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# Poets Day, August 30, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

The event of the Poets' Day was the performance of Shakespeare's comedy "As You Like It" in an enclosure that had been made among the willows in the rear of the foreign buildings on the Lake Front, to which the name of Sylvan Dell was given. A stage was put up, and all necessary preparations were made for the accommodation of audience and players. The principal roles of the play were taken by Rose Coghlan as Rosalind, Otis Skinner as Orlando, E. J. Henley as Jacques, and Edmund Lyons as Touchstone.



*"AS YOU LIKE IT," PLAYED IN THE SYLVAN DELL.*

Sylvan Dell became, for the time being, the enchanted Forest of Arden. Rosalind came with Celia and the Fool to meet Orlando in the depths of a genuine forest; Orlando carved his love rhymes on real trees, and the melancholy Jacques stalked about under veritable greenwood boughs. Over players and audience alike the willows laced their branches into a leafy canopy; the trunks of two huge trees framed the stage on either side, and bushes and shrubs formed the background. The night was dark, but lanterns were swung on the high enclosure of the dell and above in the branches, while strong electric lights thrown upon the stage brought it out in strong contrast with the gloom beyond, and gave it the appearance of an illuminated forest opening.