

As You Like It Audition side #12 [Oliver; scene 17; w/Rosalind-Celia]

OLIVER

When last the young Orlando parted from you,
He left a promise to return again
Within **two hours**, and pacing through the forest,
Lo, what befell. He threw his eye aside--
Under an old oak, whose boughs were mossed with age
A wretched, ragged man, o'ergrown with hair,
Lay sleeping on his back. About his neck
A green and gilded snake had wreathed itself,
Who with her head, nimble in threats, approached
The opening of his mouth; but suddenly,
Seeing Orlando, it unlinked itself
And, with indented glides, did slip away
Into a bush, under which bush's shade
A lioness, with udders all drawn dry,
Lay couching, head on ground, with catlike watch.
This seen, Orlando did approach the man
And found it was his brother, his elder brother.

ROSALIND [*as Ganymede*]

But to Orlando: did he leave him there,
Food to the sucked and hungry lioness?

OLIVER

Twice did he turn his back and purposed so,
But kindness, nobler ever than revenge,
And nature, stronger than his just occasion,
Made him give battle to the lioness,
Who quickly fell before him; in which hurtling,
From miserable slumber I awaked.

CELIA [*as Aliena*]

Are you his brother? ... Was 't you he rescued?

OLIVER

'Twas I, but 'tis not I. I do not shame
To tell you what I was, since my conversion
So sweetly tastes, being the thing I am.