



VOICES
FOUND
REPERTORY

a midsummer night's dream

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY SARAH ZAPIAIN

live & in person

september 2nd-12th, 2021



Cast

Theseus/Oberon.....	Brandon Haut
Hippolyta/Titania.....	Amber Weissert
Hermia.....	Haley Ebinal
Demetrius.....	Phillip Steenbekkers
Lysander.....	Grace DeWolff
Helena.....	Maya Danks
Puck/Egeus.....	Kyle Conner
Nick Bottom.....	Ben Yela
Quince/Mustardseed.....	Hannah Kubiak*
Starveling/Peaseblossom.....	Brittany Haut*
Snug/Cobweb.....	Kazoua Thao
Snout.....	Alexis Furseth*
Flute/Philostrate.....	Jessica Trznadel *



Production Team

Director & Set Designer.....	Sarah Zapiain*
Assistant Director.....	Brandon Haut
Stage Manager.....	Caroline Boettcher
Technical Director.....	Casey Paszkiewicz
Fight & Safety Coordinator.....	Tawnie Thompson
Music Coordinator.....	Maya Danks
Costume Design.....	Claire Kinder*
Marketing & Graphic Design.....	Alexis Furseth*
VFR Board HR Representative.....	Andy Montano*

*Denotes Voices Found's Board of Directors Member



What You Should Know About *Midsummer*

Courtesy of Assistant Director, Brandon Haut

Theseus: The Duke of Athens, well-meaning but clinical

Hippolyta: The taciturn Queen of the Amazons – a fierce tribe of warrior women

Oberon & Titania: The fairy King and Queen of the forest, though often at odds
Puck, a.k.a. Robin Goodfellow: A fairy well-known for his mischief

Lysander: In love with Hermia

Hermia: It's mutual with Lysander

Demetrius: Also loves Hermia, and her dad Egeus arranged their marriage

Helena: Loves Demetrius more than herself

Nick Bottom, Francis Flute, Tom Snout, Robin Starveling, and Snug: A group of friends trying to put on a play for Theseus' wedding

Peter Quince: Directing and managing this play

What's Up with Theseus and Hippolyta? In our production, of course, this isn't the Theseus of Greek mythology who founded Athens and slew the minotaur. Nor is this the same Hippolyta who is the daughter of the war-god Ares and queen of the Amazons. But this context is important to show that theirs is a political marriage more than romantic. Hippolyta is less than willing, and Theseus has a lot of growth to do over the next four days leading up to the ceremony. We can only hope that some force for change comes from their union in the end.

What's Up with Oberon and Titania? Oberon is none other than the Fairy King of the forest, and Titania the Fairy Queen. Their magic gives them great power over their environment, and when they clash, their feuding causes foul weather. This particular feud stems from Titania's refusal to give Oberon custody of an orphaned child which she swore to protect. Vindictive Oberon and unyielding Titania can't help but cross wires with our many friends in the forest. Let's say: it's in their nature.

Who Are the "Rude Mechanicals"? No, they aren't impolite robots. Puck's description implies "crude laborers", but these are simply a group of people – cooks, cashiers, craftsmen – who have come together to put on a short play. Theirs is among many to be selected by Theseus during his wedding reception. They're just like us: working adults by day, would-be thespians by night.

What Is the Play They're Rehearsing? "The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe", as Quince has adapted it, is the centuries-old story of the hero Pyramus and his love Thisbe. The lovers are forbidden to marry due to their parent's rivalry, but they arrange to meet in secret. As fate would have it, a series of poorly-timed events leads to regrettable outcomes. Does this plot sound familiar?



Actor Biographies

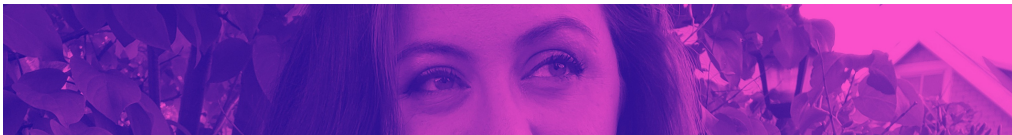
Brandon Haut is an actor in the Milwaukee area with a degree from UW-Whitewater. Recent acting credits include Jack Gable in *Leading Ladies* (Sunset Playhouse), Frederick Arnott in *Enchanted April* (Windfall), Hamlet in *Hamlet* (VFR), and Mark Gray in *This Prison Where I Live* (Theater RED). Brandon most recently served as props and weapons designer for VFR's *Henry V*, and was the director and dialect coach for their last on-stage production of *The Elephant Man* in March 2020.

Amber Weissert is absolutely ecstatic to make her Voices Found Repertory debut as Titania and Hippolyta! She has had a fantastic time working with this talented cast and crew. Amber is so happy to finally be back in the theatre and making art again. Amber is a recent graduate of UW-Milwaukee with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance Performance. She was last seen as Penny in *Hairspray* at Sunset Playhouse. Amber would like to thank her friends and family for their constant support in her endeavors. She hopes you enjoy this magically hilarious show!

Haley Ebinal is a Milwaukee-based stage/film actor and violinist who believes community-building storytelling is the most effective remedy for isolation, harmful assumptions, and disappearing histories. Past roles include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Play-By-Play Theatre), Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (VFR, theatre & chill series), Meg in *Mars Lost* (Lake Country Playhouse), and Nym/Orleans in *Henry V* (VFR). Haley is grateful to be in another VFR production, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Phillip Steenbekkers is ecstatic to be working with VFR for the very first time! He is currently pursuing a BFA in English and Musical Theatre from Carroll University. There, he has had such roles as Paris in *Romeo and Juliet: A Cover*, Moritz in *Spring Awakening*, and Tartuffe in Moliere's *Tartuffe*. Beyond *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, some of Phillip's favorite Shakespeare works include *Othello*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Henry V*.

Grace DeWolff is a Milwaukee actor, director, and theater educator honored to be working with VFR for the very first time! Currently she's the Education Manager at Next Act Theatre, where her intelligent and emotionally resilient teenage students inspire her daily. Thanks to Sarah and Maya for the chance to play, thanks to the cast and the whole VFR team, thanks to Kristi Czechan at Hairy's Hair Bar, and thank YOU for coming out to support live theater!



Actor Biographies

Maya Danks is thrilled to be back onstage with Voices Found! Maya studied Theatre Arts at the University of Minnesota before moving back to Milwaukee to work professionally as an actor, director, and text coach. Some recent acting credits include Detective Morris in *The Nether*, Alice Dearth in *Dear Brutus*, and Titus in *Titus Andronicus*. She would like to thank the whole *Midsummer* team for providing this opportunity to play, laugh, and share stories once again.

Kyle Conner is elated to be working with VFR again as Puck in *Midsummer*. Previously, he has worked with VFR on *Macbeth*, *Titus Andronicus*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. Locally, Kyle has also had the pleasure of working with Windfall Theatre, Bunny Gumbo, Off The Wall, First Stage, and others in the Milwaukee area. He would like to thank all of his friends, family, and Matt for their love and support.

A theatermaker and musician, **Ben Yela** co-founded 1419, an interdisciplinary arts collective, in Minneapolis at the beginning of the 2010s. He then moved to Milwaukee in September 2012, becoming a founding member of Quasimondo Physical Theatre. Since, he has worked with several other Wisconsin companies as a performer, stage manager, and technician, including Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Theatre Gigante, Cooperative Performance, Danceworks, Optimist Theatre, and Door Shakespeare. This is Ben's first production with Voices Found.

Hannah Kubiak has been designing, acting, and directing in the Milwaukee area for 4 years. Her acting credits include Salerio (*Merchant of Venice*, Mad Rogues), Salome (*Salome*, Village Playhouse), Jo (*Little Women*, Village Playhouse), Lennox (*Macbeth*, VFR), and Ophelia (*Hamlet*, VFR).

Brittany Haut is a UW-Whitewater graduate who has previously been seen as Olive in *The Odd Couple (female version)* (Lemonade Theatre), Elaine in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Off the Wall), Banquo in *Macbeth* (Voices Found Repertory), Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* (Mad Rogues), and Pinhead Manager/Snork in *The Elephant Man* (Voices Found Repertory). She has played the violin since she was 10 and is a self taught guitarist.



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SCAN ME

Actor Biographies

Kazoua Thao is local Queer Hmong artist in Milwaukee and this is her first show with Voices Found Rep and on a professional stage. Kazoua was last seen in *Working the Musical* (Theresa), *Female Transport* (Winnie), *A Piece of my Heart* (Leeann) and *Children's Hour* (Audrie) at UWM. She would like to thank her friends and family for the support and Voices Found for this opportunity.

Alexis Furseth is thrilled to be back on stage with Voices Found. Previous credits include Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, Jessica in *This Is Our Youth*, Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. She sends much love to family and friends for their support in this crazy adventure called life.

Jessica Trznadel is a Milwaukee based actor and director and Voices Found Repertory's head of fundraising and events. She was last seen in *Before We Burn Out* by Deanna Strasse at Windfall Theatre. This fall, she will be directing a staged reading for VFR entitled *Margaret*. She is so excited to be back in the theatre and hopes you enjoy the show!

Director's Notes

This production is dedicated to Sylvia.

“For you, in my respect, are all the world.
Then how can it be said I am alone
when all the world is here to look on me?”



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