

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

A glass jar containing a miniature forest scene with figures, resting on a mossy branch. The scene inside the jar is lit with warm, golden light, contrasting with the dark, cool tones of the surrounding forest. The figures inside appear to be in a dance or a scene of activity. The jar is placed on a thick, moss-covered branch, and the background is a dense, dark forest with soft, out-of-focus light filtering through the trees.

ADAPTED BY THE UNION COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Adapted by The Union College Department of Theatre & Dance

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Keelie Sheridan

Stage Manager -- Charlie Whiteford

Scenic Design -- Andrew Mannion

Costume Design -- Brittney Belz

Lighting Design -- Zach Pizza

Sound Design -- Luke Krauss

Technical Director -- Drew Bodd

Properties Design -- Maya Gempler

Assistant Director/Musical Coaching -- Lili Wang

Musical Consultants -- Elizabeth Rapp, Aspen Morris

CAST

Hippolyta ----- Maggie Kelley*

Theseus ----- Tremaine Richardson

Egeus ----- Lauryn West

Helena ----- Melanie De La Cruz

Hermia ----- Tessa Fountain

Lysander ----- Thomas Raimo

Demetrius ----- Dylan Robichaud

Bottom ----- Trip Sherwood

Quince/ Prologue ----- Lilian Ruggieri

Snug/ Lion ----- Hestia Doud

Starveling/ Moonshine ----- Justine Westphal

Flute/ Thisby ----- Matthew Connolly

Snout/ Wall ----- Spencer Newman

Puck ----- Mollyjane (MJ) Boyle

Oberon ----- Victoria Lucontoni

Titania ----- Sarah Wright

Peaseblossom ----- Delaney Beck*

Cobweb ----- Mary (MK) Darden*

Mustardseed ----- Haley Gatley*

*Denotes Swing/ Understudy

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Managers -- Latte Khambete, Aspen Morris

Hair -- Sash Stark

Makeup -- Yuxuan Li

House Manager -- Komila Dustbabayeva

Box Office Team - Paige Curran, Brendan Cullen

Graphic Designer -- Lilith Haig

Scene Shop Supervisor -- Robin MacDuffie

Costume Crafts & Wardrobe -- Isobel MacKinnon

Draper/ Assistant Shop Manager -- Elizabeth Magas

Run Crew

Victoria Avon, Zach Dickinson, Sam Granger, Elise Heater, Will Popper, Alex Roginski,
Jay Spahn, Riley Spagnuolo

Stage Craft

Delaney Beck, Eli Coleman, Nolan Kelley, Hannah Lane, Sophia Pegolo, Thomas Raimo,
Xuanzhuo, Sheng, Efu Takahashi, Lili Wang, David Willis, Andrew Wurts, Asher Zive

Costume Shop Work Study

Dana Aument, Elaine Du, MK Darden, Isobel Mackinnon, Emmett Suh, Lauryn West,
Temi Olasubomi

Scene Shop Work Study

Victoria Avon, Zach Dickinson, Maya Gempler, Hanah Tokarski, Will Zimmer

DIRECTORS NOTE

I've approached the process of directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with far more questions than answers. Why another Shakespeare play in 2022? What are we offering the audience and our community at large? What benefit are we offering the students? I've come across two articles of particular resonance to these inquiries. *Interrogating the Shakespeare System* by Mohegan Shakespeare, scholar Madeline Sayet in the HowlRound Theatre Commons suggests that we examine how we've positioned Shakespeare's works in our collective minds and esteems. "After all, the education system in the United States has trained all of us to believe Shakespeare is the best. Why else would he be the only playwright required in the American Common Core, our academic standards for education? Why else would he be the most produced playwright in the United States? Why else would he be the way children are introduced to theatre? It is that very placement of Shakespeare as the pinnacle of theatrical achievement that I suggest we interrogate" (Sayet). In an article in *American Theatre Magazine* by Rob Weinert-Kendt, *Why Keep Doing Shakespeare? Maybe That's the Wrong Question* the author interviews Rosa Joshi of Seattle's upstart crow collective, who offers "For me it's really important to approach the work knowing that it takes skill and craft, but then to have a healthy irreverence about it—not to put it up on a pedestal... You also have to have the humility to know that this work will live on beyond your production. There's no ideal King John; we're doing this version for this audience now."

What you're about to see is a highly condensed version of the original text. I find something very exciting about taking a revered, well-loved classic and dropping it to the floor and then picking up the shiniest pieces and making something out of them. It's been a true joy to see the actors take this text and find life and humor in the density of the language. This is a true ensemble piece, and we have actors, designers and crew members from across disciplines and departments collaborating to find our own collective version of this very old play. I'm very grateful for the flexibility and open-mindedness of the *A Midsummer Night's Dream* team, and I promise that we've kept you, our contemporary audience, as our compass as we navigated this text.

THEATRE & DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

Brittney Belz - Interim Department Chair, Costume, Hair, Wigs, Makeup & Costume Shop Coordinator

Drew Bodd - Technical Director & Lighting Design

Megan Flynn - Gustave L. Davis '59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance, Artist-in-Residence

Charlie Jones - Office Assistant

Robin MacDuffie - Scene Shop Technician

Andrew Mannion - Interim Artistic Director, Scene Design, Painting & Video

Victoria Rotondi - Arts Department Coordinator

Keelie Sheridan - Acting & Directing

Dan Venning - Theatre History & Dramaturgy

Randy Wyatt - Associate Professor, Chair of Theatre & Dance Department, Artistic Director. On Leave

Laurie Zabele Cawley - Assistant Director of Dance

CAST BIOS

Maggie Kelley is a Junior at Union College from Wenham, Massachusetts. She is double majoring in Computer Science and Theatre. This is her third production at Union, previous shows include: The Sex Habits of American Women and Club Dragonfly. She is so excited to do her first Shakespeare show, and she would like to thank her fellow performers, and the hardworking crew for all the work they've done to make this show happen. Don't fall asleep in the woods and enjoy the show!!

Tremaine Richardson (they/he) is first year electrical engineering major from SC. Tremaine has not participated in a play in the past and is excited to participate in the Midsummer Night's Dream adaptation. Being a Duke, Tremaine's ego has once again skyrocketed as they play the role of Theseus and command the stage with authority and formality. Don't (wink wink) enjoy the show!

Lauryn West (She/Her) is a senior history major with classics/theatre minors from CT. She is thrilled to be "returning" to Athens after studying abroad there. This is her seventh show at Union. She would like to thank her mother, her father, Nicki, her family, Lexis, her friends, and her professors for their endless support. She is grateful for all this department has given her. Huge thanks to everyone for a fantastic production! Enjoy the show!

Melanie De La Cruz ("Mel") (She/ Her) is a first-year from Florida. She's majoring in Theatre and Political Science, minoring and a work study in Dance, and part of the Union College Choir, with a heart to pursue the arts. She thanks everybody for bringing her thus far - a special thanks to her parents and friends for motivating her and her passions. Thank you to the Theatre and Dance Department faculty for welcoming her to a world of possibility. Blessings and love to the cast and crew.

Tessa Fountain (she/her) is a Junior English and Classics double major from Millbrook, NY. This is her first role at Union College, in addition to other plays and musicals throughout and outside of school. Thank you to the amazing cast and crew for making this show possible and thank you to my family as well!

Thomas Raimo (any pronouns) is a junior Neuroscience major and Theater minor at Union. They have been involved in theatre before college and are thrilled to be back on the stage! In addition to theatre, they are the President of the a cappella group The Eliphalets and the music director of Dutch Pipers. He hopes you enjoy all the hijinks to be found in Athens' woods!"

Dylan Robichaud (He/Him) is a sophomore Electrical Engineer who is excited and thankful to be in his first ever play! If I mess up my lines, just remember: "You can't be good at something unless you're willing to be bad." - Ryan Reynolds. He enjoys snowboarding, photography, and playing video games. His extracurricular activities consist of English Second Language (ESL), Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW), Spanish Tutoring, and Club Basketball. Dylan's dream career is to be an influencer/entertainer.

Trip Sherwood is a religion and classics double major from McLean, Virginia. He has acted throughout highschool and college mostly notably playing Selsdon in Noises Off. Trip has continued acting in college, playing Grotesque Mind in Sam Spade Always Get Her Man and Miles/Lady Romola in Act a Lady. Huge thanks to the rest of the cast and crew!

Lilian Ruggieri, (she/her) is a sophomore who just declared a theatre major. She has acted throughout highschool but this is her first show at Union and is excited for everyone to see it! She is grateful to all of the people part of this show as they are such a fun cast and crew.

Hestia Doud (She/Her) is a Sophomore Physics major from Baltimore, MD (Go Ravens!). At Union college, she played Dan in The Sex Habits of American Women, and understudied for True in Act A Lady. This is her first Shakespeare performance and she couldn't be more excited to work with such an incredible group of people. Hestia would like to thank her family, the crew of midsummer, and her friends for all their support! In bocca al lupo, crepi il lupo!

Justine Westphal (she/her) is the German Language Assistant Teacher for Union. In Germany, Justine reads English and Social Sciences at the University of Cologne to eventually become a teacher at a German High School. After her year here, she will finish her Master thesis. Therefore, she is truly enjoying this unique experience of being part of the fantastic cast and is extremely excited to play the role of Robin Starveling/Moonshine. Thank you to everyone who made this show possible!

Matthew Connolly (he/him) is a freshman Classics major from Delmar, New York. Matthew has acted in several Shakespeare productions in high school including Polonius in Hamlet and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night. This is his first production at Union College, and he is excited to be part of such an amazing and vibrant production!

Spencer Newman (They/Them) is a sophomore theatre major from Santa Monica, California. They are a member of the Dutch Pipers, Eliphalets, Union College Choir and Union College Chamber Choir. Additionally Spencer is the Co-President of the student run theatre club, Mountebanks. This is their first Union College Theatre production and they are super excited for everyone to see it!

Mollyjane Boyle (she/her) is a Freshman at Union College and is playing Puck in this production. She has been in theater since she was five and has done one professional production in her youth. She is very excited to start her journey at Union.

Victoria Lucontoni (she/her) is proud to be making her debut in the Union College theatre department as Oberon! She has been acting for most of her life and has been seen in numerous plays and musicals through her high school theatre as well as community theatre. In her free time, Victoria enjoys singing and spending quality time with family and friends. She hopes that you enjoy the show!

Sarah Wright (she/her) is a senior biomedical engineering major, electrical engineering minor from Frankfort, NY. At Union, she has starred as Sam Spade in Sam Spade Always Gets Her Man and understudied Daisy in The Sex Habits of American Women. Prior to Union, she was in A Christmas Carol, Dead Man's Cellphone, Lines, and Love/Sick. Sarah would like to thank her family and friends who have encouraged her theatrical work throughout her life. Into the woods we go...

Delaney Beck (she/her) is a Senior Theatre Major from Bethlehem New York. She is ecstatic to make her on-stage Union debut as Peaseblossom! She recently participated in the Spring 2022 production, Act a Lady as Assistant Director, and as Hair and Makeup Designer/Production Assistant for The Little Mermaid Jr. with Debuts Theatre Co. She would like to thank the cast, crew, family, and friends for all of their work and support!

MK (Mary) Darden (She/Her) is a senior Psychology and English ID major from Portsmouth, RI. She is so happy to be playing the role of Cobweb/Swing for Puck, Bottom and others. This is her third show here at Union with the others being Club Dragonfly (Waiter) and Vagina monologues (6-year old girl). She's so grateful to all the cast and crew who have made this show possible and is so excited to be in her first Shakespeare production!

Haley Gatley (she/her) is a sophomore theatre major from Rome, NY! She's been heavily involved in theatre for the majority of her life and is grateful to have been apart of two other shows here at Union so far, as an improv actor in Club Dragonfly and as the role of Lorna in Act a Lady! She's super excited to be playing Mustardseed/swing for Lysander, Oberon, and others! She would like to thank everyone involved!

Crew:

Charlie Whiteford (they/them) is a sophomore Psychology major from Raleigh, NC. They are very excited to be the Stage Manager of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Charlie has worked both on and off stage, including as an Assistant Stage Manager in Union's last production, *Act a Lady*. Before college, Charlie worked on *The Young and Fair* (Emmy) and *Little Women* (ensemble), as well as co-writing and acting in an original production: *Lightbulb* (Reyna). Best of luck to the cast and crew!

Ishita (Latte) Khambete (they/them) is a sophomore biology major with German and environmental science minors. "*A Midsummer's Night Dream*" is their first production, and their first time being an Assistant Stage Manager. This is also Latte's first time getting involved with theatre, and they're very excited to get started!

Aspen Morris (She/Her) is a sophomore Music/Computer Science double major from Towson, Maryland. This is Aspen's first show as an assistant stage manager at Union. Aspen has been excited to watch *A Midsummer Night's Dream* come together over the past two months, and she hopes you enjoy the company's hard work!

Lili Wang (she/her) is a Junior Theatre and Visual Arts double major from China. At Union, Lili worked on *Chicago* (violin). During her 5-year-gap in China, Lili has worked off stage as a director, play-writer, and scene/set designer in many Shadow Plays, including *Madam White Snake*, *Grocer*, *Butterfly lovers*, and *Three Kingdoms Era*. Lili is extremely excited to work on this production *Midsummer Night's Dream* as the Assistant Director, and best luck to the cast and crew!

Special Thanks

Lavida Barkley - Coiled Hair Salon

Lilith Haig

Charlie Jones

Jorge Luna

Victoria Rotondi

**Photography, videography, and audio recording
are not permitted during this production.**



We acknowledge that we live, work, and study at Union College on the traditional homelands that were originally peopled by the Iroquois Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Haudenosaunee (The People of the Longhouse), and other tribes. What we call Schenectady is a Dutch version of a Mohawk word *skahnéhtati*, meaning 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and acknowledge the people who have stewarded the land throughout the ages.

Coming soon from Union Theatre & Dance

**Everybody by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins &
Pride and Prejudice by Kate Hamill**

Directed by Keelie Sheridan

Performed in repertory as staged readings.

More information coming soon!

February 1-5

Winter Dance Concert

At the Intersection

Featuring works choreographed by Students and Faculty.

March 1-5

Sweat by Lynn Nottage


Directed by Jean-Remy Monnay

May 17-21

Union College Theatre & Dance Department

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