

VISUAL STORY

A Midsummer

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Night's
Dream

by William Shakespeare



THE CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY



Theseus The Duke of Athens and **Hippolyta**.
They are getting married.



Oberon King of the Fairies.
He is married to Titania, the Queen
of the Fairies.



Titania Queen of the Fairies.
She is married to Oberon.



Puck A fairy who helps Oberon cause trouble.



Hermia Is in love with Lysander. Her father, Egeus, doesn't want them to get married. They run away to the forest together.



Lysander Is in love with Hermia and they run away together.



Demetrius Hermia's father, Egeus, wants Hermia to marry him instead of Lysander. He follows Hermia and Lysander into the forest.



Helena Is in love with Demetrius, but Demetrius isn't in love with her. He is friends with Hermia. She follows Hermia, Lysander, and Demetrius to the forest.



Nick Bottom One of the six actors staging the play *Pyramus and Thisbe*. His head is transformed into a Donkey's head, and Titania falls in love with him.



Nick Bottom, Snug, Peter Quince, Tom Snout, Francis Flute and Robin Starveling
The six actors staging the play *Pyramus and Thisbe*.



Cobweb, Mustardseed, Moth and Peaseblossom are fairies.

SHOW NOTES

- The themes of the show concern love and nature.
- Music can be heard throughout. This can be loud and startling.
- The actors wear masks with animal heads on them, but these are not real.
- There is stage fighting, sometimes with bows and arrows. No one will be hurt.
- The Theatre is open to the air, and sometimes birds, helicopters, planes and other noises from outside can be heard as well as the actors.
- Titania falls asleep when the fairies cast a spell on her. She is not hurt.
- There is a dog brought onstage towards the end of a play. It is not real, but a prop.
- There is dancing and singing at the end of the play, it's the jig.

SYNOPSIS

THE DUKE SUPPORTS EGEUS

Duke Theseus and Hippolyta are preparing for their wedding, when Egeus arrives with his daughter Hermia, along with Lysander and Demetrius. Hermia and Lysander love each other; but Egeus wants Hermia to marry Demetrius (who is loved by Helena). Theseus insists that Egeus must have his way, and gives Hermia a month to marry Demetrius, or either die or become a nun. Hermia and Lysander decide to run away and to meet in the forest. Hermia tells Helena of their plans, and she in turn tells Demetrius, in the hope that he will like her more for telling him. Demetrius chases after the eloping couple, and Helena chases after him.

THE 'MECHANICALS'

A group of tradesmen meet to discuss a play on the theme of Pyramus and Thisbe which they want to perform at Theseus' wedding. They plan to rehearse in the forest.

OBERON'S REVENGE

Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the fairies, are arguing over who should have a changeling boy that Titania has stolen. Titania will not give him up, so Oberon takes his revenge by having his servant Puck find a special flower whose juice he will squeeze onto Titania's eyes while she is asleep. This will make her fall in love with the first person she sees upon waking. Oberon, seeing Demetrius reject Helena, tells Puck to put the potion on Demetrius' eyes also. But Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius, and Lysander wakes to see Helena, whom he falls in love with and chases after, leaving Hermia alone.

BOTTOM'S 'TRANSLATION'

The rustics begin their rehearsal near where Titania is sleeping. Puck gives Bottom an ass's head. Bottom frightens his friends away, and in doing so wakes Titania. She falls in love with him, and Bottom is treated like a lord by the fairy retinue.

PUCK'S ERROR COMPOUNDED

Hermia, having lost Lysander, thinks Demetrius has killed him, and when he denies it she goes to look for him. Oberon is furious with Puck for his mistake and tells him to find Helena and bring her to him. Oberon squeezes the flower onto Demetrius' eyes while he sleeps. Lysander enters with Helena, begging for her love, telling her Demetrius does not love her; Demetrius then wakes, sees Helena, and begs for her love. Hermia enters and is snubbed by Lysander, while Helena thinks all three are tricking her.

THE SPELLS ARE LIFTED

Demetrius and Lysander challenge each other to a duel. Oberon gets Puck to imitate the two men's voices, leading them around until they fall asleep. Puck puts an antidote on Lysander's eyes so that he resumes his love for Hermia. Oberon then releases Titania from her spell, having received the changeling boy from her. Puck removes the ass's head from Bottom.

DISCOVERY

Theseus and Hippolyta arrive to hunt in the forest, along with Egeus, where they discover the sleeping lovers. They hear their story, and Theseus decrees they shall be married as they wish, despite Egeus' will.

THE WEDDING ENTERTAINMENTS

Bottom is reunited with his friends, and they rehearse their play, which has been selected as one of those to be made available as entertainment at the wedding. After supper, Theseus chooses their play, which is presented in front of an audience of all the lovers. They all retire to bed, and Oberon and Titania enter to sing and dance; Oberon blesses the three couples, and Puck is left to address the audience.