

As You Like It

Questors Theatre

A PRODUCTION of Shakespeare's classic tale *As You Like It* has just ended after two weeks at Questors Theatre, in Mattock Lane, Ealing.

Although I would not boast to be a huge theatre fan, I have got to say that this production kept me smitten from the minute it started to the very last scene.

The stage was fairly small, and not a lot of props were used, but the effects the actors managed to portray through their acting made up for any lack of stage gear.

The production had wit, energy and enchantment – and unlike a lot of Shakespeare's plays, it had a happy ending.

It is about the dawning of love and the delights of freedom from the constraints of ordinary life. During the course of the play we move from an oppressive court to a society which is relaxed and full of enjoyment, while four different pairs of lovers meet and conduct their courtship.

My favourite characters were Rosalind and Celia, and the actresses that played them, Xan Fuller, and Sunita Dugal, stood out in my opinion.

I was gripped throughout the whole play, and enjoyed every moment of singing and the comedy of Touchstone, a clown with the affectations of a brazen shepherdess.

The play was probably written between 1599 and 1600, and displays the themes of corruption at court, the sufferers of poor farmers, old age, and freedom of speech.

Rosalind finds her assumption of male disguise gives her the freedom to be herself and to form a truly equal relationship with her lover, Orlando.

I enjoyed every minute of the production and give a hearty cheer to the director Sue Solomon, and designer Hilda Wilson, who put together fantastic garments.

Natasha Brown