



*William Shakespeare's*



## INFORMATION PACK

**30 APRIL – 8 MAY, 2021**

Directed by STEEN

Production Management by BOB SMITH

Choreography by MONIQUE ELISE

## **A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM - SYNOPSIS**

Celebrations are planned to mark the marriage of Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. Egeus comes before Theseus with his daughter Hermia, who is in love with Lysander, although her father is insisting that she marry Demetrius. The Duke orders Hermia to obey her father, in accordance with Athenian law, otherwise she will either be put to death or forced to enter a convent.

Hermia and Lysander decide to elope that night. They reveal their plan to Hermia's best friend, Helena. Helena is Demetrius' former lover and she is still in love with him, although he doesn't love her anymore. Hoping to win back his affection, Helena tells Demetrius of the plan. That night, Hermia and Lysander steal away to the forest, with Demetrius and Helena in hot pursuit.

Oberon and Titania, fairy king and queen of the forest, have quarrelled over Titania's refusal to give up an Indian boy – her foster child – to Oberon. Plotting his revenge, Oberon orders Puck to seek out a magic flower whose juice, squeezed on the eyes of someone asleep, will cause them to fall in love with the first creature they see on waking. Oberon sneaks up on the sleeping Titania and drops the juice of the flower in her eye. He hopes she will wake up when "some vile thing" is near. Taking pity on Helena, Oberon also tells Puck to use the juice on Demetrius so that he will fall in love with her, but Puck, mistaking the two young Athenian men in the forest, uses it on Lysander instead. Lysander promptly falls in love with Helena, forgetting all about his love for Hermia. Trying to rectify his mistake, Puck puts the love juice on Demetrius' eyes and he too falls in love with Helena. Now both young men love Helena and "hate" Hermia.

Meanwhile, Bottom, the weaver and a group of Athenian tradesmen are planning to perform a play, The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe, in celebration of the Duke's wedding. They decide to rehearse in the forest so that no one will see them, and their performance will be a surprise. Puck sees Bottom and the others rehearsing. He decides to have some fun with them and casts a spell, giving Bottom the head of an ass. When the other tradesmen see Bottom transformed, they run off in fear, leaving him alone in the forest. Just then, Titania wakes up, sees Bottom, and falls rapturously in love with him.

Eventually, all the enchantments are lifted, the human lovers are happily paired, Titania and Oberon are reconciled, and Bottom is returned to normal. Hermia and Lysander, and Helena and Demetrius, are given permission to marry. Along with Theseus and Hippolyta, a multiple marriage celebration takes place. The three new couples watch Bottom's acting troupe perform their play at the wedding celebration. Finally, Puck appears on stage to let the audience know that if they didn't like the play, they should simply imagine it was all a dream.

### **AUDITIONS**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 10:00am – 5:00pm (by appointment only)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 6:00pm – 10:00pm (by appointment only)

### **REHEARSALS**

Sundays 10:00am – 5:00pm (a schedule will be issued for those required each week)

### **PRODUCTION SEASON**

**30 April – 8 May, 2021**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 7:30pm, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2:00pm, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2:00pm and 7:30pm, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2:00pm

## CHARACTERS

THESEUS, Duke of Athens, engaged to Hippolyta

HIPPOLYTA, Queen of the Amazons, engaged to Theseus

EGEUS, Hermia's father

PHILOSTRATE, Master of Revels to the court

HERMIA, Egeus' daughter, in love with Lysander

LYSANDER, in love with Hermia

DEMETRIUS, in love with Hermia

HELENA, in love with Demetrius

NICK BOTTOM, a weaver, presenting Pyramus

QUINCE, a carpenter, presenting the Prologue

FLUTE, a bellows-mender, presenting Thisbe

SNOUT, a tinker, presenting Wall

SNUG, a joiner, presenting Lion

STARVELLING, a tailor, presenting Moonshine

OBERON, King of the Fairies

TITANIA, Queen of the Fairies

PUCK, or Robin Goodfellow, fairy servant to Oberon

FAIRIES; Mustardseed, Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Chorus of Fairies

## Auditions

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Auditions will be scheduled in 10-minute slots, however your audition may only go for 5 minutes. This is to give time between each audition for people coming and going, and to give you time to fill out paper-work.

Upon arrival, you will be asked to complete an audition form, and your photograph will be taken.

Due to restrictions, ONLY the person auditioning may enter the theatre.

Your audition will focus primarily on a reading from the script, which is available on the website.

With the time given for your audition, you will only be able to audition for ONE character, however, if there are other character you are interested in, you can select these on your audition form. If your read involves another character, somebody in the audition room will read opposite you.

Remember, we want you to succeed. We're on your side. So, channel any nervous energy and bring it to your audition.

Audition material will be found on the Roo website from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

Good luck.

## **About this Production**

Set in modern dress. Very conservative Athenians wander into a forest in an act of rebellion to be confronted by new age hippie fairies with no rules to find themselves awakened to life outside their closed un-creative lives. Meanwhile, a group of actors with more heart than talent, try to rehearse a play which though may not be perfect, it is honest and done with love so therefore a triumph for honest love of the arts. This production of *Midsummers* is about freedom and self-expression, and how we need the arts as part of our souls to truly live. There is a lot of physical comedy and dance choreography, musicians are strongly encouraged as well as we will use live music when fairies and mechanicals erupt into musical breaks and free-spirited chaos. Cast will be asked to express themselves in every way possible to help bring the spirit of fun and joy to the production.

## **Casting**

Often, the Creative Team have a vision on what they want for particular roles, so if you are auditioning for Person A and are offered Person B, don't be disheartened, it doesn't mean your audition was a train wreck – Afterall, you're still being cast.

If you are not successful being cast, it doesn't mean your audition wasn't good, it sometimes means that there was just no extra room for you in the cast – and with Covid-19 restrictions, we are restricted to how many we can have in the show.

All successful cast will be notified by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, and the cast list will be put on the Roo Theatre Website. Unfortunately, due to large numbers of auditions, it is just not possible to contact EVERYBODY, so an email will be sent to any unsuccessful persons.

All successful cast will need to become financial members of the Roo Theatre Company at the first rehearsal, on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## **House Rules**

1. ALL cast and crew must become financial members of the Roo Theatre Company by the first rehearsal, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.
2. This is a family production, working with a volunteer production team and cast, so we are asking for all drama's to be left at the door.
3. Bump ins are where available cast and crew can lend a hand building or painting sets. If you are available, please turn up and help. Though these are not scheduled rehearsal days, any help is appreciated.
4. Any cast under the age of 18 MUST be signed in by a parent/guardian upon arriving at the theatre for rehearsals and performances, and signed out by the parent/guardian when leaving.
5. The theatre will be closed between productions on a day when TWO shows occur. It is a responsibility of a parent or guardian to organise pick up between shows.
6. ALL cast over 18 will be required to submit a Working with Children number to the production team.
7. This production team works on a three-strike policy. If three rehearsals are missed with no explanation, your part will be forfeited and given to somebody else.
8. Rehearsals can be lengthy, with often people sitting around for a long period of time. Bring something to occupy yourself that's quiet and tidy.
9. To adhere with the Roo Theatre Company Social Media Policy, NO posts about the production can be shared unless they have come from the appropriate forum (the RTC website, Facebook, or Instagram accounts)
10. If a cast member is sick or displaying cold / flu symptoms, DO NOT send them to rehearsals.