



Easy Read

A Visual Story
To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE



MIDSUMMER MECHANICALS

The Cast



Patience Snout/
Fairy King
Melody Brown



Francis Flute/
Fairy Queen
Sam Glen



Nick Bottom/
Weaver
Kerry Framptom



Peter Quince/
The Magical Forest/
Puck
Jamal Franklin

Show Notes



Relaxed Performance

All performances have a relaxed, open format.

This will mean:

- There will be an open-door policy so that you can come and go.
- There are ear defenders available in different sizes to borrow from the Welcome Desk in the main foyer.
- We have worked with our creative team to reduce loud and sudden noises and other sensory elements.
Some areas of the audience will have reduced capacity.
- There will be a Quiet Space available. Please ask our team to show you where it is.



Content and Trigger Warnings

The production includes:

- Audience joining in
- Loud noises
- A bear

Show Notes



Times

The show is 2 hours.

This includes a 15-minute interval.



Music and sound

Music and sound

Check out our sonic story for full information.

- The music is live on and off stage.
- We have guitars, a double bass and string instruments.
- Our cast sing and encourage you to join in.



Lighting

The lighting is always the same.

There are some lights under the audience seating, so the actors can always see the audience.

The Story



Set

The play is in two halves, set in a small village in the time of Shakespeare.

At first, we are on stage in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. There are wooden boards and a black and gold backdrop.



There is rainbow bunting around the set, a few baskets, and a poster of the show and cast.

After the interval the space is transformed into the magical forest. A green backdrop with flowers, bunting and hanging green paper. The bunting is hanging from the ceiling.



Costume

The actors start the show in their villager clothes. They are plain, brown and blue.

After the interval, they put on their character costumes. These are silly, bold and colourful.



The weaver wears a 'ruff' around his neck like Shakespeare.

The Story



Act 1

In the theatre we meet three people who are getting ready to perform a play. Peter Quince and Nicholas Bottom are actors and trying to organise everything. Their friend Patience Snout is making decorations.

They're waiting for the Duke and Duchess to arrive to start their play.



⚠ 18 mins: Bottom and Peter mime stabbing and dying.

They are missing some of the actors.

Quince is nervous because he has had to learn his part quickly. And Bottom still hasn't finished the script!



Francis Flute arrives who usually plays all the women in the play. They expected him to be a boy, but he has grown into a man. He even has a beard.

Patience Snout suggests that she takes over the missing roles, but women aren't allowed on stage. Flute agrees to play the Fairy Queen.

Quince has asked his sister to make a special surprise donkey mask. Francis is worried because he remembers last year when he saw Bottom as a donkey.



⚠ 35 mins: Bottom appears through the Trap Door- it slams open.

The Story



Time starts to run out. Bottom admits that he fired Snug. Quince is outraged because Snug plays 'the weather'.

The audience help to make sounds of the weather.

Tom Snout is sick, so Patience offers to play the Fairy King. The Duke and Duchess are about to arrive, so they agree.

Ⓜ Interval: 15 minutes

Act 2

The Duke and Duchess are watching from the audience, and the play begins. Quince, Bottom, Flute, and Patience are now wearing costumes. Patience is 'The Fairy King', Francis Flute is 'The Fairy Queen' and Peter Quince is playing two roles, 'The Magical Forest' and 'Puck'. Nicholas Bottom is the main character 'The Weaver'.

The Fairy King and Fairy Queen live in a magical forest. They are married. They fight each other with magical curses that leave the forest in a state of sadness.

The Weaver sings a song about how much he loves weaving. He goes for a walk. He can see the forest is very sad, but he decides to go in. The Fairy King is searching for the Fairy Queen. His fairy servant Puck tells him he has seen a human in their forest. Humans are not allowed in this part of the forest. The Fairy King tells Puck to make the Weaver leave.

Puck uses his magic to frighten the Weaver away, but none of his tricks work.





⚠ 17 mins: A large bear runs through the audience.

Finally, Puck makes a scary bear appear. The bear chases the Weaver through the forest. The Weaver fights the bear and wins.

The Fairy Queen falls in love with the Weaver.

⚠ 30 mins: The Queen climbs down a rope ladder, she nearly falls but Puck helps her.

She kisses him and asks him to go with her to a pretty place full of flowers.

The King asks the Queen's fairies in the audience where the Queen is.



He finds the Fairy Queen in love with the Weaver.

He is jealous and confronts him. They ask the audience to help insult each other before fighting.

The Weaver is winning the sword fight, so Puck uses magic to freeze time. He puts the 'special surprise prop' on the Weaver's head. Instead of wearing the mask of a donkey head, Bottom ends up wearing a mask that looks like a big bum!



Bottom realises that his dream last year was real. The Fairy Queen really loved him- so he should find her.

Patience writes a new ending to the play. The Fairy Queen loves the Weaver, but Bottom decides to go home to his weaving and acting.

Quince gives a speech as Puck and they all sing Bottom's favourite song.

Sonic Story

This 'Sonic Story' provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds of Midsummer Mechanicals.

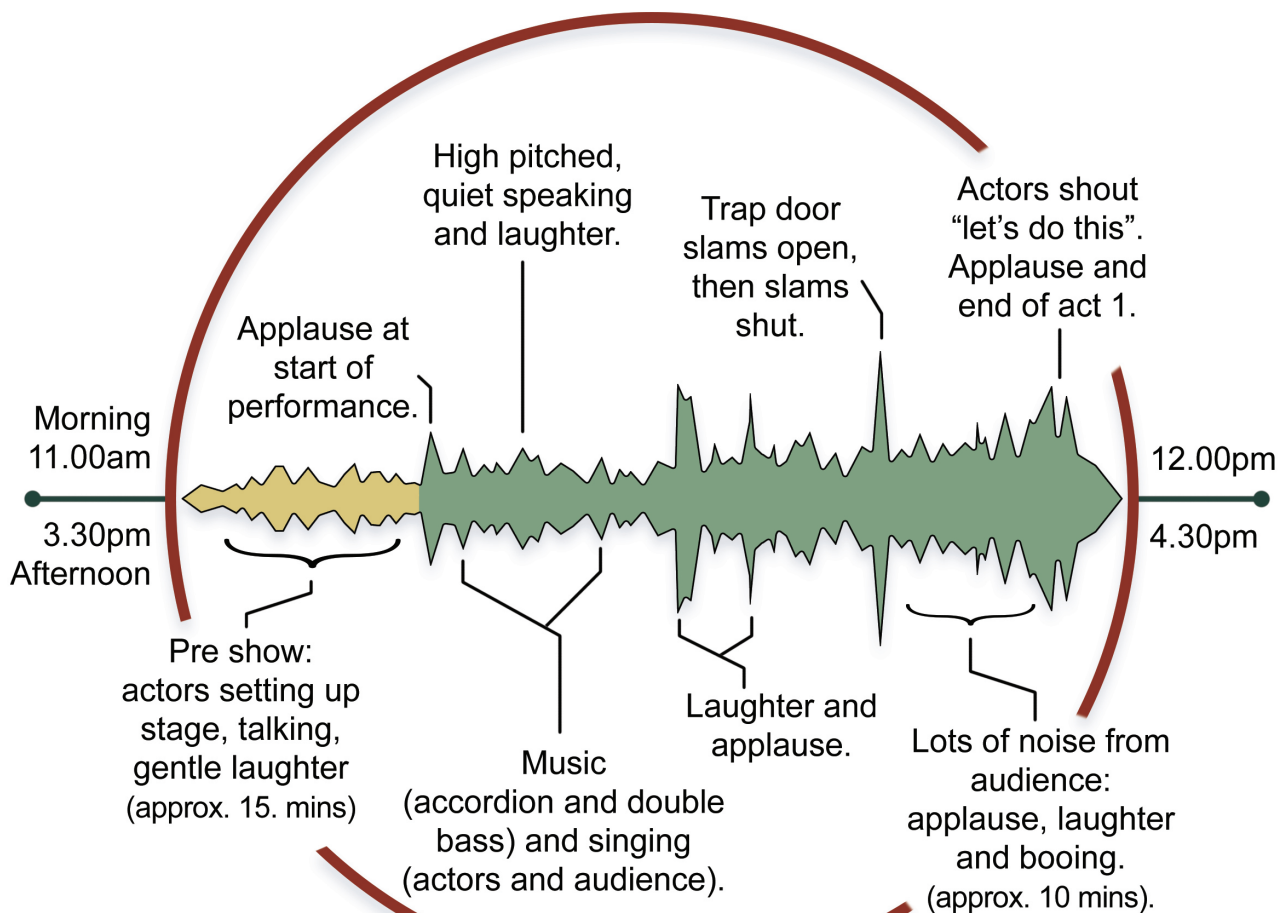
It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and highlights loud and quiet moments and moments when the sound changes suddenly.

This 'Sonic Story' provides information about what to expect from the music and sounds of Midsummer Mechanicals.

It shows the volume changes throughout the performance and highlights loud and quiet moments and moments when the sound changes suddenly.

Act 1

Act 1



Sonic Summary:

Laughter and applause.

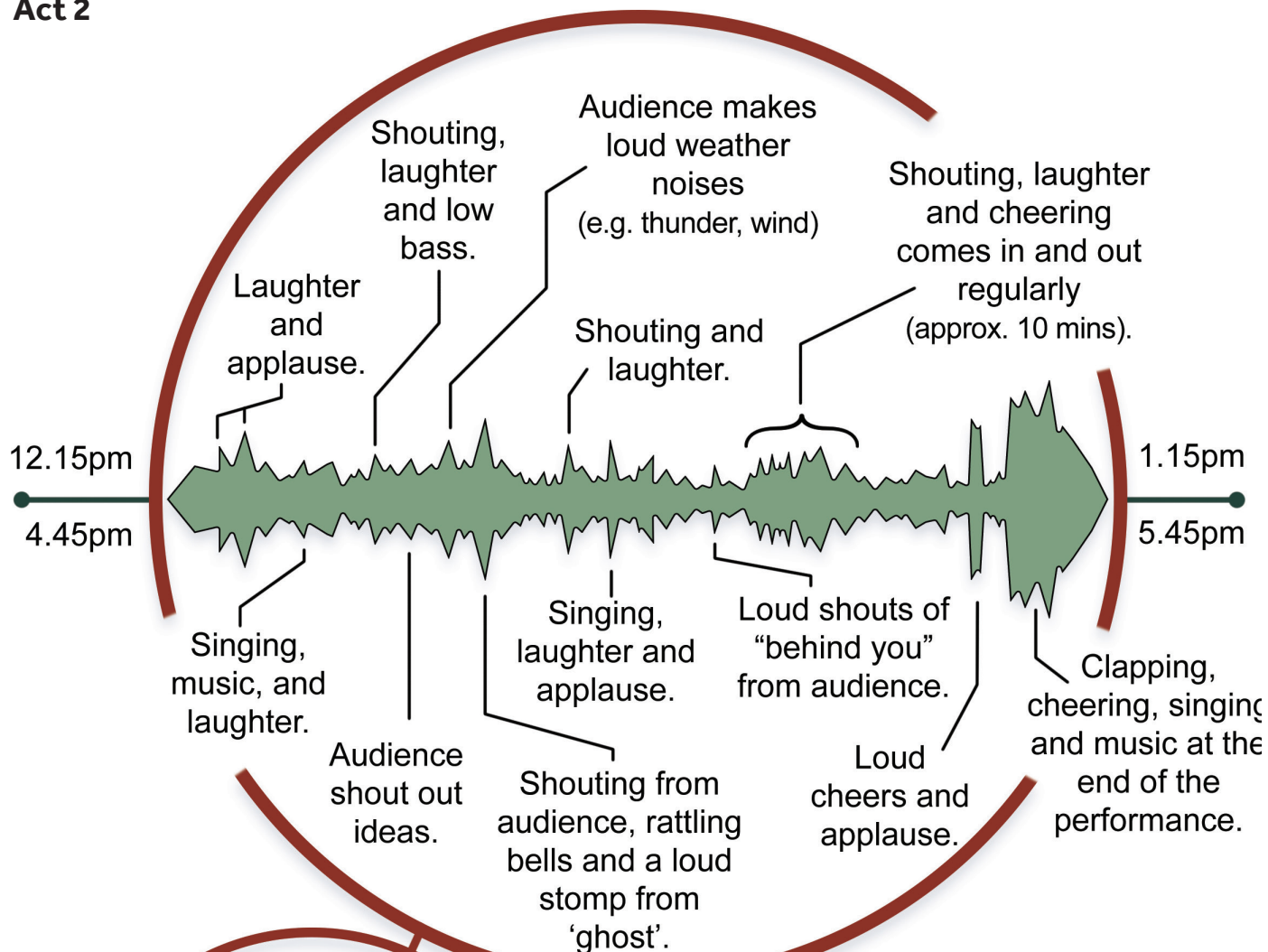
Regular noise from audience: applause, laughter and booing.

Actors talking to audience.

(Times are all approximate)

Act 2

Act 2



Sonic Summary:

Laughter and applause.

Regular noise from audience: applause, laughter and booing.

Music and singing.

Times are approximate

(Times are all approximate)

Further information



Have further questions about this performance?

Find out more about Shakespeare's Globe here:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>



Getting here:

Getting here:

Find directions to getting to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse here:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/visit/getting-here/>