

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Writer
William Shakespeare

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



VISUAL STORY

To help prepare you for your
visit to Shakespeare's Globe

Relaxed Performance

Sunday 1 September 2019, 1.00pm

GETTING TO THE THEATRE

This is the Foyer. If you need somewhere quiet at any time you can come back out of the theatre into the Foyer.



Your ticket will tell you which gallery, bay and row you are in. Once you have found your row you will need to find the part of the bench reserved for you which will match the number on your ticket. If you have a Yard ticket, that means you are standing in the large open-air space. You are free to move around that space freely.





This is the stage. For different plays, designers add pieces of set to make it look different. This is where the actors will be performing.

These are stewards. You can recognise the stewards by their aprons. The stewards are there to help you. If you feel tired, or need to exit please ask a steward. They can also show you where the toilets are. Stewards are good people to go to if you feel worried about anything.



THE CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY



This is **Lysander** and **Hermia**.



This is **Demetrius**.



This is **Theseus**.



This is **Hippolyta**.



This is **Helena**.

A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S
DREAM

This is **Quince**.



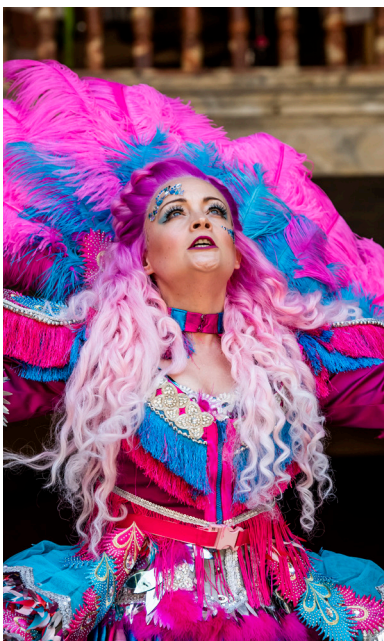
This is **Bottom**.



This is **Snug**
disguised as The Lion.



This is **Oberon**.



This is **Titania**.



This is **Puck**.
Many of the actors play Puck.
They wear t-shirts with
'PUCK' written on them.

SHOW NOTES

These are notes of things that may happen during the show, or that you may want to think about for the play.

- The play is approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes long, with an interval of 15 minutes after 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- The second part is 1 hour and 10 minutes long.
- A bell will ring in the foyer and on the piazza five minutes before the play starts. A second bell will ring two minutes before the play starts to let you know it is time to take your place in the theatre. After the interval, the same happens before the second half of the show. The person ringing the bell moves around the piazza, starting at the glass doors by the gift shop.
- Some of the actors will walk through the yard to get to and from the stage.
- When we first see Hippolita, she has tape over her mouth. This is special tape and does not hurt the actor when it is removed.
- There is a lot of bright colours in this show, and characters often wear brightly coloured masks.
- The band play brass instruments, which may be loud.
- The character of Puck is played by lots of different actors.

- They wear t-shirts with the word 'puck' on it to show who is playing Puck at the time.
- A member of the audience is asked to join the actors on stage.
- The actor playing Peter Quince uses a megaphone during the presentation of *Pyrimus* and *Thisbe* near the end of the play.
- There is dancing and singing at the end of the play, it's the jig.
- At one point, a gold buggy comes through the Yard.
- It makes some noise and some people who are standing in the yard will be asked to move out of the way for it.
- Shakespeare's Globe is an open air theatre, so it is best to wear suitable clothes.
- Because it is an open air theatre sometimes (but not always) you will be able to hear things from the outside (which may be cars, helicopters, or aeroplanes, or maybe nothing at all).
- Pigeons may, but not necessarily, enter the theatre.
- You are welcome to come and go from the auditorium as you please.
- If you need quiet, you may relax in the piazza or in the foyer.
- Ear Defenders are available from the information desk in the main foyer.

SYNOPSIS.

Theseus is preparing to marry Hippolyta, the Queen of the Amazons. Egeus, comes to Theseus with a complaint about his daughter, Hermia. Hermia wishes to marry her love, Lysander, but Egeus wants her to marry Demetrius. Theseus says that Hermia must either obey her father or she must become a nun. Unhappy with this outcome, Hermia and Lysander decide to run away into the forest together to get married. Before they leave they tell Hermia's best friend, Helena, about their secret plan. Helena is in love with Demetrius and plots to tell him that Hermia is running away, in the hope that he might return Helena's feelings and give up Hermia.

A group of people who work in the city meet. They have plans to put on a play for the Duke's wedding. Their director, Peter Quince, hands out all the parts. One of them, Bottom, is very enthusiastic and wants to play more than just the part of that has been given to her, much to Quince's annoyance. The group arrange to meet again in the forest for their first rehearsal.

Oberon and Titania's Argument

The King and Queen of the fairies, Oberon and Titania, have fallen out over an Indian boy that Titania has adopted. Oberon wants the boy for himself but Titania won't give the boy up. Oberon therefore plans revenge. He orders his servant, Puck, to fetch a magical flower. The juice of the flower placed upon a person's eyes makes them fall in love with the next person or creature they see. Oberon plans to use the flower to make Titania fall in love with the first beast she sees. Whilst Puck is searching for the flower, Oberon sees Demetrius being cruel to Helena as he swears his undying love to her. So Oberon tells Puck to use this same flower on Demetrius to make him fall in love with Helena.

The Magical Flower

Titania's fairies sing her to sleep whilst Oberon quietly sneaks in and puts the juice of the magical flower on her eyes. Now, when Titania wakes, she will fall in love with the first thing she sees. Meanwhile, Lysander and Hermia set up a camp in the forest to rest for the night. As they sleep, Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius and sprinkles his eyes with the juice of the magical flower. When Lysander wakes up the first person he sees is Helena and so he falls instantly in love with her instead of Hermia.

The Interrupted Rehearsal

The city workers meet again to start rehearsing for their play. However, they are interrupted by Puck who cuts short the rehearsal by transforming Bottom's head into that of a donkey. The rest of the actors are in shock at Bottom's strange appearance and run away in fear. A very confused Bottom is left all alone until Titania awakes from her sleep and, seeing her, falls instantly in love. She requests that Bottom stays with her. Titania's fairies come to serve Bottom.

Puck's Mistake

Puck tells Oberon how Bottom has turned into an ass and how Titania is now in love with her. Oberon is pleased with Puck's work until he comes across Demetrius and Hermia. He realises that Demetrius still loves Hermia and that Puck has therefore used the magical flower on the wrong man. Oberon tries to correct the mistake by using the flower on Demetrius, but this now means that both Lysander and Demetrius love Helena. The lovers squabble over this new situation and so Oberon must try and make things right. He gets Puck to gather the lovers together and put another potion on Lysander's eyes so that this time, when he wakes, he will love Hermia once more.

The Morning after the Night Before

Titania continues to love Bottom, but now that Oberon has got the Indian boy he decides to break the charm. Titania wakes and is confused about what has happened but Oberon decides to break the charm. She asks Oberon to explain and so he shows her Bottom. Titania now finds Bottom disgusting and so Oberon asks Puck to transform Bottom back to her normal human form.

Theseus and Hippolyta discover the lovers sleeping in the forest. They are all confused by the night's events and believe they must have been dreaming. They return to Athens to be married as Lysander once more loves Hermia and Demetrius now loves Helena.

Bottom Returns

The stewards are worried that no one has seen or heard from Bottom since their last rehearsal. They fear that they won't be able to perform their play without her. Fortunately, Bottom returns just in time, confused at the past events, but ready to play her part.

The Stewards' Play

At the marriage celebrations the workers of the city arrive to perform their play. It is a clumsy performance but it is still received with great amusement by the audience who laugh at its poor writing and the bad performances. When the play is over, the performers and guests retire. The fairies then enter to bless all of the marriages and Puck wishes the audience a good night.

SONIC STORY

