

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

*by William Shakespeare*

**LIVE at ArtsFest 2021!**  
**Feb. 20, 3:00pm**



## ARTSFEST

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PRESENTED BY THE ARTS FOUNDATION FOR MARTIN COUNTY





*A.C.T. Studio Theatre*  
*presents*

# *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

**The Setting: Ancient Athens**

## CAST

Theseus, Duke of Athens.....MICHAEL BEECHER  
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons.....SARA CIRONE  
Egeus, Father to Hermia.....SAUL BRONSTEIN  
Hermia, in love with Lysander.....JUSTINE RUBIN  
Helena, in love with Demetrius.....CHELSEA WENGER  
Lysander, in love with Hermia.....EVAN O'DONOVAN  
Demetrius, also in love with Hermia.....J. PAUL HEINER  
Robin Goodfellow (aka "Puck").....KRISTAL ECKHARDT  
Oberon, King of the fairies.....JAY WASHINGTON  
Titania, Queen of the fairies.....SHERRI PARADIS  
Nick Bottom, a weaver.....STEPHEN MAYER  
Peter Quince, a carpenter.....JOEY PIERSON  
Francis Flute, a bellows-mender.....PHILLIP THIBEAUX  
Robin Starveling, a tailor.....BRIAN GREIN  
Tom Snout, a tinker.....CHAD GRANESE  
Snug, a joiner.....AUSTIN PARRIOTT  
Philostrate, Theseus' Master of the Revels.....DAVID PIERCE  
Peaseblossom, a fairy.....SAMI GARDNER  
Cobweb, a fairy.....AMY SPRINGER  
Mote, a fairy.....LAURETTA SMETLAK THIBEAUX  
Mustardseed, a fairy.....PATRICIA HOLERGER

## CREW

### *Director*

DENNIS O'DONOVAN

### *Stage Managers*

SARA CIRONE, KATHY CORLISS

### *Sound Design*

DENNIS O'DONOVAN, EVAN O'DONOVAN  
SHERRI PARADIS, STEPHEN MAYER

### *Dances*

AMY SPRINGER

### *Costumes*

SARA CIRONE, KATHY CORLISS, SHERRI PARADIS and the CAST

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

*Nancy Turrell, Elise Raffa and The Arts Council of Martin County  
Sara Cirone and Kathy Corliss  
Al Gallo for his invaluable technical support*







# Synopsis

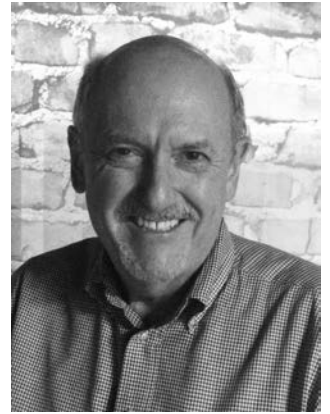
Theseus, duke of Athens, is preparing for his marriage to Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons, with a four-day festival of pomp and entertainment. He commissions his Master of the Revels, Philostrate, to find suitable amusements for the occasion. Egeus, an Athenian nobleman, marches into Theseus's court with his daughter, Hermia, and two young men, Demetrius and Lysander. Egeus wishes Hermia to marry Demetrius (who loves Hermia), but Hermia is in love with Lysander and refuses to comply. Egeus asks for the full penalty of law to fall on Hermia's head if she flouts her father's will. Theseus gives Hermia until his wedding to consider her options, warning her that disobeying her father's wishes could result in her being sent to a convent or even executed. Nonetheless, Hermia and Lysander plan to escape Athens the following night and marry in the house of Lysander's aunt, some seven leagues distant from the city. They make their intentions known to Hermia's friend Helena, who was once engaged to Demetrius and still loves him even though he jilted her after meeting Hermia. Hoping to regain his love, Helena tells Demetrius of the elopement that Hermia and Lysander have planned. At the appointed time, Demetrius stalks into the woods after his intended bride and her lover; Helena follows behind him.

In these same woods are two very different groups of characters. The first is a band of fairies, including Oberon, the fairy king, and Titania, his queen, who has recently returned from India to bless the marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta. The second is a band of Athenian craftsmen rehearsing a play that they hope to perform for the duke and his bride. Oberon and Titania are at odds over a young Indian prince given to Titania by the prince's mother; the boy is so beautiful that Oberon wishes to make him a knight, but Titania refuses. Seeking revenge, Oberon sends his merry servant, Puck, to acquire a magical flower, the juice of which can be spread over a sleeping person's eyelids to make that person fall in love with the first thing he or she sees upon waking. Puck obtains the flower, and Oberon tells him of his plan to spread its juice on the sleeping Titania's eyelids. Having seen Demetrius act cruelly toward Helena, he orders Puck to spread some of the juice on the eyelids of the young Athenian man. Puck encounters Lysander and Hermia; thinking that Lysander is the Athenian of whom Oberon spoke, Puck afflicts him with the love potion. Lysander happens to see Helena upon awaking and falls deeply in love with her, abandoning Hermia. As the night progresses and Puck attempts to undo his mistake, both Lysander and Demetrius end up in love with Helena, who believes that they are mocking her. Hermia becomes so jealous that she tries to challenge Helena to a fight. Demetrius and Lysander nearly do fight over Helena's love, but Puck confuses them by mimicking their voices, leading them apart until they are lost separately in the forest.

When Titania wakes, the first creature she sees is Bottom, the most ridiculous of the Athenian craftsmen, whose head Puck has mockingly transformed into that of an ass. Titania passes a ludicrous interlude doting on the ass-headed weaver. Eventually, Oberon obtains the Indian boy, Puck spreads the love potion on Lysander's eyelids, and by morning all is well. Theseus and Hippolyta discover the sleeping lovers in the forest and take them back to Athens to be married—Demetrius now loves Helena, and Lysander now loves Hermia. After the group wedding, the lovers watch Bottom and his fellow craftsmen perform their play, a fumbling, hilarious version of the story of Pyramus and Thisbe. When the play is completed, the lovers go to bed; the fairies briefly emerge to bless the sleeping couples with a protective charm and then disappear. Only Puck remains, to ask the audience for its forgiveness and approval and to urge it to remember the play as though it had all been a dream.

# About the Cast and Crew of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**MICHAEL BEECHER** (*Theseus*) has been a part of the South Florida theatre scene for 30 years. Professional work: *The Glades* on A&E TV, *Twelve Angry Men* at The Maltz Jupiter Theatre, and *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* at The Willow Theatre. A.C.T. performances: *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Sylvia*, *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, and *The Last Romance*. Awards: Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy in *The Amorous Ambassador* at Delray Beach Playhouse.



**SAUL BRONSTEIN** (*Egeus*) is delighted to return to live theater after participating in two “virtual” shows, available soon on YouTube. He appeared on A.C.T.’s stage as Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*, and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. He would like to thank his wife Sam for her love, inspiration and support.

**SARA CIRONE** (*Stage Manager, Hippolyta*) Sara has been volunteering for ACT theatre for about 3 years working as a stage manager, costume and set design and dabbled with lights and sound for various shows. This is her first ever acting experience as she embraces her role as Hippolyta. Sara claims the best role she has in life is her role as a Mom to two teenage daughters.



**KATHY CORLISS** (*Stage Manager*) Kathy Corliss is thrilled to be back to live theater with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is a retired middle school teacher, certified hypnotist, casual artist, wife, mom, and grandmother. She had no exposure to theater previous to ACT where she assists with sets, costumes, makeup, stage crew, and stage manager.

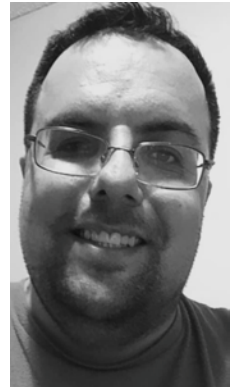
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**KRISTAL ECKHARDT** (*Puck/Robin Goodfellow*) is thrilled to perform with A.C.T. In one of her favorite plays by Shakespeare. She is a 32 year retired Drama teacher from MCHS and is enjoying every minute. Kristal wishes to thank her husband, Pete, for telling her 61 is not too old to play Puck.



**SAMI GARDNER** (*Peaseblossom*) She is making her debut at A.C.T with this show. Sami is a freshman in high school and studies dance and theatre at Dance4life academy. I would like to thank A.C.T. for giving me this opportunity as well as my Mom for supporting me.

**CHAD GRANESE** (*Snout*) Chad is very excited to be making his debut with A.C.T. Chad has been doing theatre here on the Treasure Coast for about 25 years. He would like to thank Dennis for this great opportunity. He would also like to thank his parents for their never ending love and support !!!!!!!



**BRIAN GREIN** (*Starveling*) has thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing such a fun character along with such a talented cast which the A.C.T. Theatre is well known to always find. He also appreciates the audience because you are why we are here. Thank you and keep doing the Huckleberry dance!

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**J. PAUL HEINER** (*Demetrius*) aspiring socialite & indubitable flaneur, remains on the lam, fleeing the hardened pursuit of a midlife cataract. With abiding affection for A.C.T. & this beloved cast of miraculous motleys, he dedicates this performance to his beautiful mother presiding over everything in her heavenly purview! & Dad, stick around! Xoxo



**PATRICIA HOLERGER** (*Mustardseed*) Pat is happy to appear for the first time with A.C.T. She is very excited to work with a wonderful cast. Pat works in Tech at Pineapple Playhouse and has directed some shows there. Thanks to A.C.T. for the chance to work with them, and to her husband Peter.

**STEPHEN MAYER** (*Bottom*) Stephen is grateful to play as Nick Bottom in William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He sincerely wishes to thank all his Family for their amazing support. He would like to thank this incredibly talented cast for all their hard work, and he hopes YOU enjoy the show!



**DENNIS O'DONOVAN** (*Director*) This is Dennis' fourth Shakespeare play with A.C.T., and it's one of his favorites by the Bard. Dennis is grateful to Kathy and Sara for all of their help and hard work, and he wishes to congratulate his outstanding cast. Thanks also to The Arts Council for including A.C.T. in your program!



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**EVAN O'DONOVAN** (*Lysander*) is returning to the theatrical stage after a lifetime away to work once again with his passionately artistic father. Evan is a multi-instrumentalist and composer as well as a budding poet. Thanks to Annelise for helping to make this possible and braving the thousand-mile commute.



**SHERRI PARADIS** (*Titania*) Recent credits: *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn), *Smell Of The Kill* (Nicky) at the A.C.T. Studio, *Waiting In The Wings* (Lotta) at the Barn. Sherri is an alumna of Le LATECOERE drama school in Switzerland and ongoing student of Kenneth Kay, Michael Leeds and PBIEA (former Burt Reynolds Institute)

**AUSTIN PARRIOTT** (*Snug*) Austin is thrilled to be making not only his A.C.T. Studio Theatre debut, but also his Shakespeare debut show. He would like to say thanks to Dennis for this opportunity to perform with these extravagant actors. You can find him performing at other community theatres on the Treasure Coast. He wants to thank his parents and family for the continued love and support!



**DAVID PIERCE** (*Philostrate*) David is thrilled to be working with A.C.T. again for his first Shakespeare performance. Previous productions at A.C.T. include *Sylvia*, *Night of January 16th*, and *Twelve Angry Men*.

# About the Cast and Crew of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**JOEY PIERSON** (*Quince*) Joey is thrilled to be back on the stage working with a fantastic cast and crew. He has been acting since 2013 after getting out of the military and has had the pleasure to grace multiple stages and work in front of the camera as well. When he is not acting, he spends time at home with his dog Gator and his girlfriend Kristy.



**JUSTINE RUBIN** (*Hermia*) is a recent graduate from FGCU with a BA in Communications. Her most recent credit in acting has been in television (*The Right Stuff*). Her favorite stage role has been Chava (*Fiddler On The Roof*). She would like to dedicate this role to all the women in her life.

**AMY SPRINGER** (*Cobweb*) Amy Springer is excited to finally fulfill her dream of being a fairy as a part of the cast for this A.C.T. production. Her acting experience includes a role in *Schoolhouse Rock* at Saint Michaels middle school when she was her son's age and Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* when she was 6. Love to Porter and all of A.C.T.!



**LAURETTA SMETLAK THIBEAUX** (*Mote*) Most of my acting experience comes from being in the wrong place at the right time. I'm the girl standing there when the show needs "someone"...and there I am. This has brought me a lot of joy and opportunities to be part of some wonderful casts and productions. Thanks again for letting me be part of this one!



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**PHILLIP THIBEAUX** (*Flute*) I have had the privilege of being part of many productions in the last 10 years. My roles have included an alcoholic attorney, and many “twisted” individuals. Thanks to Shakespeare and Dennis for getting me in touch with my “feminine” side! The adventure continues...



**JAY WASHINGTON** (*Oberon*) Jay has been in previous Shakespeare shows such as *The Tempest*, *Macbeth* and now *A Midsummer's Night Dream* as King Oberon. His other show with ACT Studio was *12 Angry Men* as Juror 5. He would like to thank Dennis for this opportunity along with his trainer Alex for helping him get prepared for this role physically. Of course Jay thanks his family and friends for their support.

**CHELSEA WENGER** (*Helena*) I have been doing theater for 18 years all around the treasure coast and all around . some of my favorite roles have been Becca in *Rabbit Hole*, Susan in *Veronicas Room*, Janet in *Yankee Tavern* and now Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, along with many, many others! If I am not doing a show, I am adventuring with my husband, family and friends. And cuddling with my Pomeranian!!



**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE** (*Author*) Will has written over thirty plays for A.C.T., and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is the fourth of his plays that we have staged so far. We look forward to living long enough to bring all of the Bard's works to our audiences. We hear that Will has also written a poem or two, and we plan to include some of them in future poetry events at A.C.T.

# **Please give generously to support A.C.T. in our mission:**

A.C.T. Studio Theatre's mission is to deliver sophisticated, thought-provoking plays, produced with the highest standards of quality and creativity, designed to impact and broaden our audiences' perspectives.

We pride ourselves on our adventurous and "fearless" choice of material, presenting subject matter and performance styles that often stretch the boundaries of "conventional" community theatre while teaching the arts of Acting, Directing, Stage Managing, Improvisation and the Technical aspects of stage productions.

Enjoyment will be yours at this cultural arts shining star!

*Please visit our website: [actstudiotheatre.com](http://actstudiotheatre.com)*

*Studio address: 2399 SE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996*

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Nicki van Vonno

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Welcome to A.C.T. Virtual Theatre!

A.C.T. has not been able to support our operations through ticket sales since March 2020 due to the COVID crisis.

Thanks to the generous support of our audience and local grants, we've been able to meet our rent and other financial obligations -- up until now.

*Unfortunately, funds are about to run out.*

The health experts predict that live entertainment may be safe to resume once most of the public is vaccinated, but A.C.T. cannot meet its core operating expenses until then without YOUR HELP.

Kindly donate to A.C.T. through the Donate button on our web page [actstudiotheatre.com](http://actstudiotheatre.com) and contribute any amount you can.

**OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$20,000 BY MARCH 31  
to keep our theatre space through year's end**

We remain committed to bringing you the best in thought-provoking and sophisticated entertainment, both live and virtually.

Please help us carry on with our mission.

Thank you from the many A.C.T. volunteer actors, directors & crews.



# IMPORTANT!

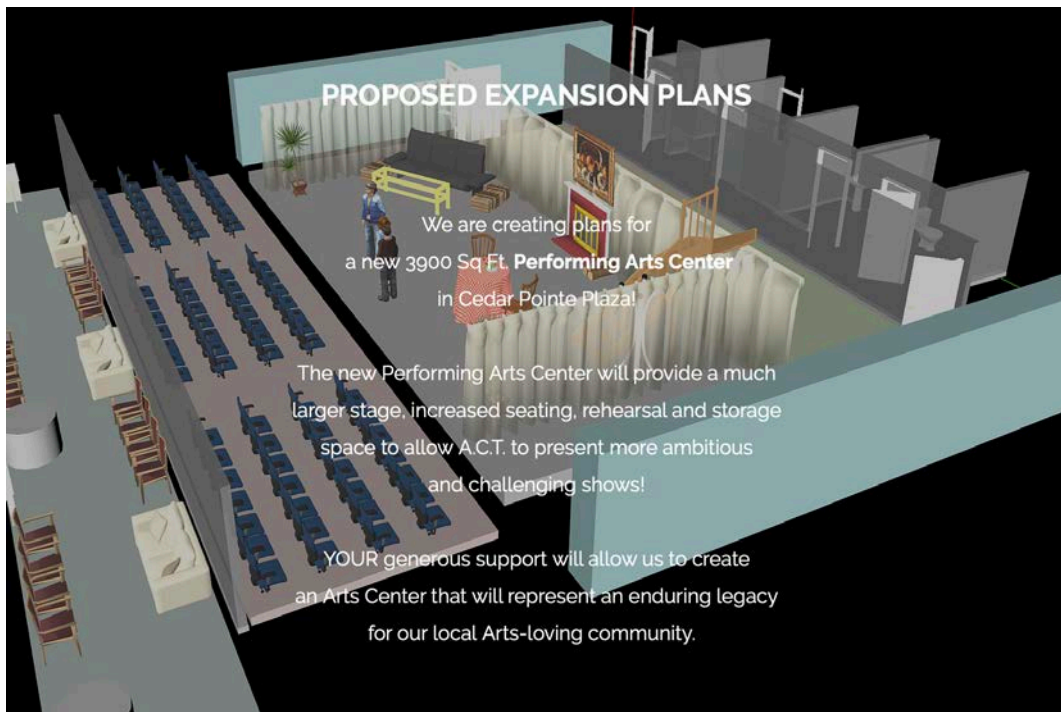
## A.C.T. EXPANSION FUNDRAISER

### A Rare Opportunity

For the last several years, A.C.T. has occupied two non-adjointing store fronts in Cedar Pointe Plaza. Several months ago the cafe located between our two spaces became vacant, and we have received approval from our Landlord to pursue a design using three adjoining stores as a single space for our Theatre!

The project is expected to cost upwards of \$150K, and we will need a minimum of \$75K to initiate the project. Not surprisingly, the COVID crisis has caused us to deplete our reserves just to keep our current spaces intact.

We therefore need to raise the funds for this project "from scratch".



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