

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

THE MUSICAL

*Adapted by Wade Bradford
With apologies to William Shakespeare*

***Music and Lyrics
by Rachel Greenlee and Wade Bradford***

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Ah, what fools these mortals be! Whimsically adapted from Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," this musical features a magical forest, spellbound lovers, and an upstart Puck who decides to liven things up by modernizing the dialogue and adding song and dance numbers. It's all fun and games until William Shakespeare, fresh from spinning in his grave, leaps onto the stage, demanding to know what on earth is going on!

Although this musical version may be a bit more madcap than what the Bard had intended, this show still captures the wonder and the romance of the original play. Audiences and cast members will love it. And directors might not have such a bad time either!

SCENE SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Prelude: The magical Athenian forest.

Scene 1: The Duke's elegant palace garden.

Scene 2: The forest.

ACT II

Scene 1: The forest.

Scene 2: Another part of the forest.

Scene 3: Titania's chambers.

Scene 4: The forest.

Scene 5: The palace.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE FAIRIE WORLD

PUCK (aka Robin Goodfellow) a mischievous fairie*
OBERON King of the Fairies
TITANIA Queen of the Fairies
ORPHAN BOY Son of a deceased mortal friend of Titania
FAIRIES/PIXIES Other assorted spirits of the mythical forest

FAB FIVE FAIRIES (*Titania's Fairies*)

PEASEBLOSSOM
COBWEB
MOTH
MUSTARDSEED
TINK

THE REAL WORLD

HERMIA Egeus's daughter, in love with Lysander
HELENA In love with Demetrius
DEMETRIUS In love with Hermia
LYSANDER In love with Hermia
THESEUS Duke of Athens
HIPPOLYTA Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus
PHILOSTRATE Master of the revels for Theseus
EGEUS A disgruntled old man, Hermia's father
EXTRAS As townspeople and servants

THE MECHANICALS (*Athenian workmen rehearsing their act*)

QUINCE Manager of the Mechanicals
BOTTOM Transformed into a donkey
SNOUT The tough one
SNUG The vain one
FLUTE The sensitive one
STARVELING The quiet one (*This character is optional.*)

SIR WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: A special guest ... as himself!

STAGE MANAGER: Optional part, one line.

EXTRAS: As forest elves and fairies, townspeople, and servants.

*(*The role of Puck is ideally played by a witty, tomboyish female.)*

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SONG SYNOPSIS

- #1: "MOONBEAM" (*Titania and Ensemble*)
- #2 : "REVELS" (*Fab Five and Ensemble*)
- #2A: "REVELS" PLAYOFF
- #3: "RUNAWAY" (*Lysander and Hermia*)
- #3A: ENTRANCE TO THE FOREST
- #3B: TITANIA'S ROYAL ENTRANCE
- #4: "STORM" (*Titania and Oberon*)
- #5: "TOO CUTE" (*Mechanicals excluding Quince*)
- #6: "STAY AWAY" (*Lysander, Hermia, Helena, Demetrius*)
- #7: "WHY DO THEY HAVE TO SING IT?"
(*Shakespeare, Fab Five, Puck, Helena, the Mechanicals*)
- #7A: ENTRE' ACT
- #8: "LULLABY" (*Fab Five, Fairies, Titania*)
- #9: "BOTTOM OF MY HEART" (*Titania, Bottom, Puck, Fab Five*)
- #9A: SCENE CHANGE
- #9B: "BOTTOM'S WALTZ"
- #9C: SCENE CHANGE
- #10: "NIGHTMARE" (*Fab Five and Puck*)
- #11: "MORNING" (*Demetrius, Helena, Lysander, Hermia,
Oberon, Bottom, Titania*)
- #12: "DANCE WITH ME" (*Mechanicals, Hippolyta*)
- #13 "SHADOWS" (*Ensemble*)

*(A rehearsal/performance CD is available for this musical.
Please call Eldridge Publishing at 1-800-HI-STAGE to order.)*

See back of script for additional notes on props and costumes.

ACT I

SONG #1: "Moonbeam"

(AT RISE: The stage is dark. One simple chord plays and then "Oohs" and "Ahhs" are sung by CAST members from offstage. As the lights slowly rise, we see a woman standing stage center, turned upstage. She is the beautiful, powerful, mysterious Fairie Queen, TITANIA. A small ORPHAN BOY enters. He is lost in these woods, yet remains calm. TWO FAIRIES emerge from behind Titania. They dance. Titania turns toward the audience, then walks DS to comfort the orphan boy. She sings to him.)

TITANIA: THE MOON IS ASLEEP NOW,
BUT WHEN SHE AWAKES
ALL THE WORLD WILL REST AND DREAM.
THE STARS ARE STILL WAITING,
WAITING FOR THE NIGHT
WHEN THEIR LIGHT CAN GLOW AND GLEAM.
THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENS,
DAYLIGHT FADES TO DREAMS
AND THE NIGHT IS MORE THAN IT MAY SEEM.
SO COME GO WITH ME,
FOR LOVE FLOWS ON LIKE A STREAM,
LIKE A BREEZE,
LIKE A MESSAGE IN A MOONBEAM.
HEAR HER VOICE IN THE WIND,
HEAR HER HEARTFELT WHISPERING,
ONCE UPON A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

(With a wave of her cape, SHE, the CHILD, and the FAIRIES exit the stage. As the next song begins, the rest of the CAST, with the exception of OBERON, TITANIA, and the CHILD, take turns coming out to sing.)

SONG #2: "Revels"

FAB FIVE:

OH ... OH...OH...LET THE REVELS BEGIN NOW

OH ...OH... OH...LET THE REVELS BEGIN...

PEASEBLOSSOM:

AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST,
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE EMPIRE,

MOTH:

THERE'S A PLACE OF ENCHANTMENT,
OF MYSTERY AND DESIRE.

MUSTARDSEED:

PERHAPS YOU DON'T BELIEVE
PERHAPS IT'S SOMETHING YOU JUST CAN'T SEE.

COBWEB/TINK:

PERHAPS YOU CAN'T CONCEIVE
BEYOND THE BORDERS OF REALITY.

CAST:

OH... OH...OH...LET THE REVELS BEGIN NOW

OH...OH... OH... LET THE REVELS BEGIN...

PUCK: (*Speaking while MUSIC continues in background.*)

Welcome to the woods near the city of Athens. You're just in time to witness foolish mortals running amok, intermingled with powers they can't possibly understand. I am Puck, and you are in luck. Consider me your tour guide through Fairy Land. But I'm afraid we must first make a momentary stop in man-made civilization. Why, you ask? Think of it as a case study in the perils of ...

FAB 5/ OTHER FEMALE CAST MEMBERS:

LOVE ... WHAT IS LOVE

IS IT SOMETHING YOU CAN FIND?

MECHANICALS/OTHER MALE CAST MEMBERS:

WHAT IS LOVE

OH, OH LOVE ... IS IT ONLY IN YOUR MIND?

(During this part of the song, key CAST MEMBERS appear behind picture frames held by FAIRIES and ELVES.)

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FAB FIVE/PUCK:

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE LOVERS,
THEIR HAPPINESS WAS PLAIN.
TAKE A LOOK AT HER FATHER,
HE'S ABOUT TO POP A VEIN.
CHECK OUT HER FATHER'S RAGE.
HIS DARLING DAUGHTER HAS DISOBEYED
AT AN EARLY AGE
TO ANOTHER MAN A MATCH WAS MADE.
AND THIS YOUNG MAN WON'T UNDERSTAND,
HE DOESN'T CARE HOW SHE FEELS,
DOESN'T KNOW, RIGHT BELOW
SOMEONE'S GROVELING AT HIS HEELS.

PEASEBLOSSOM/TINK:

IN LOVE, SHE'S IN LOVE ...

MUSTARD/MOTH:

BUT TO HIM IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

COBWEB:

THE WORLD OF LOVE CAN MAKE A LONELY LIFE.

PEASE:

MUCH LIKE THESE STRANGERS,
SOON TO BECOME MAN AND WIFE.

FAB FIVE/PUCK:

MUCH LIKE THIS WEAVER WHO'S SINGING ALL ALONE,
WILL THEY EVER FIND A LOVE TO CALL THEIR OWN ...
WILL THEY EVER FIND A LOVE TO CALL THEIR OWN ...
OH... OH...OH...LET THE REVELS BEGIN NOW.

ENSEMBLE:

LOVE, WHAT IS LOVE? OH, LOVE,
LET THE REVELS BEGIN NOW.
LOVE, WHAT IS LOVE? OH, LOVE,
LET THE REVELS BEGIN!

(During "Revels Playoff" all of the CAST members scatter revealing an elegant palace garden in Athens.)

End of Freeview

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