

# Western's theatre department to perform 'As You Like It'

By Zirconia Alleyne | 24 March 2010



CHRIS FRYER/HERALD

The drama of the past is about to meet the drama of the present.

“It’s Shakespeare meets High School Musical,” said Tracey Moore, assistant professor of theatre and dance.

The enthusiasm was apparent as Moore directed one of the few practices the cast had left before Friday’s premiere of “Like You Like It,” a musical, 1980s-esque rendition of Shakespeare’s “As You Like It.”

“Like You Like It” was written by Sammy Buck and Daniel Acquisto, collaboratively known as Bucquisto.

Moore crossed paths with Bucquisto when she sang at the Broadcast Music Incorporated Workshop in New York and said she has been interested in their work ever since.

Wes Drummond, a senior from Bowling Green and Moore’s assistant director for the production, said he loves working with her.

“I just feel like she knows musical theatre inside and out,” he said. “She’s really passionate about it.”

Moore said the story was great for the Before Broadway Series that the theater department has been producing for three years.

“With the talent we have here at WKU, certain people made me think of this piece,” Moore said.

The story is set in the Arden Mall after cousins and best friends, Celia and Rosalind, get suspended from school for being late to class. Rosalind goes on a mission to reveal her feelings to her crush, Orlando. But along with her timid persona, Rosalind has other pubescent issues to overcome.

Erica Becker, a sophomore who transferred from Evansville, Ind., plays the role of nerdy Rosalind. She said landing the role was a complete surprise.

“I’m new here, so I just wanted to be in a show,” Becker said. “I really didn’t know a lot about the show, but Rosalind is a fun part to play.”

Although it’s a fun part for Becker to play, she said it has had its challenges. The cast only had two weeks to prepare for the production. But they agreed that the time crunch fueled their drive to deliver their roles.

“I noticed that the less time I have, the harder I work,” Becker said.

Stage manager Magnolia Gramling, a freshman from Bowling Green, made sure cast members stayed on cue and were in the zone during rehearsals.

“It requires the members to rise to a higher level of concentration and not screw around,” she said. “They’ve risen to the occasion.”

Knowing that this is the last amateur show before the play will be published and put on Broadway also pushed the cast to work hard.

Audience members and actors can participate in a talkback with the writers and enjoy free refreshments.

“Doing this staged reading is like being shot out of a cannon,” Moore said. “It’s such a short process that it’s all about the story and making it happen.”

The show will begin Friday at 7 p.m. in the Russell Miller Theatre.

Moore said she’s excited about to see the response from the audience, and she’s confident the cast will perform exactly like you like it.