

To give you a sense of what the 2019 Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan production of *As You Like It* was like, here are Anita's director's notes from the program:

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll provided the inspiration for our production of *As You Like It*. These magical literary works full of other worldly personalities, as well as a tumble through the looking glass were great jumping off points.

At first glance, it may seem as if this show is a frivolous way to spend a few hours. But examining the historical context offers valuable insight. Elizabethan press censorship experienced one of its more dramatic moments in the months leading up to *As You Like It's* first performance. In 1599, the "Bishop's Ban" resulted in the banning of the publication of formal verse satires, English history (without the approval of the privy council), and the printing of any play without authority. The order to destroy existing copies of these materials resulted in public book burnings.

Thankfully, we are no longer burning books in the street, but we are in a somewhat volatile time as the integrity of the press is being undermined, political allegiances are creating societal divisions, and some of our human rights are being challenged. My hope is that you will walk away from this show with a renewed sense of courage to not only create a space for you to live as you like it, but a space where others are afforded the same right. Afterall, it is our uniqueness and our varied experiences which make our world colourful and interesting.