

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* was written in or around 1595, and first published in Quarto in 1600. We don't know exactly when or where it was first performed, but legend has it that it was staged before Queen Elizabeth I. It is one of Shakespeare's most popular and frequently performed plays, whether in schools, open-air venues or theatres – from Stratford-Upon-Avon to London's Globe.

A wood near the mythical city of Athens provides the backdrop to one of the classic comedies in the English language, in which fairy and mortal worlds collide, with spectacular results. From the romantic tribulations of Hermia, Helena, Lysander and Demetrius, and the antics of the 'rude mechanicals' (Bottom, Quince, Flute and the rest), all manipulated by mischievous Puck, to the conflict between the fairy monarchs, Oberon and Titania, there is much to entertain any audience. We have added music and dance, and made use of our wonderful new flying grid, to provide you with a great night's entertainment.

This is the fifth 'Shakespeare' we have put on in the Theatre Royal (as well as one at Moorclose Community Centre Theatre), and we hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoy performing it.

## Settings

The play is set in the palace of Duke Theseus in Athens, an Athenian street, and the woods outside the city.

**Tony Parker, Director**

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## CAST

Robin Goodfellow, a Puck  
Oberon, king of the fairies  
Titania, queen of the fairies  
Lysander, in love with Hermia  
Demetrius, suitor to Hermia  
Hermia, in love with Lysander  
Helena, in love with Demetrius  
Egeus, father of Hermia  
Theseus, Duke of Athens  
Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons  
Bottom, a weaver  
Quince, a carpenter  
Flute, a bellows mender  
Starveling, a tailor  
Snout, a tinker  
Snug, a joiner  
Philostrate, a courtier  
Peaseblossom, a fairy  
Cobweb, a fairy  
Moth, a fairy  
Mustardseed, a fairy

Director  
Assistant director

Ian Quirk  
Stewart Grant  
Jane Douglas  
Jonathan Lucas  
James Last  
Becky Wilson  
Georgia Douglas-Brown  
Paul Tharagonnet  
Craig Norendal  
Gwyneth Savage  
Will Tillotson  
Kelly Davis  
Steph Daly-Parks  
Maggie Bedford  
Alison Shutt  
Caysie Ray  
Richard Harris  
Sophia Alford  
Issy Smith  
Kenia Cox  
Emily-Rose Lane

Tony Parker  
Maggie Bedford

## CREW

Set construction  
Stage manager  
Sound  
Lighting  
Wardrobe  
Props & set painting

Geoff Brincombe & the stage crew  
Scott Ashton  
Geoff Brincombe  
Charlotte Cuthell  
Helen Earl  
Sarah Delorme

Special thanks to Matthew Smith, [www.SFXuk.com](http://www.SFXuk.com), for making the ass's head.