

Scene Study Rehearsal Guide Act I sc iii

Act I sc iii (Celia, Rosalind, Duke Frederick, lines 1-80)

The first thing you should do in your group is read the scene through, together, out loud, several times, switching roles. Then choose roles and address the rest of the study guide.

List three or four important actions that take place in the scene.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What does your character want? Go through your lines and jot down in the margins or on a separate piece of paper what your character is trying to get by saying each one of them. For example, what does Celia want when she enters with Rosalind and says “Why cousin why Rosalind – Cupid have mercy, not a word”? What is Rosalind’s frame of mind as they enter into the room? How does the tone of the scene change when Rosalind and Celia spot the Duke entering? What does the Duke want as he enters the scene? Each character has a set of objective they hope meet. You decide what those goals are for your character. Do this for every one of your lines.

The Duke’s decision to banish Rosalind comes as a bit of a surprise and there is little explanation for it. What is the tone of the exchange between Rosalind and the Duke? How does it move in tone from line to line? Experiment with these lines by trying different tones. What happens to the tone if their voices are raised, or lowered, or whispered? What happens if certain words are articulated very carefully, or punched, or if the tempo of the speech is sped up, or slowed down, or if phrases are laughed through, or wept through? Follow the same procedure with the exchange between Celia and the Duke. In what way is the exchange different from the exchange between the Duke and Rosalind?

What is the feeling between the three characters as the Duke exits?