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Marin Shakespeare Company

presents

*Shakespeare*  
"As You Like It"

August 3rd through September 1st  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings  
8:00 p.m.

at the Forest Meadows theatre  
on the campus of Dominican College  
in San Rafael

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— W. Shakespeare



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## Marin Shakespeare Company

*"Shakespeare Under the Stars"*

Shakespeare returns to Marin! The Marin Shakespeare Company is celebrating its premiere season with the production of *As You Like It* this summer at Forest Meadows.

Marin Shakespeare Company is dedicated to serving as a resource for entertainment and education, and to achieving artistic excellence in the performance of Shakespeare's plays. It provides an opportunity for local theatre artists to train and work with established professionals.

The Company will perform annually at the Forest Meadows theatre on the campus of Dominican College in San Rafael. Set on twenty-six wooded acres, this beautiful theatre was designed for Shakespearean productions in 1967; the beauty of the surroundings and the magnificent reflecting pool make Forest Meadows one of the country's most elegant outdoor theatres, providing a peaceful scenic setting in accessible central Marin.

The Marin Shakespeare Company is a revival of the Marin Shakespeare Festival, which played from 1961 to 1973. The Festival's initial performances were produced by founders Ann and John Brebner first at the Art and Garden Center in Ross and later at the newly built Forest Meadows Theatre. The many expressions of community enthusiasm greeting this project repeatedly hark back to the Festival, its unique beauty and its vitality as a center of family entertainment.

We are proud to give to this community the special gift of Shakespearean theatre. Shakespeare is both profound and fun. A family can participate together in live epic action - magic, ceremony, swordplay, stagecraft, comedy, slapstick, battle, witchcraft, wit - while examining along with the greatest poet in the English language the intricacies of love and ambition, joy and confusion, tragedy and wisdom and the multitude of things which make us human.

Performing under the tall trees and the summer stars at Forest Meadows, the Marin Shakespeare Company creates a special place for the Marin community, a place of contemplation and delight. We hope you will join with us in sharing the wonder of William Shakespeare.

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Half Price tickets: \$6

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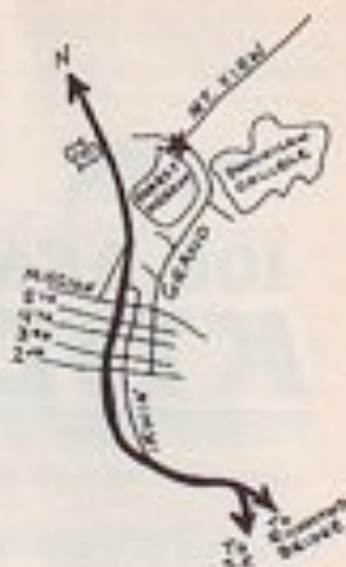
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Tickets also available at the Cottage Bookstore (San Rafael), The Depot Annex (Mill Valley), First Street Books (Kentfield) and at the door.



### To Forest Meadows:

\* The entrance to Forest Meadows is at Grand Ave. & Mountain View.

From 101 south, Central San Rafael Exit. Right onto 2nd; left onto Grand.

From 101 north, Central San Rafael Exit. Left onto Mission; second left onto Grand.



All Seating is General Admission, so come picnic, enjoy and reserve your spot. The theatre will be open at 6:00 p.m.

Scripts of *As You Like It*, Shakespeare T-shirts and seat cushions will be available. We suggest that you dress warmly.

There is wheelchair access. Please call 456-1626 if special attention is desired.

Refreshments including cold Crystal Geyser waters, coffees and desserts will be on sale prior the performances and during intermission.



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The Marin Shakespeare Company is proud to have a wonderfully enthusiastic band of volunteers. Led by the members of the Board of Directors, who are the ultimate volunteers, the Shakespeare Guild functions as an auxiliary body, helping with parties, plays and special projects.

*"...the labour we delight in..."*

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## 1990 Marin Shakespeare Company Cast Biographies

**Eric Beckman**  
*First Court Lord*  
*Forest Lord*



Eric was last seen as Paris in College of Marin's production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

**Nancy Carlin\***  
*Rosalind*



Nancy most recently played Viola in *Twelfth Night* at the American Conservatory Theatre where she has played many roles in five seasons including Lucie Manette in *A Tale of Two Cities*, Beth in *A Lie of the Mind*, Masha in *The Seagull*, and Jennifer Dubodat in *The Doctor's Dilemma*. She has also performed with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Eureka Theatre Company, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, O. S. F. - Portland Center Stage, Berkeley Shakespeare Festival where she played Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the Jailor's Daughter in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, Oregon Shakespeare Festival where she played Ariel in *The Tempest*, Celia in *As You Like It*, and Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz where she played Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Nancy has directed *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Cymbeline* for A. C. T.'s Advanced Training Program, of which she is a graduate. She has a B. A. in Comparative Literature from Brown University.

**Lesley Currier**  
*Audrey*



Lesley has performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre, South Coast Repertory Theatre and the Ukiiah Playhouse. She has studied acting at U. C. Irvine, the American Conservatory Theatre, and Princeton University of which she is a graduate and recipient of the Francis LeMoyné Page Theatre Prize.

**John Flanders**  
*Le Beau*  
*Jaquez de Boys*



John holds a B. A. in Drama from U. C. San Diego. He owns and operates Glowing Productions, a theatrical and video production company.

**Greg Fuller**  
*Dennis*  
*Forest Lord*



This is Greg's first performance in a Shakespeare play. He is thrilled to help bring *As You Like It* alive.

**John Furse\***  
*Touchstone*



\*Courtesy of Actor's Equity Association



Ann was trained as a director at the Old Vic Theatre School in London. She was a co-founder of the Marin Shakespeare Festival and in 1967 directed *Twelfth Night*, which opened the Forest Meadows Theatre. Her recent directing credits include *Goodnight, Texas* by Terry Dodd and *The Queen's Night* by Frank Cossa, both for Playwrights Preview Productions in New York. Last fall she directed and helped to develop *Trouble in Paradise* by David g. Smith for the Ensemble Theatre Company.



**Ann Brebner/Director**

*Cast continued*

John Furse graduated from U. C. Berkeley in 1984 and A. C. T.'s Advanced Training Program in 1989. In between he spent a couple of years sampling the delights of New York City. He has worked often in Bay Area Theatre at A. C. T., San Jose Rep, and last performed Shakespeare as Lysander in John C. Fletcher's acclaimed production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* both at P. C. P. A. and the Westwood Playhouse in L. A. His big dream is to one day take over the role of the Grapes in the Fruit of the Loom bunch.

Having made his theatrical debut this year, Robert has appeared at the Marquis, the Actor's Ensemble and the Role Players Ensemble. He is also a chess master, poet and molecular biologist.



**Glenn Havlan**  
*Ambient*

Glenn has appeared with the Ross Valley Players, Civic Arts Rep and the Palo Alto Players. Among his Shakespearean roles are Oberon, Jaques and Antonio in *The Tempest*, this last with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. The last two summers found him with Peninsula Center Stage's "Shakespeare at Woodside" program as Orsino in 1988 and Petruchio in 1989.

**Erika Gulick**  
*Court Lady*  
*Hymen*



Erika moved here this year from Kansas City, Missouri where she performed in *Plan Nine from Outer Space* and other productions. This is her first Bay Area performance.

**Paul Jennings**  
*First Forest Lord*



Paul is a student at S. F. State and the A. C. T. Summer Training Congress. He has appeared and trained with Berkeley Shakespeare

**Robert Hamm**  
*Duke Frederick*  
*Sir Oliver Martest*





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### Director's Notes

Early in May of this year I spent a day here, maybe sitting in the seat you are sitting in now, and let the calmness, beauty and rightness of the surroundings invade me.

A deer appeared behind the stage and wandered away into the forest...the deer that Duke Senior would talk of so lovingly, the deer that would be reluctantly killed so those living in the forest might be sustained.

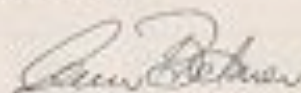
As the day passed, individual bird songs became clear, the distant sound of motorcycles and leaf blowers became less and less offensive and the play revealed itself to me: Shakespeare speaking down the years.

The longer I immersed myself in this Forest of Arden the less the court belonged here at all. Greedy, voracious, needy, angry and vicious, they would destroy the forest. I hated to think of Duke Frederick being allowed in the gate. He belonged with the invasive noises of the outside world.

His brother Duke Senior walked easily in this place. And so the ideas came. Touchstone, escaping from the court is taught by Corin, Silvius and William, all of whom he could outwit at 'deals,' all of whom have a natural respect and wisdom which he must learn in order to survive. How lucky Rosalind and Celia are to experience moving from violence to safety, and in safety discovering love.

The forest lords would plant trees, treasure water, care for each other and Adam lovingly, and understand the continuum of life as Jaques does. Somewhere not far away is Duke Frederick, who having come into the forest to kill his brother has experienced a change both rich and strange, now devoting his life to prayer, reading and contemplation, and returning the worldly possessions wrested from his brother. The forest felt so safe by now that I did not mind knowing that Duke Frederick had entered it.

The survival of the Forest of Arden, wherever it may be, depends on how we care for it. It in turn will care for us. Four hundred years ago Shakespeare knew this. It is our wish that as you leave this Forest of Arden, you will carry in your hearts laughter and joy from *As You Like It* and a loving dedication to our environment.



---

# As You

*Cast in order*

John Furse and Nancy Carlin



**Directed by Ann Brebner**

**Technical Direction & Design  
by Jim McKie**

**Original Musical Score  
by Wyatt Kildow**

*photos by David Glover*

Orlando  
Adam  
Oliver  
Dennis  
Charles  
Celia  
Rosalind  
Touchstone  
Le Beau  
Duke Frederick  
First Court Lord  
Court Lords

Court Lady  
Duke Senior  
Amiens  
First Forest Lord  
Forest Lords

Cerin  
Silvius  
Jaques  
Audrey  
Sir Oliver Martext  
Phoebe  
William  
Hymen

Jaques de Boys -

The action takes place  
Duke Frederick and

There will be one 15

# Like It

of appearance

Nancy Carlin as Rosalind

Paul Robb Sulzman  
Patrick McGrath  
Ken Steinmetz  
Greg Fuller  
Steve Van Epps  
Judy Waters  
Nancy Carlin\*  
John Furse\*  
John Flanders  
Robert Hamm  
Eric Beckman  
Christian Mills  
Greg Willmarth  
Erika Gulick  
Ian Swift  
Glenn Haylan  
Paul Jennings  
Greg Fuller  
Michael McKee  
Danny Slomoff  
Steve Van Epps  
Pagan Neil  
Greg Willmarth  
Robin Schild  
Lesley Currier  
Robert Hamm  
Miko Lee  
Michael McKee  
Erika Gulick  
Danny Slomoff  
John Flanders



**Costume Design**  
by Denise Kirchner

**Properties Design**  
by Lisa Flanders

Stage Manager/Maureen Scheuenstuhl

Assistant Director/Laurel Graver

in the Court of  
in the Forest of Arden.

Seemingly intermission.

\* Courtesy of Actor's Equity Association



*Cont. continued*  
Festival and V. I. T. A. Shakespeare Festival. He is a member of Counterpoint, a stage combat company.

**Miko Lee**  
*Phoebe*



Miko appeared last summer as Helena in Berkeley Shakespeare Festival's apprentice production of *All's Well That Ends Well*, and in *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. She has also acted with the Lilliput Players, Oakland Ensemble Theatre, El Teatro de la Esperanza, Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company and London's Studio Theatre. She can be seen in San Francisco Shakespeare's *Richard III* this September.

**Patrick McGrath**  
*Adam*



Patrick is an actor and dancer. A theatre major at Humboldt State University, he also performed with the Arcata Community Theatre. He is currently studying at the A. C. T. and at the Third Wave Dance Studio, where he is learning hip-hop.

**Michael McKee**  
*William*  
*Court Lord*



Michael is a Bay Area native with a B. A. in Drama from U. C. San Diego. He has worked locally with the Bay Area and West Coast Play-

wright's Festivals and has appeared on television in *Santa Barbara*.

**Christian Mills**  
*Court Lord*



Christian is a Mill Valley native majoring in theatre at U. C. L. A. He has appeared in the Marin Ballet's *Nutcracker* and was a member of the Ensemble Theatre Company. Film work includes two films with Image Garden Productions, a guest appearance on CCN's *Good News, Bad News* and a role in *Clair Action*, soon to be released by 20th Century Fox.

**Pagan Neil**  
*Corin*



Pagan is a poet, playwright and lexicographer who has performed at the Old Globe, Zachary Scott and in 45 states and 14 countries. His published books include the *Book of Love* and several volumes of poetry. He is a founding member of San Francisco Poet's Theatre Workshop and works with Theatre Artists of Marin.

**Robin Schild**  
*Jaques*



Robin first played Jaques in 1975 at Berkeley High with Nancy Carlin as Celia. A graduate of U. C. Berkeley, he has appeared in south of Market productions and in radio comedy on KPFF and KQED.

# VICTOR'S



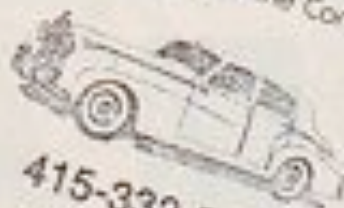
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Cast continued

**Danny Slomoff**  
*Hymen*



A psychologist in Kentfield, Danny sits on the Board of the Mountain Play and appeared in their production of *South Pacific*.

**Ken Steinmetz**  
*Oliver*



Ken, a magna cum laude Drama graduate from S.F. State University, has appeared at Potrero Hill Theatre, North Beach Rep, Nevada City Theatre and Renaissance Theatre.

**Paul Robb Sulzman**  
*Orlando*



Paul played Cassio in a nine-month national tour of *Othello* with Washington National Players, Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night* at the Maryland Shakespeare Festival and *Story Theatre* at American Showcase Theatre. Last seen as Iago in the College of Marin's *Othello*, he is also a competitive ballroom dancer.

**Ian Swift**  
*Duke Senior*



Ian began acting in New York City as a teenager, appearing in Eugene O'Neill's *Ile* at the Circle-in-the-

Square under the direction of Jose Quintero. He attended S. F. State University and joined the Marin Shakespeare Festival in 1966 as Loozeno in *Merchant of Venice* and in *Richard III* and *Julius Caesar*.

**Steve Van Eggs**  
*Charles*  
*Forest Lord*



A performer at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, this is Steve's first Bay Area Shakespearean production. Steve is a founding member of the combat group Counterpoint.

**Judy Waters**  
*Celia*



Judy recently returned from London where she studied with the British American Drama Academy. A graduate of S. F. State University, where she played many roles, she can be seen in Sunset Film's T. V. series *Make Yourself at Home*.

**Greg Wilmarth**  
*Silverst*  
*Court Lord*



A Bay Area native, Greg has acted at the Altarena Playhouse, Fallon House Theatre and in many productions at U. C. Santa Barbara, from which he holds a B. A. in Dramatic Arts and Business Economics. He studies combat with the Academy of the Sword and is an actor/combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors.

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Producing Director	R. S. Currier
Managing Director	Lesley Schisgall Currier
Consulting Artistic Director	Ann Brehner
Artistic Consultant	Dr. Robert G. Egan

### Production Staff

Director	Ann Brehner
Technical Director & Designer	Jim McKie
Costume Designer	Denise Kirchner
Composer & Musical Director	Wyatt Kildow
Properties Designer	Lisa Flanders
Stage Manager	Maureen Scheuerstuhl
Assistant Director	Laurel Graver
Voice & Text Consultant	Eric Zivot
Movement Consultant	Larry Pisoni
Production Assistants	Amy Hawkes
	Rajendra Serber
Costume Assistants/Dressers	Helena Lebedeff
	Laurie Nixon
	Alice Tanzillo
Lighting Operators	Ryan Gabriel
	Kelley Hatch
	Amy Hawkes
	Shannon MacConnell
	Bonnie Schmidt
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	W. Robert Wilson
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	Jim Salzman
	Rajendra Serber
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Box Office Assistant	Liza Monjaure
Company Photographer	David Glover
Security	Jeff Womble

### Staff Biographies

**Ann Brehner/Director & Consulting Artistic Director**  
Co-founder of the Marin Shakespeare Festival, Ann was president of Brehner Agencies until 1982. is in the Marin County Women's Hall of Fame, was the first woman

to win the Pioneer Award, and received the Lifetime Award from Northern California Women in Film. She served for 6 years as President of the Mill Valley Film Festival. Her book *Serving Free the Actor* will be published this year.



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The Carricks at the Shakespeare Birthday Party, April 23, 1990.

**Lesley Schisgall Carrier/  
Managing Director**

Lesley gained experience in theatre management at the Ukiah Playhouse, where she was Fundraising Coordinator for a successful theatre expansion, and co-founder and Producer of the New American Comedy Festival. She and Robert are grateful and excited to have the opportunity to revive Shakespeare in Marin.

**R. S. Currier/Producing Director**

Robert is a founder and first Artistic Director of the Ukiah Players Theatre, and a founder of Encounter with the Theatre, which reopened the Woodstock Opera House in 1972. A director, actor, set designer and builder, technical director, writer and teacher with an M. F. A. in Directing from U. C. Irvine, Bob has taught at U. C. Irvine, Mendocino College and Deep Springs College. He built the Ukiah Playhouse in 1982 and cofounded the Objective Drama Project at U. C. Irvine with Jerzy Grotowski in 1983.

**Phillip Dixick/Graphic Designer**

Phil is a fine artist, freelance commercial artist and teacher. His sculpture work is in bronze, marble, wood, cement, fibreglass, metal and ceramic. His painting is in oil,

acrylic and pastel. He is also a ceramicist and photographer. His work is on display in his Corte Madera studio.

**Dr. Robert G. Egan/Artistic Consultant**

Dr. Egan is the Chair of Dramatic Arts at U. C. Santa Barbara. Educated at Harvard and Stanford, he has also taught at Columbia and the University of New Hampshire. His published work includes *Drama Within Drama: Shakespeare's Sense of His Art*, dramatic adaptations of two novels and numerous articles. A director and actor, Dr. Egan was the first actor to appear onstage at Forest Meadows, playing Feste in *Twelfth Night* in 1967.

**Lisa Flanders/Properties Designer**

Lisa designed props for *Modigliani* last year at the Marin Theatre Company, winning the 'Bernie Award' for Best Design. She followed this with *Glengarry, Glen Ross* and Vaudeville Nouveau's *A Brief History of the Universe*. She will design props and stage manage the upcoming *Festival 2000* at the Cow Palace.

**Laurel Graver/Assistant Director**

Laurel returns to Forest Meadows from the 1971 and 1972 seasons of the Marin Shakespeare Festival. She has worked in film and video for the last 15 years in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. She is currently Company Manager for the Ensemble Theatre Company, and has been focusing on directing children's theatre.

**Amy Hawkes/Production Assistant**

Amy is a member of the Ensemble Theatre Company at Redwood High School where she has stage managed, produced and done tech.



## Marin County Theatre Guide \* 1990-91 Season

### Marin Opera

*A Night at the Opera* - Saturday, December 1 - French opera selections.  
*West Side Story & Porgy and Bess* - April 13 - Presented in concert.  
*The Valentine's Gala* - February 9 - Dance to the big band.  
*La Boheme* - May 10 & 12 - Puccini's beloved opera.  
For information call 924-0437

### Marin-Sonoma Civic Light Opera

*Fiddler on the Roof* - October 5-28  
*Scrooge, The Stingiest Man in Town* - December 14-January 6  
*New Year's Eve Gala* - December 31  
*Cabaret* - February 22-March 17  
*A Surprise Show* - April 5-21  
*Pops Concert* - April 27 & 28  
*My Fair Lady* - May 31-June 16  
For information call 925-9222

### Marin Theatre Company

*Lemon Sky* - September 11-October 14 - by Laxford Wilson.  
*Passion* - October 30-December 2 - by Peter Nichols.  
*Orphans* - January 15-February 17 - by Lyle Kesler.  
*My Sister in This House* - March 5-April 7 - by Wendy Kesselman.  
*The Dolphin Position or Charlie* - April 23-May 26 - World premiere.  
For information call 388-5200

### Theatre Artists of Marin

*A Season of Surprises* - TAM will present an entire season of new plays.  
*Theoretical Beings* - October 12-November 3 - by Glenn Katsis.  
*The Locust Tree Secrets* - February 1-23 - by Edna Coulson Hill.  
*Dinosaur Pumps* - April 5-27 - by Lee Brady.  
For information call 454-6056

### College of Marin

*The Calme Mutiny Court-Martial* - October 5-21 - by Herman Wouk  
*A Christmas Carol* - December 1-16 - by Charles Dickens.  
*Gays and Dolls* - March 1-17 - based on a story by Damon Runyon.  
*T. B. A.* - July 5-21  
For information call 485-9385

### Ross Valley Players - 61st Season

*Coopert* - by Gerald Moon.      *An Inspector Calls* - by J. B. Priestly.  
*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* - by Rupert Holmes.  
*A Flea in Her Ear* - by George Feydeau.  
*The Starlight Cafe Goes International* - a summer revue.

### Marin Shakespeare Company

*Shakespeare Birthday Party* - April - Share cake and champagne with some of the Bay Area's finest actors saluting the Bard.  
*Macbeth & a comedy to be announced* - August, September - Shakespeare  
*Under the Stars* returns, with another *Feast to Good Will*, plus great performances.  
For information call 456-1626



**Wyatt Kildow/Composer  
& Musical Director**

Wyatt is a member of the Ensemble Theatre Company, where he wrote and performed music for *Trouble in Paradise*, directed by Ann Brebner. He also acted in many productions and composed a full-length musical in collaboration with David g. Smith.

**Denise Kirchner/Costume Design**

Denise began her professional career as a properties designer for the Julliard School. She designed and built for the original production of *Annie*, the premiere of *Buried Child* with Sam Shepard, many productions for the College of Marin and the Mountain Play and for the Anchorage Community Theatre. She is currently the costume and properties designer for Stage One Innovations, specializing in half scale animation displays.

**Helena Lebedeff/Costume  
Assistant**

Helena is a graduate of Terra Linda High School, where she worked on and acted in many productions, and was Drama Club President.

**Jim McKie/Technical Director &  
Designer**

Jim is Technical Director for San Francisco Convention Facilities: Moscone Center, Civic Auditorium and Brooks Hall. He has acted and designed at South Coast Repertory Theatre, A. C. T., and Seattle Repertory Theatre and has designed and Road Managed for Country Joe and the Fish, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, The Who, Three Dog Night, John Denver, Mitzi Gaynor, Dyan Cannon and Phyllis Diller. A

graduate of U. C. Irvine, Jim has taught at Chapman College, Chabot College and University of San Francisco where he was Director of Performing Arts and Artistic Director of Actor's Craft Repertory and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival.

**Maureen Scheuenstuhl/Stage  
Manager**

Maureen has Stage managed for the Ross Valley Players for six years and in Marin for over twenty years. She is excited to discover the nuances of outdoor production.

**Rajendra Serber/Production  
Assistant**

Rajendra is a graduate of Ensemble Theatre Company, where he has acted and directed and written plays. He attended the California State Summer School for the Arts twice where he created his own original theatre piece and will attend Sarah Lawrence College in the fall.

**David g. Smith/Box Office**

David is Artistic Director of the Ensemble Theatre Company at Tamalpais High School. He has written 15 scripts, including *Trouble in Paradise* which was directed by Ann Brebner; directed over 40 shows; and acted in 60 plays. His original musical *Plan 9 from Outer Space* is scheduled to open in London in January.

**Susana Woods/House Manager**

Susana studied drama at Stanford and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She was a company member of Pasadena Players and Theatreworks of Palo Alto and performed in *Shakespeare's Women*, a 6-part mini-series for KQED. Susana is delighted to welcome audiences to Forest Meadows.

**"The actors are come hither"**

by John Brebner, co-founder Marin Shakespeare Festival

1960 was a very good year. My then-wife Ann and myself founded the Marin Shakespeare Festival, the Brebner Casting Agency and our family.

The idea of open air Shakespeare had been directly inspired by my experiences at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where in 1950, while a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University, I had played leading roles in all four of that season's productions. I had also fallen willingly and unequivocally under the spell of Angus Bowmer, Ashland's founding producer. His enthusiasm for the Bard, his belief in his box-office appeal, his conviction that thousands of people would sit in the open air in the Southern Oregon nights to witness uncut performances, was nothing short of amazing to me.

I was perhaps discouraged by early experiences in Regents' Park, London, where Robert Atkins annually braved the vagaries of the English climate to present a seemingly endless series of productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." However, after several years of living in Marin County, it seemed that circumstances couldn't be better for a successful attempt to eliminate the negative and accentuate the positive: this seemed good territory for the Bard.

The ideal location presented itself: a rustic amphitheatre with a large platform stage on the Marin Art & Garden Center grounds. It was ringed with redwood trees and the outline of Mt. Tam formed the backdrop. The Board of Trustees of the Center and their patron, Mrs. Norman Livermore, agreed

wholeheartedly.

Thus the Marin Shakespeare Festival, supported by a group of enthusiastic and talented volunteers, was born in 1961. True to Robert Atkins tradition, the first production was "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which ran for six weekends in July of that year. Two risers and a pair of antique chairs provided the set; burlap, in varying shades of greens and brown the costumes. We must have spent almost \$250 on the production. Audience response was immediate and enthusiastic. Angus Bowmer was right. People would flock to the Bard.

The following year the plays were "Henry V" and "Twelfth Night." A coffee house structure was designed and built and volunteers appeared to staff it. The Center Board arranged for concrete block terraces to be installed as seating. The stage was repaired, landscaping plans begun, the organization grew, seasonal members multiplied.

In following seasons the stage saw productions of "Othello," "The Merchant of Venice," and "Richard III" with the first appearance on any stage of a very small but totally confident Alexander Brebner, my son. A vigorous version of "Henry IV, Part 1" was supported by a rare but impressive summer thunderstorm, with the audience sheltering from the rain under the redwoods -- shades of Regent's Park!

The festival began to attract the participation of actors, designers and technicians from all over the Bay Area. A West Coast contest for casting the lead roles in "Romeo & Juliet" drew a large response. Actors who have since developed



Ed Charbonneau, Evans Burke, John Powell, Ernest Waldand, David McCasley, and James Goldrup as the Mechanicals in the 1964 Marin Shakespeare Festival's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Ann Brebner with costumes designed by Charlotte Speight. Photo by Dick Fowler.



impressive professional careers in theatre and film, such as Dakin Matthews, David Dukes and Will Marchetti cut their teeth on the Bard at Ross.

The success of the Festival proved to be its undoing. Increased parking problems and the necessity for vocal projection by the cast resulted in mounting opposition from nearby neighbors and the town of Ross. In true Elizabethan tradition, the "rogues and vagabonds" had perforce to move on.

New and generous patrons were soon found in the sisters of Dominican College. They agreed to allow the Festival to move to a student picnic area with a creek flowing through it in the midst of

twenty-six acres of woodland called Forest Meadows. In consultation with an architect retained by Dominican, the site was redesigned to provide a concrete playing area over the creek, with a reflecting pool to provide visual and acoustic enhancement. Redwood benches were built and trees planted to provide a comfortable seating area.

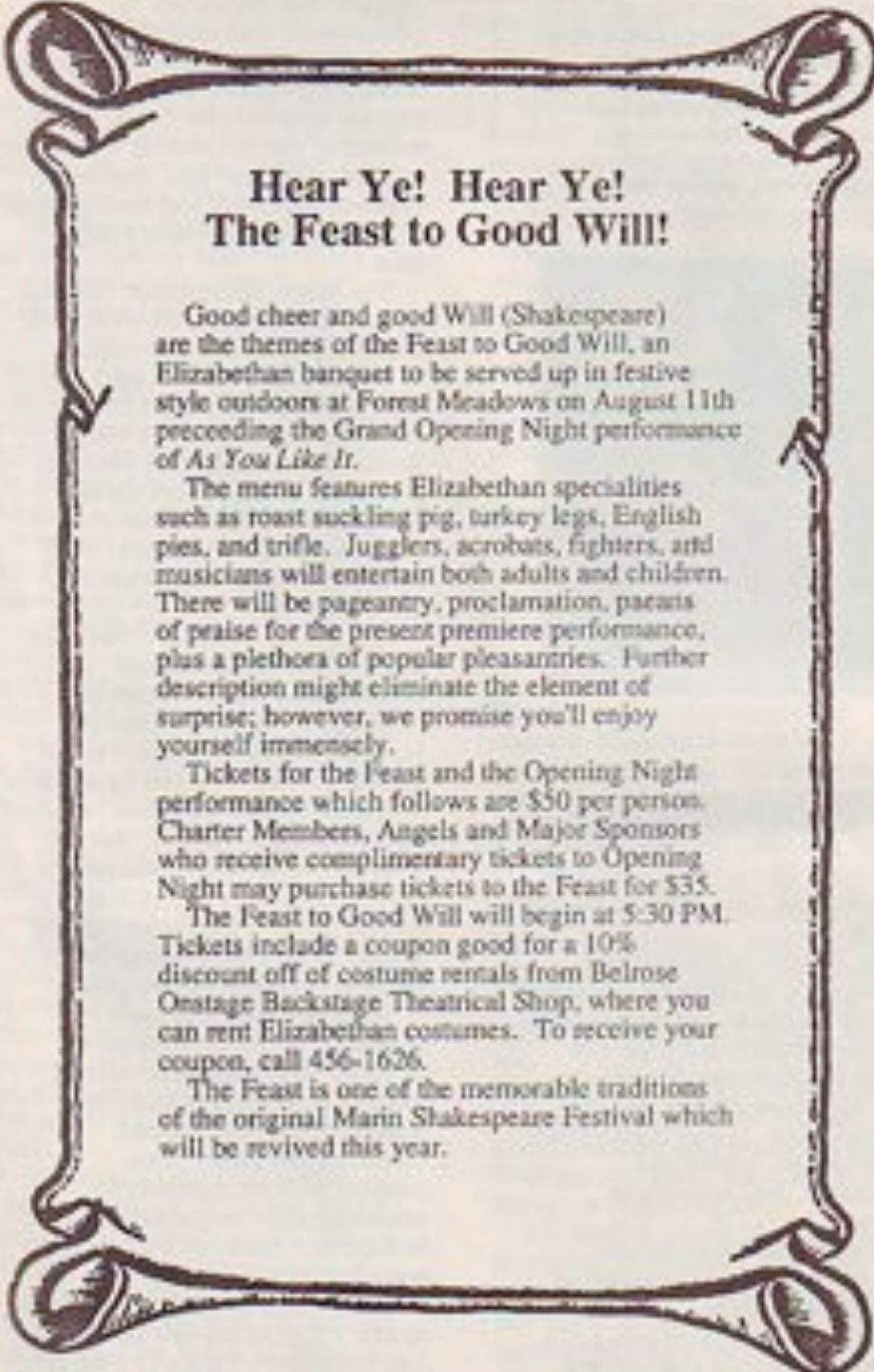
The Marin Shakespeare Festival opened in Forest Meadows in 1967 with a repeat of the ever popular "Twelfth Night" and "King Lear." George Ede, who played the title role, was our first Equity Guest Artist. The Shakespeare Festival prospered, adding musicals like "Brigadoon," "Once Upon a Mattress," and a children's theatre production of "Wind in the Willows."

Production concepts grew more adventurous and ambitious. An experimental interpretation of "Richard II," invoking classical Japanese acting techniques drew mixed reviews. A lavish production of "Anthony and Cleopatra" strained our resources to the hilt. But exciting productions continued to draw good audiences, including a revival of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with a very young Jay Brebner as one of Puck's gang.

The late sixties and early seventies, however, were an era of social unrest and generational problems. A major arson fire destroyed a whole season's costumes and props. This, coupled with an increasingly unmanageable budget deficit, led to the cancellation of the contract with Dominican College.

So the Festival was on the move again. After trying two seasons at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts

*continued*



## Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Feast to Good Will!

Good cheer and good Will (Shakespeare) are the themes of the Feast to Good Will, an Elizabethan banquet to be served up in festive style outdoors at Forest Meadows on August 11th preceding the Grand Opening Night performance of *As You Like It*.

The menu features Elizabethan specialities such as roast suckling pig, turkey legs, English pies, and trifle. Jugglers, acrobats, fighters, and musicians will entertain both adults and children. There will be pageantry, proclamation, parades of praise for the present premiere performance, plus a plethora of popular pleasantries. Further description might eliminate the element of surprise; however, we promise you'll enjoy yourself immensely.

Tickets for the Feast and the Opening Night performance which follows are \$50 per person. Charter Members, Angels and Major Sponsors who receive complimentary tickets to Opening Night may purchase tickets to the Feast for \$35.

The Feast to Good Will will begin at 5:30 PM. Tickets include a coupon good for a 10% discount off of costume rentals from Belrose Onstage Backstage Theatrical Shop, where you can rent Elizabethan costumes. To receive your coupon, call 456-1626.

The Feast is one of the memorable traditions of the original Marin Shakespeare Festival which will be revived this year.



Paula White as Titania and Ed Charbonneau as Bottom, 1964. Photo by Dick Fowler



*Continued from page 28*

as an expanded Equity company, it was decided to end what had been a long and successful tradition.

As part of its rich Marin County heritage, some distinguished careers were launched, many hundreds of children were introduced to the Bard and many thousands more people of all ages had had an opportunity to enjoy "Shakespeare Under the Stars."

So it is an exciting and wonderful event that will be happening in Forest Meadows this summer of 1990. The Bard is back! Long may he live in the shape of the new Marin Shakespeare Company.

From all his faithful supporters over the years may we say, in his words, "Thanks, thanks and ever thanks."

## Marin Shakespeare Company 1991 Season

Shakespeare at Forest Meadows is no passing fancy. We will be back next year, with an expanded season, featuring one comedy yet to be announced and one tragedy, Shakespeare's great bloody masterpiece of twisted ambition, *MacBeth*.

If you enjoyed the Forest of Arden, just wait until you see Birnam Wood, with its battles and witches and epic action.

In addition, the Shakespeare Birthday Party will return, better than ever with many of the stars who made this April's event such a huge success. The "blowout bash" is scheduled at the Marin Theatre Company in late April.

The Shakespeare Auction will take place in the late spring. Next year's items include a one-week Hawaiian vacation.

Planning continues also for a summer training program to allow local students the opportunity to work and study with professional actors, directors and technicians. Students will attend classes in Shakespearean acting, voice, movement and stagecraft; participate in mainstage productions; and take part in an apprentice performance.

Ideas and suggestions are welcome, as is your help. The Shakespeare Guild will continue to allow enthusiastic volunteers the opportunity to be involved with productions. Neighbors wishing to provide summer housing or parttime work for actors will be greatly appreciated. And, as always, any help with fundraising will enable us to achieve our goals more easily.

Plan to help or to give or, most importantly, to come and enjoy!



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