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A Midsummer Night's Dream

by
William Shakespeare

FEBRUARY 20TH - MARCH 17TH, 2019

DIRECTED BY CASEY MCCLELLAN

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SACRAMENTO THEATRE COMPANY

MICHAEL LAUN* Executive Producing Director

presents

William Shakespeare's
A
Midsummer
Night's Dream

Directed by

CASEY MCCLELLAN*

Scenic & Lighting Designer

JESSICA BERTINE

Costume Designer

JESSICA MINNIHAN

Sound Designer

EMMA BRAMBLE

Composer & Arranger

SAMUEL CLEIN

Fight Choreographer & Captain

DAREK RILEY*

Stage Manager

COLLEEN LACY*

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BLACK & RED GALA
Saturday April 6, 2019 6 pm - 10 pm

A MESSAGE FROM

THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Sacramento Theatre Company's 74th Season of Love, Loss & Laughter continues with one of Shakespeare's most famous comedies, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This beautiful production, directed with passion by Casey McClellan, continues STC's commitment to bring the Bard to a new generation of theatregoers. Supporting our mission to be the leader in integrating professional theatre with theatre arts education, we will host over 2,000 students here at STC to experience Shakespeare live on stage.

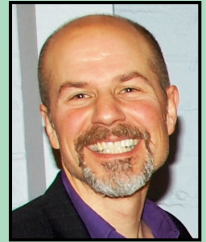
Next up on our Pollock Stage, don't miss the world premiere production of Ginger Rutland's *When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story*, and later on our Main Stage, we present the zany musical homage to '70s disaster movies, *Disaster!* We hope you will plan on attending our 5th annual Black & Red Gala on Saturday April 6th. Join us here at STC and embark on a Cruise Through the '70s. Boogie down with us for a night that you'll be sure to remember.

We continue to be proud of our community partnerships with our productions. Community partners for the remainder of the season include Lilliput Families for *When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story* and the Sacramento Fire Reserve Association for *Disaster!*

We thank you, our audience, for being an integral part of what we do. If you are new to Sacramento Theatre Company, welcome. We hope that you and your family feel at home here at STC. And now, journey with us to a time and place where "the course of true love never did run smooth".



Michael Laun, Executive Producing Director



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A MESSAGE FROM

THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

In harmony with STC's commitment to bring one Shakespeare piece alive each season, the STC School of the Arts has also made a commitment to introduce Shakespeare to elementary school audiences by bringing Lois Burdett's clever series of Shakespeare stories to STC's Youth Series season. This season we are doing *The Tempest for Kids*. Interwoven into the play, written in rhythming couplets, are select passages of Shakespeare's original text to introduce the original language to those students participating as actors and to our student audiences.

The Tempest for Kids plays May 8th -May 19th in the Pollock Stage and there is an overwhelming response from schools to see this play performed by students from STC's School of the Arts. Educators see the value of making Shakespeare's works accessible to their students. The themes and characters help us understand human nature. In Ken Ludwig's book, *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, he states, "Shakespeare articulates emotions that help children understand the stresses of their daily lives" and "arts make a difference in how we see the world and how we conduct our lives – how we view charity to our neighbors and justice to our communities - and Shakespeare, has worlds to teach us as long as we have the tools we need to understand him."

Thank you for attending the performance today and for supporting STC as we continue to provide the tools for our young audiences to experience and understand Shakespeare's works. Enjoy *A Midsummer Night's Dream!*

Michele Hillen-Noufer

Michele Hillen-Noufer, Education & School of the Arts Director



THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

A Midsummer Night's Dream has been adapted for the screen over 20 times in various renditions, as ballets from Balanchine to Elvis Costello, as dozens of concerts and even operas. It touches on themes of love, obviously, but also on loss of personal identity, ambiguous sexuality and even feminism. How fortunate are we to be able to present you a living piece of history from the 16th century? Shakespeare originally wrote this to entertain an aristocratic audience at a wedding. Audiences who were able to see it later did so as voyeurs into the aristocratic world. And we continue that tradition in 2019.

This is the true power of live theatre that STC works so hard to create for you. Presenting the feelings, attitudes and sentiments of days gone by to illuminate how far we have come as a society and yet, how far we have still to go.

The work of STC to present a variety of theatre to 50,000 Sacramentans each season, 15,000 of which are students often seeing theatre for the first time, is supported by the generosity of all of you. Please consider picking up a form in the lobby and donating to our scholarship programs for our School of the Arts, as well as to our family friendly professional productions. Join us for our Black & Red Gala on April 6th, Cruising Through the '70s and be sure to come back for our last two productions, *When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story* by Ginger Rutland and *Disaster!*, our 74th season finale, a comedy musical paying homage to the '70s disaster films.

Wendy J. Phoenix

Wendy Phoenix, Development Director





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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the mischievous world of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the fairies, begin the play in the midst of an epic feud. They are battling over a rare and precious child: an Indian Boy. Titania is the guardian of this child, but Oberon desperately wants the child to serve as his henchman. We know very little of the child, except that Titania says that his mother died during childbirth and left him in her custody. Oberon, however, disagrees and calls the child out as a changeling- a creature found in folklore who is believed to be a fairy child that has been left in place of a human child that was stolen by the fairies.

In our production we choose to explore the character of the Indian Boy even further. We have a young actor bringing this character to life. In the opening moments Titania's fairies sneak into a human child's bedroom and steal the sleeping child from their bed, transforming them into the Indian Boy before the audience's eyes. The next time the audience sees the child they have been immersed into "The Dream" with a new identity. Are they a changeling? Are they now doomed to the fate of the Indian Boy? Or will they somehow wake up and realize it was all a dream?

This production aims to highlight the transformative powers of love and the lengths to which we go to find and keep it. I welcome you to join us on this epic journey to see what fate has in store for our young changeling and the other characters in this epic exploration of love.



Casey McClellan, Director of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



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Ian
Hopps*



Lawrence
Hecht*



Gail
Dartz*



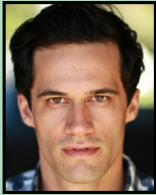
Ben
Muller



Darek
Riley*



Carissa
Meagher



Dan
Fagan



Karen
Vance



Janet
Motenko



Ruby
Sketchley



Ian
Capper



Devin
Valdez



Lily
Delling



Serena
Feniger



Lorenzo
Lopez



Miriya
Yeung

CAST & SYNOPSIS

Puck/Philostrate.....	Ian Hopps*
Bottom.....	Lawrence Hecht*
Hippolyta/Titania.....	Gail Dartez*
Theseus/Oberon.....	Ben Muller
Demetrius.....	Darek Riley*
Helena.....	Carissa Meagher
Lysander.....	Dan Fagan
Hermia.....	Karen Vance
Quince/Egeus.....	Janet Motenko
Cobweb/Snout.....	Ruby Sketchley
Peaseblossom/Flute.....	Ian Capper
Moth/Snug.....	Devin Valdez
Mustardseed/Starveling.....	Lily Delling/Serena Feniger
Young Child/Indian Child.....	Lorenzo Lopez/Miriya Yeung

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There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

PLACE: ATHENS, AND A WOOD OUTSIDE OF ATHENS

In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, residents of Athens mix with fairies from an enchanted forest, with comic results. Theseus, Duke of Athens, is to marry Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons. Bottom and his friends rehearse in the woods a play they hope to stage for the wedding celebrations.

Four young Athenians are in a romantic tangle. Lysander and Demetrius love Hermia; she loves Lysander and her friend Helena loves Demetrius. Hermia's father, Egeus, commands Hermia to marry Demetrius, or else she will be put to death. All four young Athenians end up in the woods, where Puck, who serves the fairy king Oberon, douses flower juice on the eyes of Lysander, and then Demetrius, causing both to love Helena. Oberon, who is quarreling with his queen, Titania, uses the flower juice on her eyes. She falls in love with Bottom, who now, thanks to Puck has been transformed, into an ass's head.

As the lovers sleep, Puck restores Lysander's love for Hermia, so that now each young woman is matched with the man she loves. Oberon disenchants Titania and removes Bottom's ass's head. The two young couples join the royal couple in getting married, and Bottom rejoins his friends to perform the play.



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ABOUT THE COMPANY

IAN HOPPS is full of gratitude for the opportunity to return to STC and collaborate with this talented team of artists! Previous STC credits include: *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*. Other personal faves in the region: *Sweet Luna Gale*, *Stupid F##king Bird* (CapStage); *On the 20th Century*, *Mary Stuart*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Twelfth Night* (Davis Shakespeare Festival); *An Ideal Husband*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Rover* (Big Idea Theatre). Ian would like to thank his high school English teacher for introducing him to the power of Shakespeare and poetry.

LAWRENCE HECHT is excited to be working with the STC for the first time. He was a company member at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco for twenty-five years, before working at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts for eighteen years. Stockton is now home. Some theatres he has worked for are Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Theatre Company, Livermore Shakespeare Festival, PCPA, Marin Theatre Company, and Theatre on the Square. While in Colorado, he worked with Curious Theatre Company and Colorado Shakespeare Festival, among others. Hecht has been a proud member of Actors' Equity Association for over four decades.

GAIL DARTZ Acting: Nurse/Prince – *Romeo and Juliet* (Davis Shakespeare Festival); *Love and Information*, *The Typographer's Dream*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Relatively Speaking* (Capital Stage.) Bay Area: Magic Theatre, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Berkeley Shakespeare Festival. Regional: Long Wharf Theatre, Yale Repertory Theater, New York Stage and Film Company. Directing: *The Aronists* (Capital Stage); *The Secret Garden* (YPC-STC) *Antigone*, *The Rover*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, (Big Idea Theatre); *Orlando*, *The Turn Of The Screw* (SacImpulse); Various Productions (Cosumnes River College); *The Three Musketeers*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Baby Dance*, *The Gifts of the Magi* (New American Theater, IL)

BEN MULLER is glad to return to the STC stage, where he last performed in *The Tempest*. Other recent California credits include Eddie and Jeffries at *The Speakeasy* in San Francisco, and Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Marin Shakespeare Company. Regionally, he has performed at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival (*Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*) and many theatres in Chicago's storefront scene. Ben holds a BFA from the Chicago College of Performing arts at Roosevelt University, and is represented by Look Talent. www.ben-muller.com

DAREK RILEY is thrilled to be back at STC since appearing in *To Kill a Mockingbird* in 2016. He's most recently appeared in the B Street Family Series (Robin Hood - *Robin Hood*, Ensemble - *Going West: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad*, Blackdog - *Treasure Island*). He also appears in numerous readings, the various festivals and upstairs events at The SOFIA as well as in front and behind the bar. Darek holds a BFA in Acting from Southern Oregon University and an MFA in Acting from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Look out for more at www.darekiley.com

CARISSA MEAGHER was last seen at Sacramento Theatre Company as Shelby in *Steel Magnolias* and Hecate/Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*. Her favorite past theatre work includes the title role in *Antigone* (Big Idea Theatre); *Brilliant Traces* (Ovation Stage); *An Octoroon* and *Anna Karenina* (Capital Stage); *The Little Prince*, *Tartuffe* and *Henry IV* (The Theater at Monmouth in Maine); *Detective Story*, *Dutchman*, and *Dying City* at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she holds a BFA in Acting. In 2016, Carissa earned her MFA in Playwriting from Ireland's RADA affiliate school, The Lir Academy.

DAN FAGAN is delighted to return to Sacramento Theatre Company for this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Past productions at STC include *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Twelfth Night*, *Of Kites and Kings*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Other local credits include In Absentia at B Street Theater, Clybourne Park at Capital Stage, and Look Back In Anger at EMH. Dan is also a theatre educator at MASK, a not-for-profit arts program for young artists.

KAREN VANCE recently arrived from the Midwest, where she worked as an actor in Chicago before getting her MFA from Michigan State University. Karen is an educator as well and is lucky to also be a teaching artist with STC. Earlier this year she directed a production of *A Christmas Carol* for the SPP program and will direct *The Tempest for Kids* later this spring. Karen is ecstatic to be apart of this delightful production and hopes you enjoy! To see other projects Karen is working on, visit www.karen-vance.com

JANET MOTENKO has performed at theaters throughout the Sacramento area and beyond. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is her third show at Sacramento Theatre Company, where she also has appeared in *Steel Magnolias* and *Macbeth*. Among other credits: *An Ideal Husband* at Big Idea Theatre, *Cyano* and *Blithe Spirit* at Sierra Repertory Theatre, *Italian Opera* at California Stage, *The Shadow Box* at Resurrection Theatre and *The Madwoman of Chailot* at Ovation Stage. She has a bachelor's degree in drama and trained further at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and Mountview Drama School in London.

RUBYSKETCHLEY is thrilled to be returning to STC for this enchanting and magical story. Past favorites include *Macbeth*, *Sense & Sensibility* (STC), *33 Variations*, *Cloud 9*, *Dancing At Lughnasa*, *When The Rain Stops Falling*, *The Pillowman*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *A Contemporary American's Guide To Marriage c. 1959*, *Outrage* (BIT), *My Own Stranger* (KOLT), *Cabaret* (CSUS), *Talking With* (RT), and *A Flea In Her Ear* (MSTW). She wishes to thank her family and friends for their love and support, the cast and crew for this incredible journey, and you, the audience, for supporting live theatre!

ABOUT THE COMPANY

IAN CAPPER is overjoyed to return to Sacramento Theatre Company, following this season's production of *A Christmas Carol*. He has trained and worked primarily with Sacramento State's Theatre & Dance Department, and recent stage credits include Prentiss in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Rooster Hannigan in *Annie*. For my dearest friends and family. Follow my social media! @iantcapper

DEVIN VALDEZ is delighted to be involved in her first production with Sacramento Theatre Company! She received her Bachelor of Art in Theatre from Sacramento State University and has trained with professionals regionally through various workshops, masterclasses, and internships. A few selected credits include: *In The Time Of The Butterflies* – Minerva Mirabal (Sacramento State), *Gypsy: The Musical* – Electra/Miss Cratchit (Sacramento State), *La Pastorela de Sacramento* – Carmela (LCAC), and *Welcome to Arroyos* – Lelly Santiago (Teatro Espejo). Most recently she made her professional debut in Capital Stage's production of *The Wolves* where she portrayed #46. Keep up with her theatrical endeavors @devinvaldezofficial

LILY DELLING is a high school senior in her second year with STC's Young Professionals Conservatory. This Fall she was Betty Parris in *The Crucible* here at STC, and last year she played the Dance Captain in YPC's *Kiss Me, Kate*. Many thanks to her family and this wonderful cast and crew!

SERENA FENIGER is a junior at C.K. McClatchy and is in her 5th year with STC's Young Professionals Conservatory. Her favorite roles include: Belinda Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (STC) and teen ensemble in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Music Circus). She was the co-composer, lyricist, and bookwriter for *Change, the Musical*.

LORENZO LOPEZ is thrilled to be making his professional debut with STC and is in his first year with the Pre-Professional Ensemble Company. Local credits: Feste (*Twelfth Night for Kids*), Donkey (*Shrek*), Iago (*Aladdin*), and Michael (*Peter Pan*). Dance credits: Fritz (*The Nutcracker*), iTheatrics 2018 Choreography DVD Shoot in NYC, and 2018 Hollywood Dance Jamz "I Am The Jam" National Scholarship winner.

MIRIYA YEUNG is in her first professional show with STC and performing her fifth show on the STC stage having played Michael in *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure*, Laozi in *Mulan Jr.*, the doctor in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and ensemble in *Mary Poppins Jr.* She is enjoying her first year as part of the Pre-Professional Ensemble Company.

MICHAEL LAUN (Executive Producing Director) Bitten by the theatre bug at the age of 13 when he saw Carol Channing in *Hello Dolly!*, Michael began working professionally in theatre at 19 and has never looked back. He brings both a strong management background and an artistic creativity to his job as Executive Producing Director. His Southern California directing credits include *Camelot*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Starting Here, Starting Now*. *Falsettos*, which he also produced, was nominated for LA Weekly's Musical of the Year. This

is Michael's 13th season here at STC. *The Musical of Musicals*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Bark!* - *The Musical*, *A Little Princess*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Cinderella*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Donner Party* are among his directing credits for STC. For a kid with a love of the theatre, life is good.

CASEY MCCLELLAN (Show Director) is thrilled to be an Associate Artist at STC. Directing credits: *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Macbeth*, *Steel Magnolias*. Acting: *Mothers and Sons*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. His work has been seen in New York at The Public Theatre, Joe's Pub, Cherry Lane Theatre, (le) Poisson Rouge, Soho Playhouse. Regional credits: Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, State Theatre of New Jersey, B Street Theatre, The Monomoy Theatre. Casey is the Artistic Director of Intrepid Theatre Lab, as well as a Professor of Drama at Sac State. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

JESSICA BERTINE (Set & Lighting Designer) is returning to Sacramento Theatre Company for her eighth season. Her most recent highlights with STC include *Man of La Mancha*, *Mothers and Sons*, and the premiere of *Kings of America*. Past production highlights: *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Tempest*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and many others. She has also worked locally for Capital Stage on their production of *Miss Bennet Christmas at Pemberley* and *The Thanksgiving Play*. Jessica received her MFA in Design and Technology from University of Missouri Kansas City.

JESSICA MINNIHAN (Costume Designer) In her lucky 13th season with STC, Jessica has also created costumes for Walt Disney World Entertainment, Music Circus, Des Moines Metro Opera, B Street Theatre, and KOLT Run Creations. Design credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Antigone*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Frankenstein*, *Ruthless*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Vinegar Tom*, *A Little Princess-The Musical*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Cinderella*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *The Donner Party*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Macbeth*, and *Man of La Mancha*. B.A. Central College, Pella, Iowa. All my love to Seth and Audrey.

EMMA BRAMBLE (Sound Designer) was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, Emma is a sound designer based in Sacramento, California. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sound Design. Emma is thrilled to be designing her first Main Stage production after designing several School of the Arts Productions as well as being the sound assistant for many other productions. When she is not working at STC she can be found next door at Broadway at Music Circus as the sound assistant. She sends love to all her family and friends.

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ABOUT THE COMPANY

COLLEEN LACY (Stage Manager) is happy to return to Sacramento Theatre Company as the Resident Stage Manager for the 2018/19 season after serving as Assistant Stage Manager for *Man of La Mancha*, *Cinderella*, and *The Donner Party*. She has worked on Broadway with Sir Patrick Stewart and Sir Ian McKellen on *No Man's Land*. Select other credits include *Luna Gale* and *Bad Jews* (Capital Stage), *Wig Out!* (Studio Theatre), *Charley's Aunt* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), *Doctor Faustus* and *Saint Joan* (Quintessence Theatre Group). She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Humboldt State University, and an MFA in Stage Management from Columbia University.

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