchy) against the perceived beauty and freedom of nature and the country life.

The play offers us a vision of the transformative power of love and forgiveness. In the play the Forest of Arden is a place where people and their lives are radically and irrevocably transformed. This is a piece which explores the many natures of love—romantic, filial, parental, unrequited, lustful, compassionate...The play offers up a world of myriad choices and endless possibilities. It is a work that at all times stresses the complexity of life, the simultaneous pleasures and pains of being human.

In preparing for this production I have edited the play to accommodate the cast of ten. I have cut some text and reassigned roles and gender. This dramaturgical process, driven by practicalities, has allowed us to shape a response to Shakespeare’s text which asks us to reveal our contemporary selves through Shakespeare’s magical world and his beautiful and complex language.

My thanks to the actors who have worked with me to leave behind our natural inclination towards skepticism and invest ourselves in a world where romance and redemption are possible. The actors have not only taken on this challenge but also brought their many musical talents to the production.

My thanks to the creative team and the crew who have brought such imagination, care and detail to their work. And many thanks to Tony Smith and Rinske Ginsberg for their extraordinary knowledge and skills.

I hope you enjoy the performance.

– Melanie Beddie, Director, Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
As You Like It

Directed by Melanie Beddie
Designed by members of Third Year Production

Cast
Rosalind - Olivia Monticciolo
Orlando - Matt Whitty
Celia - Edwina Samuels
Duchess/Duke - Chloé Oestreich
Oliver/Corin/William - Tom Heath
Eve/Phoebe - Alice Cavanagh
Charles/Touchstone - Sam Young
Le Beau/Mme Amiens/Audrey - Natascha Flowers
Dennis/Mnsr Amiens/Silvius - Matthew Connell
Jaques - Amy Jones

Live music rehearsed and recreated by Amy Jones and Edwina Samuels with members of the cast
As You Like It

Set Designer - Martelle Hunt
Costume Designer - Thomas Higgs
Lighting Designer - Maddy Seach
Stage Manager - Chloe Woodman
Assistant Stage Manager - Rebekah Gibbs
Design Assistant - Rob McLean
Head Electrician - Ben Howlett
Costume Maker - Helen Croatto
Costume Manager - Kat Anastasiou-Bell
Lighting Operator - Ed Chia

Crew Coordinator - Kate Kelly
Technical Crew - Kate Kelly, Shane Thompson, Aaron Cananzi, Aaron Garcia, Leslie Ding, Bryn Cullen and Jason Crick

Production Coordinator - Mel Robertson
Costume Supervisor - Rose McCormick
Set and Prop Builder - Colin Orchard
As You Like It

Acknowledgements

Tree trunks proudly supplied by the Timber Training Creswick.
Carpet generously donated by Coveney Interlay.
Director’s Biography

Melanie Beddie

Melanie Beddie has a BA from Sydney University and is a graduate of the acting course at VCA. She was a co-founder of the $5 Theatre Co. and is artistic director of the independent theatre company The Branch. She works as an actor, dramaturg and director.

Melanie has directed at MTC, Playbox, La Mama, ANPC, WAAPA and The National Theatre School. Her recent work includes Traitors for which she won Best Director (Independent Theatre), Sinners by Ramez Tabit and Johann McIntyre and also Ghosts by Ibsen. In 2009 she directed three newly commissioned works entitled Aviary at La Mama. Also in 2009 she co-directed (with Rachael Maza) Sisters of Gelam with Ilbijerri Theatre. In her work outside VCA Melanie is currently developing a new work with Lisa and Rachael Maza and a collaboration with Jane Bayly and Carole Patulo entitled Button.

As an actor she has appeared in various TV series and worked at MTC, Playbox and La Mama as well as Hothouse Theatre and was an ensemble member of Arena Theatre and $5 Theatre Co.

In 2002 she co-founded the Dramaturgies Forum with Paul Monaghan and Peter Eckersal. In 2004 she received the Dramaturgy Fellowship from the Australia Council. She was an inaugural board member of Playwriting Australia. She received a Gloria Fellowship from NIDA in 2009 that allowed her to conduct research in the UK and USA. The focus of the research was cross-racial casting and initiatives for developing opportunities for culturally diverse theatre practitioners. In 2010 she co-founded the Australian Women Directors Alliance and she co-hosted a Women in Theatre Leadership Forum.

Melanie is currently Lecturer in Acting at VCA and her recent directorial work here includes Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night and The Tempest, Underwear Perfume and Crash Helmet by Michael Gurr and Chekhov’s Three Sisters and Cherry Orchard.
Matthew Connell

Raised in Queensland, Matthew has performed in many theatre productions, musicals and short films throughout Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. These roles include Josh in the touring production of in Bang Bang You’re Dead for Brisbane’s One Act Play Festival, where he attained the Best Actor Award, Gavroche in Les Misérables, Mr Tumnus in Narnia, Nobby in Night Watch and Lad in the short film Dunkirk. Matthew’s VCA roles include Andrey in Three Sisters, Michael, Don and Glen in Unity (1918) and The Fireman in The Bald Soprano.

Alice Cavanagh

When Alice was fourteen she became involved with the North Queensland Opera and Music Theatre Company and the Townsville Choral Society, where she performed in the productions Beauty and the Beast in 2008, Jesus Christ Superstar in 2009 and The Boy From Oz in 2009 playing the role of the Trio Girl. Alice also volunteered as a crew member in over nine shows, some of which included Rent in 2006 and Les Misérables in 2008. In 2009 Alice made her on screen debut in Jeremy Sim’s Beneath Hill 60 in which she played the role of Agnes. At the VCA, Alice has played the roles of Irena in Three Sisters, Beatrice in Unity (1918) and Julie in Between Today and Tomorrow. Alice performed in the Woodford Folk Festival Fire Event, bringing in the New Year of January 2011 with a bang.
Tom comes to theatre with a musical background. In 2002 and 2003 Tom appeared in the children’s chorus of Opera Australia in Bizet’s Carmen, Offenbach’s Orpheus in the Underworld and Verdi’s Otello. In 2008 Tom completed the Summer Professional Musical Theatre Training Program at the NYU’s TISCH School CAP 21. Tom’s roles at the VCA include Agamemnon in Agamemnon, Kulygin in Chekhov’s Three Sisters, Hart in Kevin Kerr’s Unity (1918) and Father Flynn in John Patrick Shanley’s Doubt. Tom Heath is the recipient of the 2011 Richard Pratt Bursary for Achievements in First and Second Year.

The youngest member of her year, Natascha came to the VCA directly after Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, where she played roles such as Gwendolen in The Importance of Being Earnest and Hermia in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Natascha speaks fluent German, has lived in Berlin and played the violin since she was four. At 15, Natascha worked with actors such as Colin Moody and performed at Belvoir St Theatre in 2000 Feet Away, directed by Lee Lewis. Natascha was also a member of the prestigious NSW State Drama Company, performing six plays over three years. In 2009 Natascha starred in the short film The Conversationalist. Natascha’s roles at the VCA have included Iphegenia in Iphegenia in Aulis, Irena in Chekhov’s Three Sisters and Babe in Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley.

Natascha Flowers

Tom Heath

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Acting Company 2012 Graduating Students’ Biographical Notes

Natascha Flowers

Tom Heath

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Olivia Monticciolo
Born and raised in Sydney, Olivia began her tertiary education at the University of New South Wales completing a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Theatre and Performance Studies. In 2006 she performed in the Australian Theatre for Young People’s production of Phaedra’s Love and in 2007 completed the year long Power of Acting course at the Actors Centre Australia. Whilst at the VCA Olivia has appeared as Natasha in Three Sisters, Lorraine in A Lie of the Mind and as Mrs Martin in The Bald Soprano. Olivia is the 2012 recipient of the Lionel Gell Foundation Scholarship.

Amy Jones
Born and raised in Melbourne, Amy began her acting and musical theatre training from a young age. Her theatre credits include Alice In Wonderland, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Anthony Crowley’s The Wild Blue. In 2010 she took part in the creative development and performance of Our Bodies and What Happens When They Get Together by VCA alumni Fleur Susannah. She also starred in Then The Day Comes, a short film by Sophia Di Venuto. Her roles at the VCA have included Natasha in Chekhov’s Three Sisters, Sissy in Unity (1918) by Kevin Kerr and Mrs Smith in Ionesco’s The Bald Soprano. Amy has also trained extensively, performs professionally as a singer, and plays a variety of instruments.
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Acting Company 2012 Graduating Students’ Biographical Notes

Edwina, born in Dubbo NSW, began performing at a young age. Having competed in various Eisteddfods in both the Speech and Drama and Piano sections, she then moved to attend boarding school in Sydney. At the age of 17 Edwina achieved a distinction in her ATCL Teachers Diploma for Speech and Drama exam, whilst also studying CMUS level for Piano. Being accepted into the VCA directly after completing her secondary education, Edwina’s roles have included Andromache in Trojan Women, Irena in Chekhov’s Three Sisters, Sally in Sam Shepards’ A Lie of the Mind, and Sarah in Teresa Rebecks’ Does This Woman Have a Name? Edwina is the 2012 recipient of the Friends of VCA Theatre Scholarship.

Chloé Oestreich

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland, Chloé underwent most of her high school education in Germany before moving to England in 2005, where she completed her A Levels at Frensham Heights School. Chloé is fluent in German, French and English language. During this time she participated in short courses at the EFAS in Zurich and the New York Film Academy in Boston. In 2008 she moved to Berlin to study at the Filmschauspielschule Berlin. Amongst several short films, her productions with the company include Der Reigen by Arthur Schnitzler and Amphitryon by Heinrich von Kleist. In 2010 Chloé moved to Australia to commence her studies at the VCA. Her roles have included Mascha in the Three Sisters, Sunna in Unity (1918) and Claire in Between Today and Tomorrow.
Sam found his creative feet early in life, performing in Youth Theatres, Performance Choirs and Big Bands at state and national levels throughout his years at school. He moved to Sydney in 2001 and completed a Certificate IV in Musical Theatre and worked as an artist there for 7 years. Having appeared in television series such as *Home & Away* and *All Saints*, Sam also accrued experience collaborating with other developing artists. Sam has had the honour of working under the tutelage of some of Australia’s finest teachers such as Martin Challis, Rowena Balos, Kevin Harrington, Alison Telford, Shane Crawford, Anthony Simcoe, John Orcsik, Thea McLeod, David Mann and Jan Russ. Since being accepted to the VCA in 2010 Sam has played Agamemnon in *Achilles*, Vershinin in *Three Sisters*, Frankie in *A Lie of the Mind* and Jon in *Does This Woman Have a Name?*

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**Acting Company 2012 Graduating Students’ Biographical Notes**

Born in Melbourne, Matt began performing at the age of 11. In 2007, he was nominated by the Victorian Musical Theatre Guild for Best Junior Male Performer in a Leading Role and received the Malthouse Education Programme’s Award for Outstanding Contribution to Dramatic Art. In 2009, Matt completed the VCA’s year long Foundation Acting Studio and toured Australia performing for Book Week’s Theatre in Education season. He has devised and performed in original work for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2009, Midsumma Festival in 2010 and St Martin’s *Hatched* Festival in both 2009 and 2011. Roles at the VCA include Tuzenbach in *Three Sisters*, Jake in *A Lie of the Mind* and Mr Smith in *The Bald Soprano*. 

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Matt Whitty

Sam Young
2012 Graduating Production Students’ Biographical Notes

Helen is a third year production student from Melbourne, majoring in costume construction and design. During her time at the VCA she has worked as Costume/Design Assistant for Nothing Exists in Isolation (2010), as Costume Maker for dancescape 2011, and as Costume Designer for Resonate, Revolve, Reflect in 2011. Helen recently completed a secondment with designer Jane Hyland on a drama-documentary film First Fagin, working on location in Tasmania. Currently she is working as a Costume Assistant/Stand-by on a WWI drama-documentary Gallipoli from Above, and is looking forward to a secondment with the Australian Ballet on Swan Lake.

Thomas has been involved in theatre from an early age, with an interest in design developing through working closely with set and costume designers in his local theatre society. Since studying with the VCA, Thomas has procured the role of Set Assistant on Cosi by Louis Nowra, Costume Assistant on Agatha Christie’s The Hollow, Design Assistant on Does this Woman Have a Name? by Theresa Rebeck and Costume Designer on Kevin Kerr’s Unity (1918). He has recently finished a secondment with Melbourne designer Adam Gardnir on the Cat Stevens musical MoonShadow and will also be working with him on the upcoming Production Company’s The Producers. After completing his degree Thomas hopes to design for both theatre and film, working on a diverse range of productions both locally and abroad. Thomas would like to thank his costume team for all their hard work and for helping make his vision into a reality.
Maddy Seach

Maddy is currently in her final year of the Bachelor of Production, majoring in Lighting Design. Before VCA she completed a Certificate IV in Live Production, Theatre and Events (Technical Operations). Last year Maddy was honored to receive the Beleura John Tallis Award for Excellence. This year, Maddy has seconded on the Australian tour of James and the Giant Peach the Musical as Associate Lighting Designer and is currently seconding with Circus Oz. Previous credits include Technical Stage Manager for Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Lighting Designer for A Lie of the Mind and Peter Pan and Wendy, Head Electrician on A Mouthful of Birds and Assistant Stage Manager for Good News Week.

Martelle Hunt

From a young age Martelle has been involved in community theatre, taking on several creative roles including costume design, set design and make-up art before commencing formal studies. She received the BLOC Music Theatre award for outstanding contribution from a junior company member and the Ballarat Arts Foundation award in 2009. Martelle completed a Diploma of Make-Up at Swinburne University in 2008 and has worked as a freelance make up artist since, with experience in theatre, photography and independent film. Recently Martelle has done Make-Up FX for web series Tales from the Table (Aardvarks Anonymous,) and Tomasino Brothers (Wizard Sandwiches). Her VCA credits include Costume/Make Up Assistant for O’Horo, Dance of Death, and Costume Designer/Maker for Fiona Cameron’s choreographic work in dancescape 2011, and Set Design Assistant on A Mouthful of Birds.

Maddy is currently in her final year of the Bachelor of Production, majoring in Lighting Design. Before VCA she completed a Certificate IV in Live Production, Theatre and Events (Technical Operations). Last year Maddy was honored to receive the Beleura John Tallis Award for Excellence. This year, Maddy has seconded on the Australian tour of James and the Giant Peach the Musical as Associate Lighting Designer and is currently seconding with Circus Oz. Previous credits include Technical Stage Manager for Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Lighting Designer for A Lie of the Mind and Peter Pan and Wendy, Head Electrician on A Mouthful of Birds and Assistant Stage Manager for Good News Week.
Chloe has been involved in the Performing arts since a very young age. She became involved in Stage Management during high school and has pursued it ever since. She was awarded the Crawley Prize for outstanding contribution to Performing Arts at Toorak College. Most recently she has completed a secondment in the United States at the Indiana Repertory Theatre on the production of Fallen Angels by Noel Coward. In 2011 she volunteered on the Victorian State Schools Spectacular as a Rehearsal Stage Manager. Her VCA credits include Stage Manager on More than Matter, choreographed by Ben Hancock, 4 minutes 29 seconds, choreographed by Anna Smith, Sound Designer on Unity (1918), directed by Robert Walton, Assistant Stage Manager on The Golden Age, directed by Lawrence Strangio and now Stage Manager for As You Like It, directed by Melanie Beddie.
VCA
School of Performing Arts

Dean/Faculty of VCA and MCM
Director/Victorian College of the Arts
Head/School of Performing Arts
Manager/School of Performing Arts
Lecturer/Production (Audio)
Lecturer/Postgraduate Dance
Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
Lecturer/Dance
Lecturer/Production (Design)
Snr Lecturer/Theatre (Voice)
Snr Lecturer/UG Coordinator/Theatre (Acting)
Honorary (Senior Fellow)
Lecturer/Theatre (Physical Performance)
Snr Lecturer/Postgraduate Coordinator/Dance
Assoc Prof/Undergraduate Coordinator/Dance
Honorary (Professorial Fellow)
Lecturer/Production (Lighting)
Snr Lecturer/Postgraduate Coordinator/Performing Arts
Snr Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
Lecturer/Production (Props and Scenery)
Lecturer/Production (Stage Management)
Lecturer/Production (Postgraduate Design)
Lecturer/Theatremaking
Lecturer/Dance
Lecturer/Theatre (Voice)
Lecturer/Dance
Lecturer/Theatre (Acting)
Lecturer/Dance
Snr Lecturer/UG Coordinator/Production (Costume)

Technical/Facilities Officer
Snr Technical Officer
Administrative Officer
Projects Officer
Stagecraft Workshop Coordinator
Production Manager
Musician
Wardrobe Officer
Foundations Coordinator
Stores Officer

Professor Barry Conyngham
Professor Su Baker
Geraldine Cook
Sara Koller
Roger Alsop
Dr Don Asker
Melanie Beddie
Meredith Blackburn
Greg Clarke
Geraldine Cook
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