

THE CURTAIN THEATRE PRESENTS

William Shakespeare's
**A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S
DREAM**

DIRECTED BY MICHELE DELATTRE

2:00 PM

OLD MILL PARK AMPHITHEATRE
MILL VALLEY



SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS,
AND LABOR DAY MONDAY
AUGUST 10TH TO SEPTEMBER 2ND

2024

CURTAINTHEATRE.ORG

PLAYERS

TITANIA, Queen of the Fairies	Heather Cherry
HELENA	Maya Dostal
DEMETRIUS	Grisha Driscoll
ROBIN STARVELING, a tailor/MUSTARDSEED	Allison Eames
FLUTE, a bellows mender/THISBE	James Frankle
BOTTOM, a weaver	Glenn Havlan
SNUG, a joiner/LION	Magdalena del Castillo
ROBIN GOODFELLOW aka PUCK	Rachel K. Kennealy
QUINCE, a carpenter	Helen Kim
SNOUT, a tinker/WALL/PEASEBLOSSOM	Ofeibia Laud-Darku
COBWEB/AMAZON	Mary Murphy
HERMIA	Cassie Nesbit
EGEUS/PHILOSTRATE	Thomas Peterson
OBERON, King of the Fairies	Tom Reilly
OATCAKE, a baker/MOTH/Fiddle Player	Gaby Schneider
HIPPOLYTA, Queen of the Amazons	Marianne Shine
LYSANDER	Thomas Hutchinson
THESEUS, Duke of Athens/Viola Player	Evan Winet

PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR	Michele Delattre
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Kim Bromley
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Doyle Ott
STAGE MANAGER	Diane Pickell-Gore
ASST STAGE MANAGER	Lisa Immel
HOUSE MANAGER	Nic Meredith
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Don Clark
CHOREOGRAPHY	Skyler McMorrow
COSTUME DESIGNER	Jody Branham
COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT	Sonya Evans
SET DESIGNER	Steve Coleman
SET CONSTRUCTION	Eugene DeChristopher
DRAMATURG	Peter Bradbury
TEXT COACH	J. J. Van Name
PUBLICITY/WEB DESIGN	Greg Wilker
PHOTOGRAPHY	Robin Jackson, Russell Johnson, Peter Bradbury
POSTER DESIGN	Mark Shephard
CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANTS	Carl Jordan, Bill Weinberg
COSTUME STITCHERS: Anne Brenneis, Elaine Christian, Beverly Rogers, Hermine Terhorst, Mary Weinberg	

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We have set our *Midsummer Night's Dream* once upon a time in Ireland . . . where visions appear of ancient Athens, a beach in India, a fairy tale forest, and a community theatre.

Shakespeare's mad dash through these landscapes is a celebration of storytelling as communal dreaming. There are serious, sometimes dark, themes at work concerning love, lust, tyranny, marriage, and transformation. But I would like to stress that in the end this play is a lot of fun. For those of you who are revisiting the *Dream*, I hope it continues to work its magic. If this is your first *Dream*, my advice is to jump down the rabbit hole and enjoy the trip with us.

❧ A DRAMATURG'S NOTE ❧

Life is a dream. Love flutters like a butterfly in the quarreling wind. Spirits emerge from the shadows, exciting or menacing. Ordinary men and women love to tell stories – the play's the thing! (wrong play, but ...) – so Pyramus and Thisbe takes to the stage, a mirror to the indolent fooling of our four privileged lovers. There's a lot of classical rumbling in this play. Ovid, Terence are all here, as characters from myth and the world of magical thinking erupt on the suburban lives of two boys and two girls. "Lovers, to bed, 'tis almost fairy time."

❧ MUSIC ❧

Original and traditional music are hallmarks of every Curtain production. We were inspired this time by the music of Ireland--particularly the jigs and reels from that country's rich dance tradition. Besides selecting several tunes from that repertoire, Don Clark composed two song melodies and Hal Hughes composed incidental music.

❧ THE BAND ❧

Don Clark (guitar/mandolin/composition);
Michele Delattre (concertina);
Hal Hughes (fiddle/percussion/composition);
Jo Lusk (flute)

❧ Our theatre is located on the ancestral land of the Coast Miwok peoples.

COMPANY

Peter Bradbury (Dramaturg/Rehearsal Photographer) writes about Shakespeare's language, helps out with Curtain Theatre productions, and brings his knowledge of literary history to the redwoods every summer. His pics appear in Facebook and Instagram.

Jody Branham (Costume Designer) is returning for her 4th year with Curtain. She has worked as a costume designer, design assistant, and seamstress for various regional, academic, and youth theaters. Jody thanks the professors at College of Marin and SFSU Drama/Theatre Departments for their dedication to teaching. And her husband Rob for his constant encouragement and support in spite of the chaos. For more see: JBranhamDesigns.com

Kim Bromley (Production Manager) is a local theater maven, Jill of many trades, Mistress of none. Kim has directed, acted, costumed, made props and otherwise attempted to be helpful for such luminous companies as Curtain, NTC, RVP, MMTC, Theatre-at-Large, Masquers, Spreckels and Custom Made to name a few. This year she has put her producing skills (from a previous life) to work and hopes it has been useful.

Heather Cherry (*Titania, Queen of the fairies*)

When on the edge of shady stage I stand * And contemplate the audience swilling wine * And hear the snorts of pugs - some missing eyes * And hear Puck call again 'git off yer hands' * 'Tis then I find I'm grateful once again * For giving up a future smoking hams, * For else I'd never throw a toad at Don, * Or share an avocado toast with Kim.

Don Clark (Music Director) has played guitar and mandolin in the Curtain band since the company's founding in 2000. He also composes tunes and songs for productions. He and spouse Michele Delattre perform with the Celtic folk band Luck Penny and the rock band Off the Record.

Steve Coleman (Set Designer) is a longtime artist in Mill Valley and award-winning set designer. He is known for his loving, often fantastical creations of everything from small models to the elegant reborn performing spaces at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre. Steve is a founding member of the Curtain.

Magdalena del Castillo (*Snug, a Joiner/Lion*) is happy to be part of Curtain's team! Her love for Shakespeare sparked in her middle school English class during a production of *Midsummer*; she played Bottom. She earned her BFA in Theatre at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Michele Delattre (Director/Band) is a founding member of the Curtain Theatre. She has performed in Shakespeare festivals across the country, but her favorite home is this magical company in Old Mill Park. Thanks to the amazing creative team on and off stage, and the community that makes it possible.

Maya Dostal (*Helena*)

In the forest embrace, 'neath redwoods grand and tall, * Amidst the stage, where dreams and musings thrall, * Helena, played with fervor and delight, * Her first steps beyond high school's guiding light. * Yearning to learn, to stage her stories bright, * She dreams of theatre, its wondrous flight. * With eagerness, auditions she'll pursue, * To theatre school, where dreams find avenue. IG: @maya.dostal

Grisha Driscoll (*Demetrius*)

The young lad Grisha stands here with this show * Between COM and Curtain funny words will flow. * A Marin boy raised but born abroad, * With Shakespeare's works he is most awed. * His heart he gives to his friends and kin, * The cherished family who took him in. * Now here as a student he works to learn, * The arts within his passionate heart burns.

Allison Eames (*Starveling a Tailor/Moonshine/Mustardseed*) is thrilled to perform with Curtain Theatre for her first show since moving to California and second time in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has delighted in the opportunity to act and direct over the past 15 years, with some of her favorite roles being Roote in "The Hothouse" and Sarah in *The Actor's Nightmare*. She hopes *this* show is more akin to a dream for the audience!

James Frankle (*Flute a Bellows Mender/Thisbe*)

'Tis not my first time on the Curtain stage * Yet consider me new, twas ten years hence * A guard, the watch, my parts were light on words * I dare to wear a dress this time not fence * My family I owe quite much to thee * Cross bridge and miles they come in eger pairs * My wife, Derek and Paul especially.

Glenn Havlan (*Nick Bottom a Weaver*) Curtain roles: Friar Laurence, *Romeo and Juliet*; Duke of Milan, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and Sir Toby Belch, *Twelfth Night*. Glen has appeared in *Shakespeare in Love* at NTC, *Much Ado About Nothing* at COM and nine shows with Marin Shakespeare. He directed *Much Ado* at Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. He founded the Free Civic Theater and the Theater of Others, staging fifty productions from 2000-2019.

Hal Hughes (*Violin*) has worked with music and theater in the Bay Area since the 1970s, with Tumbleweed, Overtone Theater, Nightletter Theater, Subterranean Shakespeare, Word for Word, Backyard Beckett, Indra's Net and many others. He's delighted that Curtain Theatre likes to use his tunes in their productions. This is his 14th Curtain production.

Thomas Hutchinson (*Lysander*)

Thomas is thrilled to be on the Curtain Stage * A wondrous journey this has been * A highlighted part of life's page * To the cast, crew, family and friends, he owes many thanks for the win!

Rachel Ka'iulani Kennealy (*Robin Goodfellow aka Puck*)

Now Rachel feels such a great stroke of luck * To join the Curtain and play one "sweet Puck" * She's been Viola now not once but twice * In *Shakespeare in Love*, also in *Twelfth Night* * Her dearest husband, she gives all her love * As she plays under redwood trees above.

Helen Kim (*Peter Quince*)

'Tis true her first appearance this may be * on stage with Theatre of Curtain here * in valley of Old Mill amongst the trees * as carpenter with fellow actors dear. * Anon you all may see her next in play * across the bay at Onstage Rep this fall. * To find out who the killer be in CLUE, to yonder Martinez - come one, come all.

Ofeibia Laud-Darku (*Snout, a Tinker/Wall/Peaseblossom*) A woman who loves the words of Shakespeare so much that most of her theater resume is Shakespearean plays such as *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and playing Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Though she has dabbled with other works like Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. This is her first show with Curtain Theatre.

Jo Lusk (Flute/Band)

Jo, formerly the costume manager for Masquers, where she costumed 40 + productions and played in the pit for nearly that many, also costumed for Curtain, including *Much Ado* and *The Tempest*. She likes making hats. Sometimes she's allowed on stage. She's extremely happy to be working again with Don, Michele, Hal and the Curtain troupe doing that music thing for which she actually trained.

Skyler McMorro (Choreographer) has been dancing since they were seven years old. They have choreographed for many shows locally, including *High School Musical*, *CATS: The Musical*, and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. This is their first time working with The Curtain Theater, and it's been a fantastic experience!

Nic Meredith (House Manager/Curtain Treasurer) is returning after a period of good behavior as Front of House Manager. Coming from England, he is a bit of a scallywag so count your change when buying snacks at the break. Nic is a member of the Curtain Board.

Mary Murphy (*Cobweb/Amazon*)

As 'tis she appears newly to the stage * 'Tis surely not her first time dealing with * A webby role of questionable love interests. * Certainly dearest hearts, she is but the honey-bag stealing warrior Fairy, Cobweb. * But be that as it may, * She readies her webs to serve her Fairy Queen Titania's wishes * And healing bloody wounds.

Cassie Nesbit (*Hermia*)

Cassie is so excited to play *Hermia* on the Curtain stage with such an amazing cast and crew! She's recently played Beatrice in the College of Marin's *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Kristine in *A Doll's House*. Cassie hopes to visit often from UC Irvine, where she'll be attending in the Fall as a Drama Major. Enjoy the show!

Doyle Ott (Assistant Director) teaches at Sonoma State and performs regularly with Medical Clown Project. He has performed and directed for circuses and theaters throughout the western US and presents circus research internationally. As Artistic Director of Children's Fairyland in Oakland, he created a professional theater program for 1-5 year olds. He is a certified Feldenkrais practitioner and wrote his doctoral dissertation on youth circus training.

Thomas Peterson (*Egeus/Philostrate*) is thrilled to join the Curtain Theatre Company. Since starting his acting career with Shakespeare in the Park, Thomas has appeared around the Bay Area and has been awarded for his performances. Most recently, Thomas worked with College of Marin on their *Much Ado about Nothing* (Don Pedro) as well as their production of *The Late Wedding* (Adama, Narrator, Patron #1).

Diane Pickell-Gore (Stage Manager) is happy to be returning for her 13th Season with the Curtain. She can be found during the week managing the office at Bread and Roses Presents, as well as “stage managing” her multi-generational and multi-species home. The fairies await... Enjoy the show!

Tom Reilly (*Oberon, King of the fairies*) is poetically challenged but nonetheless happy to be working with Curtain Theatre once again. He has previously appeared in Curtain’s productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Miser*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Henry IV, Part 1*. He is especially delighted to be playing the Fairy King; poetic justice.

Marianne Shine (*Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons*) is excited to be back with The Curtain (*Romeo and Juliet* twice & *Merry Wives of Windsor*). How fun to transform our redwoods into the magical dream world near Athens. Fairies are everywhere if you know where to look. Marianne loves improv, has a private Drama Therapy practice and facilitates travel groups for Adventure Women. Check out her website for more information. Enjoy the show!

Gaby Schneider (*Oatcake a Baker/Moth/Fiddle*)

This show is Gaby’s first at Old Mill Park, * But she has long been acting after dark, * In recent years she learned a lawyer’s trade, * And now she practices at Legal Aid, * But in between preparing for a trial, * She’ll dance, or sing, or play upon the viol. * One secret is the key to all her arts: * All barristers are thespians at heart!

J.J. Van Name (Text Coach) East Coast: Actress/Text Coach - Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, Delaware Shakespeare, Commonwealth Classics, PAC and Ritz Theatre Company. Off Broadway: Sinclaire, *Sealed for Freshness*. West Coast: Text Coach - Marin Shakespeare Company: *Midsummer Night’s Dream*; New Conservatory Theatre Center: Della, *The Cake* (BATCC Best Principal Actress nominee). Big Redwood love & gratitude for Michele Delattre and this Majikal Cast! More on text coaching: <https://jjvn71.wixsite.com/jj-van-name>

Evan Winet (*Theseus*)

Bay Area crowds have seen Monsieur Winet * In sundry roles well suited to his age. * He did a turn as father Capulet * In Curtain’s last production on this stage. * But after Theseus, he’ll Southward go * to the Los Altos Stage, and bowler don, * as Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot* *Anon, dear hearts, the shows they must go on.

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