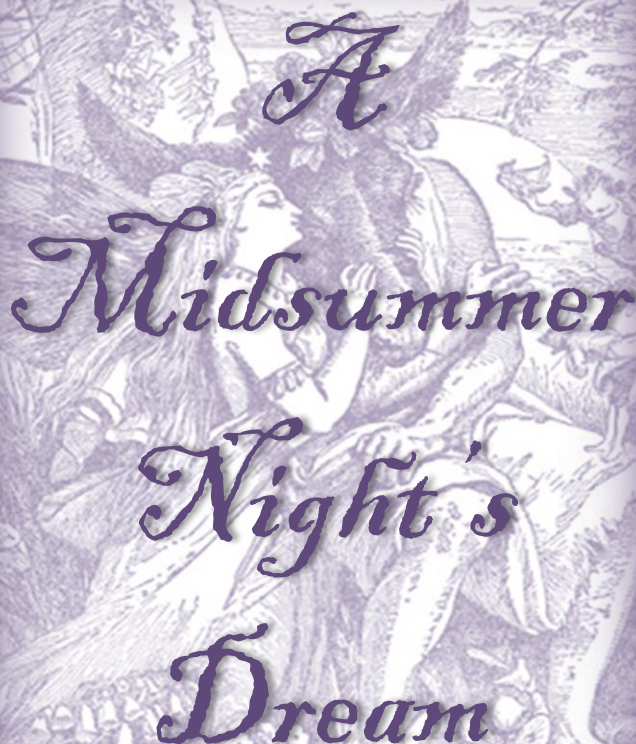


Putnam County
Playhouse

Presents

Shakespeare in the Park



*A
Midsummer
Night's
Dream*

William Shakespeare's
A Midsummer Night's Dream

(Adapted by Caroline Good)

(Directed by Caroline Good & Shelly McFadden)

The Players & Producers

<i>The Lovers</i>	
Hermia	Sarah Armitage
Lysander	Noah Pettit
Demetrius	Devin Huff
Helena	Michaela Semak
<i>The Players, or "Rude Mechanicals"</i>	
Peter Quince	Alisa Isaacs-Bailey
Bottom, the Weaver	Ric McFadden
Flute, the Bellows-Mender	Jay Prewitt
Snout, the Tinker	Eleanor Howard
Starveling, the Tailor	Beth Bax
Snug, the Joiner	Tim Good
<i>The Fairies</i>	
Puck	Andrew Ranck
Oberon, Fairy King	Joshua Bain
Titania, Fairy Queen	Ashlee Vitz
Peaseblossom	Alice Howard
Mustardseed	Ellie Henry
Cobweb	Karen Temple
Moth	Suzanne Funk
Changeling Boy	Mikey Henry
<i>The Royals</i>	
Theseus, Duke of Athens	Chris Wurster
Hippolyta, Queen of Amazons	Caroline Good
Philostrate	Shelly McFadden
Egeus, Father of Hermia	Dustin Bond
Technical Director	Dustin Bond
Lighting Operator	Grace Elmore
Sound Operator	Fiona Good
Props Master	Noah Pettit

Director's Note

After the closing of the playhouse season, and having success with our "Shakespeare!" in the Park Youth Theatre Workshop production, we thought it would be fun to gather together to rehearse a Shakespeare play for us older set and perform it safely at the park. The response from the community was extremely positive and, with their support and the support of the PCPH board, we moved ahead.

A Midsummer Night's Dream seemed to be the most appropriate of Shakespeare's plays. It's a light-hearted, hilarious, and truly an ensemble-building play with plenty of dynamic and fun roles. And, performing it at the park, although it has its challenges, has proven to be a godsend to we theatre folks who live to do theatre! Shakespeare's players didn't let the plague get them down either; they went out on the road! His group of players often had to move their performing out into the countryside due to the plague raging in London. So, in spite of all the chaos swirling around us, we're thrilled that you are here and hope you enjoy our little play "to ease the anguish of a torturing hour!"



"Lord, what fools these mortals be!"

-Puck, Act III, Scene 2

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Linda Gjesvold, Jack Randall Earles, Tim Good, Rod Weinschenk,
Dustin Bond, the Entire Cast, Michael McClaine, Jaye Beetem,
Noah Pettit, and the PCPH Board of Directors for their
continued support!

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Scenes

The play takes place in a fantasy world in and outside of Athens

Act I, Scene 1	Duke's Palace	"The Law of Athens"
Act I, Scene 2	Quince's House	"Masters, Here Are Your Parts!"
Act II, Scene 1	The Woods	"Ill Met by Moonlight, Titania?"
Act II, Scene 2	The Woods	"Not Hermia, but Helena I Love!"
Act III, Scene 1	The Woods	"Hail, Mortal!"
Act III, Scene 2	The Woods	"O Helena, Goddess... Divine!"
Act IV, Scene 1	The Woods	"There Lies Your Love"
Act IV, Scene 2	Quince's House	"O Sweet Bully Bottom!"
Act V, Scene 1	Duke's Palace	"Pyramus & Thisbe"

A Midsummer Night's Dream Summary

Four Athenians run away to the forest only to have Puck the fairy make both of the boys fall in love with the same girl. The four run through the forest pursuing each other while Puck helps his master play a trick on the fairy queen. In the end, Puck reverses the magic, and the two couples reconcile and marry.

Act I

As Duke Theseus prepares for his marriage to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, he is interrupted by a courtier, Egeus. Egeus asks for the Duke to intervene in a dispute. His daughter, Hermia, will not agree to marry Demetrius (whom Egeus has chosen for her) because she loves a gentleman named Lysander. The Duke asks Hermia to be obedient to her father. He offers her one of two options: she must either die or accept a celibate life as a nun in Diana's temple.

Naturally upset with the offer, Lysander and Hermia plan to elope and share their secret with Helena, Hermia's friend. Helena is desperately in love with Demetrius, who seems to have abandoned her in favour of Hermia. At night, Lysander and Hermia escape from Athens; but they soon lose their way in the woods. After Helena tells him of their intention to defy the law, Demetrius decides to follow the lovers into the woods. In turn, Helena follows Demetrius in the hope that he will give up on Hermia and choose her instead.

Meanwhile, a group of working men are preparing a play of the tragic love-story of Pyramus and Thisbe to present before the Duke Theseus on his wedding day. Nick Bottom, the weaver, is to play the lover Pyramus, while Flute, the bellows-mender reluctantly agrees to play Thisbe.

Act II

Nearby, Oberon - King of the Fairies—has recently quarrelled with his queen, Titania. She acquired a magical child from one of her waiting women, and now refuses to hand him over to Oberon to use as a page. Oberon begins to plot a way to get revenge on Titania for her disobedience. He sends his fairy servant, Puck, to fetch a purple flower with juice that makes people fall in love with the next creature they see. Afterwards, Oberon overhears Helena and Demetrius arguing in the forest. Oberon hears Demetrius mistreat Helena and tells Puck to anoint 'the Athenian', so Demetrius will fall in love with the first person that he

sees. Puck mistakes the Athenian and puts the flower juice on the eyes of the sleeping Lysander. When he is woken by Helena, he immediately falls in love with her and rejects Hermia. When Demetrius rests, Oberon puts magic juice on his eyes, which makes him fall in love with Helena as well.

Act III

The workers' rehearsals in the wood are overheard by Puck, who plays a trick on them by giving Bottom an ass's head. After frightening the others away, Bottom is lured towards the sleeping Titania whom Oberon has anointed with Puck's magic flower juice. On waking, the fairy queen falls in love with the ass and entertains him with her fairies.

Meanwhile, Demetrius and Lysander, still under the spell of the flower juice, pursue Helena. Hermia is jealous and confused about the lack of attention paid to her. Oberon and Puck watch the chaos, and Oberon commands Puck to put it right again. The lovers' arguments have tired them all out as they have chased one another through the woods. Puck eventually distracts the two men from their pursuit of Helena by impersonating their voices, and they get lost in the woods. The four lovers fall asleep, exhausted. Puck places restorative juice on Lysander's eyes.

Act IV

After an afternoon of being pampered by Titania's fairies, Bottom falls asleep beside her. Oberon restores Titania's sight and wakes her (thank goodness). After expressing her dismay at the sight of Bottom, she reconciles with Oberon, and she ends up giving him the little Indian prince for his page. Bottom's ass head is removed, and he returns to the city to rejoin his friends as they prepare to perform their play. The lovers are woken by Theseus and Hippolyta's hunting party. Lysander sees Hermia and falls in love with her once again.

Act V

Happily reunited (Lysander with Hermia and Demetrius with Helena), they agree to share the Duke's wedding day. The play of 'Pyramus and Thisbe' is presented before the wedding guests. As the three couples retire to bed, Puck and the fairies return to bless the palace and its people.

(Summary from Shakespeare.org.uk)

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