

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare

The Story

Opening in the Athens court of Duke Theseus we hear of his intended marriage to Hippolyta and his anticipation of much partying in celebration. A courtier, Egea is none too happy that her daughter Hermia has declared her love for Lysander as Egea prefers Demetrius as a son-in-law threatening death on Hermia if she is disobeyed.

To escape this fate, Hermia and Lysander vow to run away into the nearby woods to marry in secret. They reveal their plan to Hermia's childhood friend Helena, who happens to be in love with Demetrius herself even though he does not reciprocate. In an attempt to win his approval, Helena tells him of the lover's plans to run away and Demetrius follows them into the woods in order to thwart their plan and claim Hermia as his bride.

What none of these mortals realise is that the woods are enchanted by fairies who are experiencing a few challenges of their own. King Oberon is having a spat with her Queen Titania over the fate of an orphan boy, and she instructs her mischievous sprite Puck to help her wreak her revenge. Once Oberon comes across the confused and unhappy mortals chasing each other through the woods, she vows to help resolve their love-challenges and orders Puck to enchant them in their sleep. Unfortunately, Puck gets it very wrong and chaos ensues.

Along the way we also encounter a group of locals who are rehearsing a play to present to the Duke on his wedding day. Embroiled in Puck's mischievousness, Bottom the lead "actor" gets transformed into an ass and is wooed by the enchanted Titania.

All will resolve and love will prevail, but not until we have experienced some of the most beautiful language ever written for stage.



The Creative Team

Director:	Conor Cook
Musical Director, Composer & Arranger:	Conor Cook
Costume:	Heather Simpkin
Prop Making:	Heather Simpkin & Chrissy Brooks
Set Design & Build:	Conor Cook & Heather Simpkin



Conor Cook - Director

I trained as an actor at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and have been performing in theatre for the past eight years, and in many Shakespeare productions, including the last two summer tours with Bear in the Air. My work onstage as well as behind the scenes has also led me to work in sound design and directing. Credits as a director include Million Piece Jigsaw by Megan King at the Hen & Chickens Theatre, and Mind Full by Tom Hartwell at The Hope Theatre.

Bear in the Air Productions

We are a family company dedicated to offering opportunity to emerging talent in the theatre world. We have produced everything from new plays Off-West End to Shakespeare around the green spaces of England, with many regional pantomimes along the way. Clocking up several award nominations whilst building a community of creatives, Bear in the Air continues to live the dream this (mid)summer with yet another incredibly talented troupe of players. Read more about us at: www.bearintheairproductions.com.



Cast



Yvette Bruin - Theseus & Oberon & Flute

Previous roles include: Le Beau/Audrey in *As You Like It* (YAOW Theatre, 2019), Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet* (LOST Theatre, 2018), The Woman Who Loved To Make Vaginas Happy in *The Vagina Monologues* (Theatre Delicatessen, 2018), Mrs. Fairfax/Aunt Reed/Diana in *Jane Eyre* (Chapterhouse Theatre Company, 2017), Lady Bracknell/Dr Chasuble in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Heartbreak Productions, 2016), Margaret Thatcher in *Margaret Thatcher Changes The World* (Sky Blue Theatre, 2015), and Cleopatra in *Anthony and Cleopatra* (Workhouse Theatre, 2013).

Jack Jacobs - Lysander & Peter Quince

A graduate of East 15 Acting School. Previous roles include a version of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* in Epping Forest and very recently a run of a brand new musical - *GuyMart* at the King's Head Theatre. I spend a lot of my time doing voiceover work and recording audiobooks such as *How to Think Like David Bowie* and *Oxygen*.



Sadie Pepperrell - Hermia & Fairy & Starveling

A graduate of The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama (BA Acting). Previous roles include: *The Comedy of Errors* (Petersfield Shakespeare Festival), *Punk Rock* (Yvonne Arnaud), *Macbeth* (Bussey Building), *Glacier Lake* (OSO Arts Centre) *Pride and Prejudice* (UK Tour), *Great Expectations* (UK Tour)

Elizabeth Prideaux -

Hippolyta & Titania & Helena & Snout

A graduate of Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. As a Shakespeare enthusiast, I am delighted to be a part of the Bear in the Air team this summer. Previous roles include Jenny in *Mosquitoes* and Hume in *Queen Margaret*.



Sally Sharp - Egea & Puck & Snug

A graduate of Drama Studio London and enjoyed playing Maria in Bear in the Air's tour of *Twelfth Night* two years ago. Previous roles include: *Horrible Histories' Terrible Thames* and seasonal productions: touring pantomime, *The Polar Express* and *The Magical Christmas Adventure*. Later this year I am looking forward to celebrating the festive season at Lapland UK with *Mother Christmas*.

Nicholas Southcott - Demetrius & Bottom

A graduate of Drama Studio London, and a London based actor and voice actor. Previous roles include: Kostya in *The Seagull*, Lucio in *Measure for Measure* and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Forever Oz* and *The Revellers Society* (Big Adventure Productions) and *Fletch* in *Spellz UK tour* (TAG). I am very excited to be performing in this brilliant play again this summer with a fantastic company!

