

Riverside Theatre in the Park opens with **As You Like It** on June 15

Written by Sarah Burnett
Friday, 08 June 2012 12:39

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IOWA CITY, IA– Riverside Theatre, Iowa City’s resident professional theatre company, will kick off its summer season, Riverside Theatre in the Park, on Friday, June 15 with **As You Like It** by William Shakespeare, directed by Theodore Swetz.

For tickets and information, call the Riverside Theatre Box Office at [\(319\) 338-7672](tel:3193387672) or visit www.riversidetheatre.org

In **As You Like It**, Rosalind, Shakespeare's most breathtaking heroine, and her boyfriend Orlando find themselves in the enchanted Forest of Arden, where “all the world's a stage,” and where sudden infatuation is as confusing as it is beautiful. **As You Like It** has everything people adore about Shakespearean comedy: mistaken identity, cross-dressing, madness, mayhem, laughter, and romance...plus an original score and a cappella singing!

Kansas City based director Theodore Swetz directs this romantic comedy. Swetz is a founding company member of American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin, and is currently head of graduate actor training at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“I believe we all need a little bit of ‘Arden’ in our lives – a place to reinvent and rejuvenate. We hope that a starry night at the Festival Stage gives our audiences one such escape,” said

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Swetz.

Several returning actors will appear in featured roles in *As You Like It*: Kalen Harriman (*Mary's Wedding*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Boom*) as Rosalind, Jim Van Valen (*A Steady Rain*, *Ah, Wilderness!*) as Jaques and Tim Budd (*Walking the Wire*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*) as Touchstone. Additional guest artists hail from Kansas City, Chicago, Milwaukee, and New York City.

The production features costumes by Genevieve Beller, scenic design by Shawn Ketchum Johnson, lighting design by David Thayer, and music composition by John Mistler.

Riverside Theatre in the Park also includes Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, directed by Kristin Horton, which opens Friday, June 22. *As You Like It* and *The Merchant of Venice* will then be performed in rotation until July 8.

Riverside Theatre in the Park is performed outdoors at the Festival Stage in Iowa City's Lower City Park every summer.

To make an evening at the park, audience members are invited to picnic before the show. Wraps, desserts, and beverages are available at the box office before the show and during intermission.

One hour before each main stage performance, patrons may gather at the Green Show Stage (located next to the pavilion) to brush up on the plot of that night's play with original story theatre versions of the evening's play performed by the Apprentice Company.

Directions to Lower City Park and information about parking can be found at www.riversidetheatre.org

Single tickets for Riverside Theatre in the Park range from \$17-\$39 with discounts available for

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students, seniors, and youth, as well as those wishing to purchase tickets to both shows.

Patrons are also invited to take advantage of the four Family Nights, which will take place on June 17, 24, 26, and July 3. On Family Nights, up to two adults accompanying a youth will receive their tickets at the \$17 youth price. Family nights are sponsored by funding from the Johnson County Community Foundation. Family Night performances begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets to Riverside Theatre in the Park can be ordered by calling the Riverside Theatre Box Office at [319-338-7672](tel:319-338-7672). The Riverside Theatre Box Office is open Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Single tickets may also be ordered online at www.riversidetheatre.org

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