

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by
William Shakespeare

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

a literary adaptation from the play in original language
“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare

L'autore

William Shakespeare è l'emblema del teatro occidentale e con lui la lingua inglese si rinnova come mai aveva fatto prima. Nasce a Stratford-upon-Avon nel 1564, da una famiglia appartenente all'agiata borghesia mercantile, finché il padre, facoltoso mercante, cade in rovina. A 18 anni William si sposa con Anne Hathaway, da cui nel giro di due anni ha tre figli. Seguono i cosiddetti "lost years", di cui non abbiamo notizie certe. Tra il 1588 e il 1599 si conquista grande fama di drammaturgo e partecipa alla fondazione della compagnia dei "The Lord Chamberlain's Men". Tra il 1599 e il 1608 Shakespeare entra nel periodo più maturo e complesso della sua scrittura, passando a una commedia più riflessiva e sofisticata, venata da un senso di malinconia. A questo periodo appartengono le cosiddette tragicommedie e i capolavori tragici. Nel 1603 a sancire il suo successo arriva il permesso reale per la sua compagnia di usare il nome "The King's Men". Tra il 1608 e il 1613 si colloca l'ultima fase della sua produzione: i drammi romanzeschi, che passano da un inizio tragico a un finale comico e liberatorio per narrare della reintegrazione dell'individuo nella società dopo un periodo di allontanamento e solitudine. Nel 1611, Shakespeare ormai ricco, si ritira a Stratford e 2 anni dopo cessa di scrivere. Muore nel 1616.

Le opere principali (la cronologia delle opere è tuttora oggetto di controversie)
The Taming of the Shrew (1588-92) - *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (1590-94) - *Love's Labour's Lost* (1594-97) - *Romeo and Juliet* (1594-97) - ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (1594-97) - *Richard II* (1594-95) - *The Merchant of Venice* (1596-97) - *Henry VI* (1596-97) - *Much Ado about Nothing* (1598-99) - *The Twelfth Night or What You Will* (1598-99) - *Henry V* (1599) - *As You Like It* (1599-1600) - *Julius Caesar* (1599) - *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1600-01) - *Hamlet* (1600-01) - *Othello* (1602-04) - *King Lear* (1605-06) - *Macbeth* (1606) - *Antony and Cleopatra* (1606-07) - *The Winter's Tale* (1611) - *The Tempest* (1611-12).

La trama

In un mondo fuori dal tempo, al confine tra una città mitica come Atene e un luogo tipico della fiaba, il bosco, si ambienta la vicenda del Sogno, che si apre con l'annuncio del matrimonio tra l'eroe e re Theseus e l'amazzone Hippolyta. Il tema matrimoniale si riverbera in un gioco di specchi: alla coppia reale risponde la coppia appartenente al regno delle fate, Oberon-Titania ed entrambe si confrontano con altre due coppie di innamorati, ovvero Hermia-Lysander e Demetrius-Helena. I quattro innamorati, chi in fuga, chi inseguendo, entrano nel bosco, dove cadono sotto il potere di un

mondo onirico e magico, ben rappresentato dal folletto Puck, il dispettoso "braccio armato" di Oberon. Nel bosco si aggira anche una compagnia di attori dilettanti che stanno provando la "farsa molto tragica di Piramo e Tisbe" da inscenare alle nozze reali. Anche uno di loro, Bottom, verrà coinvolto nella sarabanda di intrighi, ripicche, malintesi e abbagli che magia e amore attiveranno nel bosco nel tempo incantato di un'unica notte e che si risolveranno allo spuntar del giorno con triplici nozze.

Note di regia

Avveniristiche atmosfere ispirate al film *Avatar* echeggiano in questa nuova produzione del musical ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** diretta dal regista **Edward Johnson** (*The Wizard of Oz*, *Hamlet*, *Alice in Wonderland*). Una falce di luna quasi sospesa, che lentamente dondola e illumina la notte, è l'elemento fisso di tutta la scenografia. Il bosco è il regno delle fate, un mondo fantastico in cui la vegetazione lussureggiante acquisisce un'aura magica grazie a diffusi elementi luminosi; il mondo degli umani è rappresentato invece in modo più realistico, attraverso oggetti di uso quotidiano e raffinate decorazioni floreali che rimandano immediatamente ai festeggiamenti nuziali. Lo stile di recitazione fisico ed espressivo adottato dagli attori madrelingua, che catalizza l'attenzione del giovane pubblico, contribuisce ad evidenziare il confine tra questi due mondi. I precisi e calibrati effetti illuminotecnici concorrono a definire le ambientazioni, amplificando così la comprensione della commedia. Il tema musicale ricorrente in tutto lo spettacolo è quello degli anni Settanta, con emozionanti brani (come sempre interpretati dal vivo) tratti dal repertorio di Abba, Bee Gees, Barbara Streisand, James Brown e altri. Le coreografie, come in tutti i musical firmati **PALKETTOSTAGE**, sottolineano il significato delle scene e ribadiscono i concetti fondamentali della storia. Anche per i costumi dei personaggi umani si è scelto lo stile anni Settanta, mentre per fate e folletti si preferiscono tessuti trasparenti e leggeri, impreziositi da brillantini ed eleganti ornamenti.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

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CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

PUCK, mischievous elf
HIPPOLYTA, Theseus' wife to-be
THESEUS, Duke of Athens
DEMETRIUS, young gentleman in love with Hermia
HERMIA, young woman in love with Lysander
LYSANDER, young gentleman in love with Hermia
HELENA, young woman in love with Demetrius
QUINCE (Peter Quince), carpenter and the company's director
BOTTOM (Nick Bottom), farmer (PYRAMUS in the interlude)
FLUTE (Francis Flute), blacksmith (THISBE in the interlude)
SNOUT (Tom Snout), fisherman (WALL and MOONLIGHT in the interlude)
SNUG, tailor (LION in the interlude)
OBERON, King of the Fairies
TITANIA, Queen of the Fairies
CREATURES: Fairies, Elfs.

LOCATION

The palace of Theseus, a street in the city, a wood.

ACT I

Prelude

Puck goes onstage.

Puck. Good evening dear creatures, welcome to this enchanted place. The summer's sun will warm our hearts and the moon will lead our way in the woods and reveal us the deepest secrets. Often, in the sweet and clear summer nights, lovers wait for their love, they sigh and sometimes... they even cry... but then the dawn dissolves all the grief and all the last tears... We would like to tell you what happened during a midsummer night in a forest; it is a beautiful love story, magic, fairies... But, the dawn is about to come and it is better for me to leave now...

SCENE 1

Garden in front of the palace of Theseus.

*Theseus, Hippolyta, Demetrius, Lysander, Hermia and then Helena.
Theseus, who is looking up, sighs and walks back and forth impatiently
but thoughtful and with composure.
Hippolyta enters.*

Hippolyta (*approaching kindly*). What are you thinking about, Theseus? Do not tell me you have second thoughts about the wedding?

Theseus (*to Hippolyta*). Second thoughts? Actually, it is the opposite. The moon... do you see the moon, Hippolyta? It is not changing! Only four days are left to our wedding but the moon does not want to change its shape at all.

Hippolyta. Four days shall pass by quickly, Theseus and then the new moon will appear.

Theseus. Well, let's see... (*he tries to remember*) ...the invitations, the decorations in the church, the seats, entertainment... and you may invite some theatrical companies to entertain the guests.

Hippolyta. Magnificent! And you, my groom, shall choose one of them and if you enjoy the show... you may reward the actors!

Theseus. Everything you wish, my dear bride. It will be a special day.

Hippolyta. Joy, celebration and beauty everywhere.

They hug.

*She hears masculine and feminine voices shouting.
Demetrius enters followed by Hermia and Lysander.*

Demetrius. Sorry to disturb you, my lord, but this is a matter of life or death.

Theseus (*surprised and a little sorry for having been disturbed*). Come... come in.

Demetrius. I wish you happiness, Theseus, our illustrious Duke...

Theseus. Tell me briefly.

Demetrius. My lord, as you know I received by Egeus the approval to marry his daughter Hermia. And this man here, instead (*he points Lysander*) pursued her and stole her heart. (*To Lysander.*) You, you, Lysander, you wrote her some verses, you sang under her balcony...

Theseus (*interrupting him*). Hermia, what do you say? Demetrius is a respectable gentleman!

Hermia. So is Lysander!

Theseus. Without doubt. But Demetrius has you father's approval.

Hermia. I would like my father to look with my eyes!

Theseus. The law is clear, Hermia: if you do not accept to marry Demetrius, you will be sent away to live your life, alone in a convent. Think about your youth, your beauty... Do you really want to take that risk?

Hermia. So I shall live, so I shall die, my lord, instead of giving myself to this man.

Pointing at Demetrius.

Theseus. Very well. Take your time to think. During the next new moon, which is on the day of my wedding, you shall give me an answer: obey your father's will or enter the convent.

Hearing these words, Hippolyta leaves embittered.

Demetrius. Hermia, did you hear? There is nothing to do! Lysander, you must accept this too.

Lysander. You have her father's love, Demetrius. Give me Hermia's love and... (*provoking him*) marry him!

Demetrius assaults Lysander.

Lysander (*trying to free himself*). Lord, I have the same nobility of Demetrius... I love Hermia and what matters most is that she loves me. Why should I give up being happy? Demetrius was pursuing Helena, and he had stolen her heart; and now the poor girl is in despair and languishing for this capricious and fickle man who does not want her anymore.

Theseus. I must confess I had heard something about this. Demetrius, come with me; I have confidential instructions for you. As for you, Hermia, try to accept your father's will. Demetrius, come.

Everyone exits except Lysander and Hermia.

Lysander. You are so pale!

Hermia cries.

Lysander. Dear me, as I have read or heard in stories, true love always encounters obstacles...

Hermia. So, is the law of destiny for loyal lovers to always live in sufferance?

Lysander. Hermia listen to me: I have a widowed aunt, she lives far from this city, she is heir to a big fortune and considers me as her unique son. I could marry you at her place, since this strict law cannot reach us there. If you love me, escape tomorrow night from your father's house: I will wait for you in the woods, where I first met you.

Hermia. My lovely Lysander, do not doubt of my love, we shall meet tomorrow night at the place you indicated.

Lysander. Keep the promise my love... Listen... Helena is coming.

Helena passes looking as if she is searching for somebody.

Hermia. Beautiful Helena... Where are you going?

Helena. You call me beautiful? Do not tell me I am beautiful anymore, because I am not, considering that Demetrius loves your beauty. You know, Hermia... I would like to have your charm... Teach me, please, how to be like you, teach me the ways to win Demetrius' love.

Hermia. To tell you the truth I hardly ever look at him, and yet he keeps loving me.

Helena. Ah, if only my prayers could obtain this...

Hermia. The more I refuse him, the more he follows me...

Helena. The more I love him, the more he refuses me...

Hermia. It is not my fault, Helena! He has gone mad!

Helena. I know Hermia, it is not your fault, but your beauty is. Ah, if only I had this fault!

Hermia. Console yourself, Helena... Demetrius shall not see me again.

Lysander. Helena, we want to reveal to you our plans. We have decided to escape the city secretly tomorrow night.

Hermia. Lysander and I shall meet in the forest. Do you remember? ...where we used to play together when we were children... Goodbye, sweet playmate... I wish Demetrius to come back to you...

Lysander. Goodbye Helena. Good luck. Hermia, my love, keep the promise... see you tomorrow!

Lysander and Hermia exit.

Helena. It is incredible how some people are happier than others! And to think that everyone considers me as beautiful as her. But what use is this, if Demetrius does not think so... Wait a moment! ...What if I told Demetrius that Hermia is planning to escape with Lysander, he would follow her in the woods all along; and would feel in his debt towards me for the information given... this way, I could make him pay a very high price...! Demetrius... Demetrius... Wait, I have to speak to you!

SCENE 2

*On the edge of the forest.
Quince, Bottom, Flute, Snout, Snug.*

Quince. Are we all here?

Bottom. I am here, and ready.

Quince. We only have four days left to rehearse our show. If we are lucky to be chosen, we will act in front of the Duke and the Duchess on the night of the wedding.

Bottom. What is it about?

Quince. The title is: "A very tearful comedy about the cruel and very sad death of Pyramus and Thisbe".

Bottom. Ah, a masterpiece, very well, let us assign the roles.

Quince. Nick Bottom, the farmer.

Bottom. Here I am...

Quince. You shall play the role of Pyramus.

Bottom. And who is Pyramus? The lover? The tyrant?

Quince. The lover who bravely kills himself for love.

Bottom. Well... some tears are needed for sure... the audience will have to pay attention to the eyes, I will unleash a storm!!! (*Suddenly excited.*) Even if I can do the role of the tyrant better... Hercules for example... I would make the theatre fall... (*He acts.*) "Roaring rocks, trembling stones..."

Quince (*interrupts*). Francis Flute, the blacksmith.

Flute. Here I am.

Quince. You shall play the role of Thisbe.

Flute. Who is he? A knight-errant?

Quince. No. She is the lady who loves Pyramus.

Flute. A lady? But... I have got a beard!

Quince. It will be ok if you put on a mask and act with the highest tone of voice you can...

Bottom. I shall play the role of Thisbe, listen (*with big voice, miming Pyramus*): "Thisbe, Thisbe" (*in falsetto miming the feminine voice*) ...Oh Pyramus, dear love, I am your Thisbe...

Quince. Stop it, you shall play the role of Pyramus and Flute shall play Thisbe... Snout, the fisherman.

Snout. Here I am.

Quince. You shall play the role of the wall.

Snout. But...

Quince (*he looks at Snug who, in the meantime, has fallen asleep*). Snug? Snug?

Snug (*he wakes up as if nothing has happened*). Here.

Quince. Do not start distracting yourself... you shall have the role of the lion.

Snug. Is it written already? If so, please give me the script now, because I am slow-witted in memorising.

Quince. You can improvise it... you only have to roar.

Bottom. I want to play the role of the lion... I will roar with such power that the Duke will say: "Let him roar again".

Quince. Roaring so strongly could frighten the Duchess and then we would all be in trouble.

Bottom. I will play a very, very light lion... I will roar like a nightingale.

He does it.

Quince. I said you shall play Pyramus's role, now stop... for everyone, your roles are here... make sure you learn them by heart for tomorrow. Ah... because the city is full of curious people all around, we must meet back here again in the wood tomorrow night to rehearse... whoever does not attend is a coward.

Bottom. We shall all be there.

All. See you tomorrow.

ACT II

SCENE 1

The forest.

Puck, Oberon, Titania enter and then Helena and Demetrius.

Puck *(to the audience)*. Everything is clear so far, no? ...But... you humans are so boring... Hermia loves Lysander and Lysander loves Hermia... ok so far so good... but Hermia is also loved by Demetrius, who swore love to Helena first, and so Helena continues to love Demetrius, who does not want to know anything about Helena any more... for the time being... and now she is ready to reveal to him the escape plan Hermia is organising... but right now let us move to the kingdom of the fairies, where soon a storm will begin. My King, the powerful Oberon, bursts with anger because Titania has been seen in the company of a handsome man, and Titania in turn has seen Oberon observing a beautiful woman... I shall rush to him now... and enjoy the rest.

*Oberon, the King of the Fairies and Titania appear.
Thunder and lightning.*

Oberon. It is sad meeting in the moonlight, beautiful Titania.

Titania. Oh, jealous Oberon!

Oberon. Stop! Am I not your king?

Titania. And should I be your queen? I know that you are here only because your beloved human, Hippolyta, has to marry the Duke Theseus.

Oberon. You should be ashamed to criticise my friendship with Hippolyta this way. Just so you know, I am also aware about your passion for the Duke!

(to be defined) Titania and Oberon sing: "Watch out".

Oberon.
YOU ACT LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE
YOUR EYES LIKE A FLASH OF LIGHTNING
THE ANSWER TO ALL DESIRE
AND I'M GONNA TAME YOU WILD THING
YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
I SAID YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT WATCH OUT
ANYWHERE YOU GO I'LL FIND YOU WATCH OUT
I'LL BE STAYING CLOSE BEHIND YOU

Titania. WELL AND I'M TIRED OF WAITING
YES IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY
AND MY PATIENCE IS FADING

Both. OH YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
I SAID YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT

Oberon. IT'S BEEN KIND OF CRAZY LATELY
YOU ACT LIKE I AM A STRANGER
I THINK YOU'RE BEGINNING TO HATE ME
WHICH MAKES YOU A GIRL OF DANGER

Both. YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
OOH, I SAID YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT WATCH OUT
ANYWHERE YOU GO I'LL FIND YOU WATCH OUT
I'LL BE STAYING CLOSE BEHIND YOU

Titania. AND I'M TIRED OF WAITING
YES IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY
AND MY PATIENCE IS FADING

Both. SO YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
YES I SAID YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
WATCH OUT WATCH OUT
I'M TIRED OF WAITING
YES, IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY

Titania. YES IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY

Both. AND MY PATIENCE IS FADING
I SAID YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
OH GIRL YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
AH YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT
OOH AH YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT.

Titania. These are fantasies of a jealous mind. Look around! After our fights even the seasons do not know what to do anymore. My fairies cannot take it anymore, they work all day long to make up for your tantrums!

Oberon. It is up to you, Titania, admit your faults. And do not oppose your king! What am I asking you? Simply to be loyal to me.

Titania. And I demand the same thing from you.

Oberon. How much time are you going to stay in this forest?

Titania. Until after Theseus' wedding.

Oberon. Me too.

Titania. So let us try not to meet.

Titania disappears.

Oberon. Go, go... run to your fairies! You are not leaving this forest without me punishing you for your rudeness. My dear Puck, come here!

Puck. Here I am, my lord!

Oberon. I have a very important task to give you!

Puck. I am ready, I will be faster than the wind!

Oberon. A little while ago, on a day where the sun was shining, I saw Cupid making a mistake shooting an arrow. In fact, the arrow hit by mistake a small white flower that became red for the Love wound. Go... search that flower for me: its core if poured on the eyes of a sleeping creature, makes them ache for the first living creature they see when they awake. I shall be waiting here for you to return with that flower, let us meet again in one hour exactly.

Puck. I shall be here!

Puck exits.

Oberon. I shall wet the eyes of Titania with the juice of that flower while she is sleeping, so, when she awakes, she will fall in love with the first creature she will see... and I will make sure that it is the most disgusting creature of the entire forest! Oh, but who is arriving? I shall turn myself invisible and stand nearby to watch.

Demetrius enters followed by Helena.

Demetrius. No, no, no: I do not love you, so do not follow me. Where is Lysander? Where is the beautiful Hermia? Did not you say that they escaped into this forest? Where are they? Stop following me! Please!

Helena. You attract me: stop attracting me and I shall stop following you.

Demetrius. Do not you understand that I do not love you and I shall never do!

Helena. It is for this reason that I love you more! I am like your little dog. The more you beat me, the more I am loyal to you.

Demetrius. Helena, do not make things harder, because I feel bad only seeing you!

Helena. Instead, if I do not see you I feel like I am dying.

Demetrius. Helena, it is inappropriate for a young woman like you to be in a forest at night.

Helena. Ah, Demetrius, it is not night when I admire your face!

Helena sings: "Don't leave me this way".

DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY
I CAN'T SURVIVE I CAN'T STAY ALIVE WITHOUT YOUR LOVE
OH BABY DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY NO
I CAN'T EXIST I'LL SURELY MISS YOUR TENDER KISS
DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY

AHH BABY! MY HEART IS FULL OF LOVE AND DESIRE FOR YOU
NOW COM'ON DOWN AND DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO
YOU STARTED THIS FIRE DOWN IN MY SOUL
NOW CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S BURNING OUT OF CONTROL
COM'ON SATISFY THE NEED IN ME
'CAUSE ONLY YOUR GOOD LOVIN' CAN SET ME FREE

DON'T DON'T YOU LEAVE ME THIS WAY NO
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND I'M AT YOUR COMMAND
OH BABY PLEASE PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY

AHH BABY! MY HEART IS FULL OF LOVE AND DESIRE FOR YOU
SO COM'ON DOWN AND DO WHAT YOU GOT TO DO
YOU STARTED THIS FIRE DOWN IN MY SOUL
NOW CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S BURNING OUT OF CONTROL
SO COM'ON SATISFY THE NEED IN ME
'CAUSE ONLY YOUR GOOD LOVIN' CAN SET ME FREE

NEED YOU LOVIN' BABY
NEED IT NEED IT
SATISFY THE NEED IN ME
SATISFY THE NEED IN ME

OH BABY SATISFY THE NEED IN ME
OH BABY SATISFY THE NEED IN ME

OH BABY DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY
DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY
NO DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY
NO DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY BABY
DON'T BABY
DON'T LEAVE ME THIS WAY BABE
OH BABY.

Demetrius. Then I shall run deep into the forest and leave you at the mercy of the ferocious animals!

Helena. No animal has got a heart more ferocious than yours.

Demetrius. Let me go, I am telling you. I do not want to hear any more from you!

Demetrius exits.

Helena. Shame on you, shame on you Demetrius. Us, women, we were born to be pursued, and you men, you were born to pursue. I shall follow you, even if I may die by your hand Demetrius, my love.

Helena exits.

Oberon. Go, gentle creature: before leaving the forest he shall follow you, and you shall run away!

Puck enters.

Oberon. Have you found the flower? (*Puck shows a red flower.*) Good! Do you hear the music? (*Soft music can be heard in the distance.*) I recognise it very well! It is the song that Titania loves listening to before she falls asleep. This is the time to act. I shall wait for her to fall asleep and then I shall wet her eyes with the juice of this flower. (*He gives him a part of the flower.*) In the meantime, you take some too; go around the forest, you will find a young lady in love and a young man with a funny hat who does not want to know her... Wet the eyelashes of that presumptuous man, but... be careful... make sure that the first thing he sees when he awakes is the same young lady. Go.

Puck. My lord, do not be afraid, I shall do what you wish!

Oberon and Puck exit.

SCENE 2

Another part of the forest.

Titania, two creatures, Oberon, then Lysander and Hermia, Puck, then Demetrius, Helena.

Titania and the two creatures enter.

The creatures go around Titania's bed and they cover her with a blanket.

Soft music, the creatures dance and sing until Titania falls asleep.

The Fairies sing: "The summer knows".

THE SUMMER SMILES THE SUMMER KNOWS
AND UNASHAMED SHE SHEDS HER CLOTHES
THE SUMMER SMOOTHS THE RESTLESS SKY
AND LOVINGLY SHE WARMS THE GROUND ON WHICH YOU LIE

THE SUMMER KNOWS THE SUMMER'S WISE
SHE SEES THE DOUBTS WITHIN YOUR EYES
AND SO SHE TAKES HER SUMMER TIME
TELLS THE SUN TO WAIT AND THE MOON TO LINGER
TWISTS THE WORLD 'ROUND HER SUMMER FINGER
LETS YOU SEE THE WONDER OF IT ALL.

The creatures exit and Oberon enters.

Oberon (*pours juice from the flower on her eyelids*). "The first creature you see when you awake... bear or leopard, monkey or snake... shall look so handsome and good to you... that your heart will go crazy, and the love will be true."

He disappears.

Lysander and Hermia enter.

Lysander. My love, wandering so much time in the wood has made you feel tired and, to tell you the truth, I believe I have lost the way in this darkness. Let us stop here, we may rest a little and wait for the dawn.

They kiss.

Hermia. Ok, Lysander... I shall lay down here... find a place for yourself also. (*Lysander after thinking for a moment and taking a look around, lays down next to her.*) Oh no! Please, not so close!

Lysander. Why?

Hermia. Because your love is so strong that it could start a fire...

They sing: "Glory of love".

Lysander. TONIGHT IT'S VERY CLEAR AS WE'RE BOTH LYING HERE
THERE'S SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO SAY
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU I WOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE
SOMETIMES I JUST FORGET SAY THINGS I MIGHT REGRET
IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE YOU CRYING
I DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU I COULD NEVER MAKE IT ALONE

I AM A MAN WHO WILL FIGHT FOR YOUR HONOR
I'LL BE THE HERO YOU'RE DREAMING OF
WE'LL LIVE FOREVER KNOWING TOGETHER THAT WE
DID IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF LOVE

Hermia. YOU KEEP ME STANDING TALL YOU HELP ME THROUGH IT ALL
I'M ALWAYS STRONG WHEN YOU'RE BESIDE ME
I HAVE ALWAYS NEEDED YOU I COULD NEVER MAKE IT ALONE

I AM A GIRL WHO WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER
I'LL BE THE WOMAN YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING OF
WE'LL LIVE FOREVER KNOWING TOGETHER THAT WE
DID IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF LOVE

Lysander. JUST LIKE A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR FROM A LONG TIME AGO

Hermia. JUST IN TIME I WILL SAVE THE DAY TAKE YOU TO MY CASTLE FAR AWAY

Lysander. I AM A MAN WHO WILL FIGHT FOR YOUR HONOR
I'LL BE THE HERO THAT YOU'RE DREAMING OF

Both. WE'RE GONNA LIVE FOREVER KNOWING TOGETHER THAT WE
DID IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF LOVE
WE'LL LIVE FOREVER KNOWING TOGETHER THAT WE
DID IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF LOVE
WE DID IT ALL FOR LOVE WE DID IT ALL FOR LOVE
WE DID IT ALL FOR LOVE WE DID IT ALL FOR LOVE.

They kiss.

Hermia. You sing beautifully with words! But Lysander, please, stay away from me. I know how deep your love is and you being so close would prevent us from sleeping. Goodnight, sweet friend.

Lysander (*moves away from Hermia*). Ok, I shall sleep here. Goodnight...

Puck enters.

Puck. I have been wondering in this forest for hours. (*He sees Lysander.*) Ah, here he is... this must be him... the presumptuous young man the Lord was talking about! (*He sees Hermia.*) And here is the sweet sleeping creature! She did not dare lay down next to him! (*Puck squeezes the juice of the flower on Lysander's eyes.*) Miserable man, how cannot you love this wonderful young lady... now, I pour on you the spell of this flower. When you awake you will love her so much that you will lose sleep and peace of mind for her love!

Puck exits. Demetrius and Helena enter running.

Helena. Stop my dear Demetrius, kill me if you want, but stop!

Demetrius. You are a shadow, a nightmare, stay away from me, away!

Demetrius exits.

Helena. What a tiring run! ...I have lost my breath! ...I am exhausted! I cannot compete with Hermia's eyes that are like the stars! But who is here? (*Stumbling upon Lysander's body.*) Lysander. (*She tries to wake him up.*) Lysander my friend, if you are alive wake up!

Lysander (*he wakes up*). Helena? Helena! My love! Helena, my jewel, I can read what is in your heart through your eyes. For your love I would go through fire... Where is Demetrius, the mean, ungrateful Demetrius?

Helena. Do not speak like this, Lysander! It is true, Demetrius loves Hermia, but uselessly, because Hermia loves you! Is this not enough for you to be happy?

Lysander. Happy? Me happy? Me happy with Hermia? But I regret every single moment spent with her: no, I do not love Hermia, I love you, sweet Helena!

Helena. How dare you mock me in such a cruel manner? Oh, coming into this world to suffer such cruel jokes... Goodbye: to tell you the truth I expected more kindness from you.

Helena exits.

Lysander. Ah, beautiful Helena, wait for me, I will be your knight!

Lysander follows her.

Hermia (*wakes up*). Help, my Lysander! A snake! Take it away from my chest! Help! Oh, such a horrible dream... I am still shaking. (*She looks around.*) Lysander...Lysander! Where are you? He is gone... Lysander! Where are you? Please, speak... I must find him immediately... or I feel I could die!

ACT III

SCENE 1

Same place.

Titania still sleeping; Quince, Bottom, Snug, Flute and Snout enter.

Bottom. Are we all here?

Quince. Precisely... precisely! And here it is a place as if God himself chose it for our rehearsals. We shall act as if we were already in front of the Duke.

Bottom *(with a wise demeanour)*. I should make a point right away! In this comedy there are at least two things that I am never going to like: the fact that Pyramus has to pull out a sword to kill himself...

Snug. It is true, ladies cannot bear such a scene...

Quince. Oh well! We shall take the risk.

Flute. I would like to say that I also think that we should give up the idea of the killing.

Bottom *(continues with a wise demeanour)*. But if we write a prologue that explains the swords are fake... all the fear will go away.

Quince. Ok, we shall do a prologue.

Snug. And then the lion... a lion where there are ladies is a dreadful thing!

Snout. Then another prologue shall explain that it is not a real lion.

Bottom. No, it is better a speaking lion who says: "Ladies", rather "Beautiful ladies, I beg you", or "I ask you", or "I would like to implore you not to be scared, not to shake. For actually, I am not a real lion but a man like you".

Quince. Quite right... we shall do it like that. We shall still have to figure out how to do the Moonlight.

Bottom *(with fake bashfulness)*. I can do the moon!

Quince *(taking a breath)*. No, we can open the window and everyone will see the real moon.

Bottom sits.

Snout. And I, how can I be a wall?

Bottom *(standing up)*. Simple, a bit of lime, clay... *(Proud of himself)*. Oh, what an idea! ... You keep your fingers opened in this way *(he forms a circle with fingers, as if to say "OK")* ... and through this crack in the wall Pyramus and Thisbe can whisper their words of love.

Quince. Right then, we are all set. Now can we start? Pyramus, you begin!

Bottom *(striking a pose)*. "Thisbe Tisby, oh what a smell from the flowers..."

Quince *(reminding)*. No, not "a smell" but "perfume".

Bottom. "...scented flowers, as your breath, dear Tisby. But what am I hearing? A voice... Wait for me here, I shall come to you in a minute."

*He exits.
A long silence.*

Flute. My turn?

Quince. Yes, your turn... Pyramus left because he heard a noise...

Flute. "Oh Pyramus, whiter than a white lily, shining like a rose... a rose, a loyal friend like a never-tired horse; oh Pyramus, we shall meet tomorrow... at my grandfather's grave."

Quince. No, Flute, "at Nino's grave". And, you do not have to say this yet. You do not have to act your entire role in one breath!!! Pyramus it is your turn!!!

Flute. ... "loyal friend like a never-tired horse"...

Bottom enters with the head of a donkey on his neck, followed by Puck.

Bottom. “If I were like this, I would be yours, beautiful Tisby.”

Quince. Ah, such a monster! How horrible! Friends, please, escape, some curse has afflicted us! Run, run, help!

Quince, Flute, Snug and Snout hide behind the trees.

Bottom. Why are you running? Such a foolish joke.

Snout (*appearing from behind the tree*). Ah, Bottom, I do not recognise you anymore! You have the head of a donkey!!!

He runs away.

Bottom (*getting angry*). The same head you have!

Quince (*appearing from behind the tree*). Bottom... you have turned.

He runs away.

Bottom. Ah, I understand now, they want me to be a donkey: but I am not moving from here. Actually, you know what I say? I shall sing, so they will understand that Bottom is not afraid.

Bottom sings: “I feel good” and brays sometimes.

WHOA-OA-OA! I FEEL GOOD I KNEW THAT I WOULD NOW
I FEEL GOOD I KNEW THAT I WOULD NOW
SO GOOD SO GOOD I GOTTA MOVE

WHOA! I FEEL NICE LIKE SUGAR AND SPICE
I FEEL NICE LIKE SUGAR AND SPICE
SO NICE SO NICE I GOTTA MOVE.

The song awakes Titania.

Titania (*to herself*). Which angel is waking me up from my bed of roses?

WHEN I SEE YOU WITH MY EYES
I KNOW THAT I CAN’T DO NO WRONG
AND WHEN I SEE YOU SO CLOSE
MY LOOK WON’T DO YOU NO HARM

AND I FEEL NICE LIKE SUGAR AND SPICE
I FEEL NICE LIKE SUGAR AND SPICE
SO NICE SO NICE I GOTTA MOVE.

Titania. Please, kind mortal, keep singing!

WHEN I HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS
I KNOW THAT I CAN’T DO NO WRONG
AND WHEN I HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS
MY LOVE CAN’T DO ME NO HARM

AND I FEEL NICE LIKE SUGAR AND SPICE
I FEEL NICE LIKE SUGAR AND SPICE
SO NICE SO NICE WELL I GOT YOU

WHOA! I FEEL GOOD I KNEW THAT I WOULD NOW
I FEEL GOOD I KNEW THAT I WOULD
SO GOOD SO GOOD ’CAUSE I GOT YOU
SO GOOD SO GOOD ’CAUSE I GOT YOU
SO GOOD SO GOOD ’CAUSE I GOT YOU.

Bottom stops and looks around.

Titania. ...My ear fell in love with your voice, like my eye remains bewitched by your appearance.

Bottom. Kind lady, I do not think you are right for falling in love with me. These days, head and heart do not get along, indeed... but I suggest you to look at me well.

Titania. You are wise as much as you are handsome!

Bottom. You are too nice, madam. (*Stepping backwards.*) I would like to be wise enough to leave this forest.

Titania (*commanding*). You shall never leave this forest. You have to stay here, whether you like it or not! I am a powerful spirit, and summer makes my power stronger. (*She changes tone.*) I love you. Stay with me. Come, fairies, where are you, dance for him.

Two fairies enter.

Fairy 1. Here I am!

Fairy 2. So am I.

All. Where are we going?

Titania. Hurry, serve my love. Be kind with this gentleman. Feed him, bow down to him, fairies, and pay tribute to him!

Fairy 1. Hello, human!

Fairy 2. Hello!

Bottom (*astonished and frightened*). Hello...

Titania. So, fairies, take him to my room.

Bottom (*stepping backwards*). Where? I... I... honestly... I would like...

Titania (*commanding*). Silence his tongue and take him quietly.

The fairies exit, dragging Bottom.

SCENE 2

Same place.

Oberon, Puck, Demetrius, Helena, Lysander, Hermia.

Oberon enters.

Oberon. Everything proceeds according to plan. Titania has fallen in love with a donkey. (*He laughs.*) Hilarious! Puck found a very good candidate and I shall ask him for more details when he comes.

Puck enters.

Oberon. Ah, here he comes. Tell me everything Puck, where did you find that poor creature with the donkey's head?

Puck. A company of actors was rehearsing nearby. When the most foolish of them walked away I put a donkey's head on his.

Oberon. It worked out better than I thought! And have you cursed the eyelids of the presumptuous young man with the love filter, as I commanded you to?

Puck. Yes! I did it to him in his sleep, the poor young creature was sleeping close to him... And so he had to have seen her when he woke up.

Demetrius and Hermia enter.

Oberon. Hide! They are coming.

Puck. She is the young woman, but he is not the young man!

Oberon and Puck hide.

Demetrius. But why do you refuse who loves you?

Hermia. Tell me, did you kill Lysander while he was sleeping? If it is so... then kill me too! Confess!

Demetrius. You are wasting your breath for a misunderstanding! I am not stained with Lysander's blood. And, as far as I know, Lysander is alive.

Hermia. So, please, tell me he is fine.

Demetrius. What would you give me in exchange if I told you?

Hermia. The favour to not see me anymore. Whether Lysander is dead or not, stay away from me!

Hermia exits.

Demetrius. What is the point of following her while she is out of her mind? It is better to stop here and contemplate.

Hermia sings: "Woman in love".

LIFE IS A CONFUSING CHASE
WHEN YOUR LOVER IS GONE
IT'S A LONELIER PLACE
I KISS THE MORNING GOODBYE
BUT DOWN INSIDE YOU KNOW WE NEVER KNOW WHY
THE ROAD IS NARROW AND LONG
WHEN EYES MEET EYES
AND THE FEELING IS STRONG
I TURN AWAY FROM THE WALL
I STUMBLE AND FALL
BUT I GIVE YOU IT ALL

I AM A WOMAN IN LOVE
AND I'D DO ANYTHING
TO GET YOU BACK TO MY WORLD
AND HOLD YOU WITHIN
IT'S A RIGHT I DEFEND
OVER AND OVER AGAIN
WHAT DO I DO

WITH YOU ETERNALLY MINE
IN LOVE THERE IS NO MEASURE OF TIME
WE PLANNED IT ALL AT THE START
BUT YOU AND I LIVE IN EACH OTHER'S HEART
WE MAY BE FORESTS AWAY
YOU'LL FEEL MY LOVE
I HEAR WHAT YOU SAY
NO TRUTH IS EVER A LIE
I STUMBLE AND FALL
BUT I GIVE YOU IT ALL

I AM A WOMAN IN LOVE
AND I'M TALKING TO YOU
YOU KNOW I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL
WHAT A WOMAN CAN DO
IT'S A RIGHT I DEFEND OVER AND OVER AGAIN

Demetrius lays down and falls asleep; Oberon and Puck come forward.

Oberon. What did you do? You have made a big mistake. With this mistake a real love has turned into a fake one.

Puck. As destiny wants.

Oberon. Go, run through the forest, faster than the wind, and find Helena. Try and bring her here with some spell. I shall take care of cursing his eyes from the moment he sees her.

Puck. I am going, I am going, look, I am going!

He exits.

Oberon squeezes the juice on Demetrius' eyelids; Puck returns.

Puck. My lord, what do we do now? Helena and Lysander are coming.

Helena's and Lysander's voices can be heard.

Oberon. They are yelling so much that they will end up waking him up!

Puck. So, there will be two who are in love with the same person. It will be fun watching this scene.

Lysander and Helena enter.

Lysander. But why are you persisting on thinking that I am pursuing you for a joke! (*He cries in floods.*) See how I am crying while I swear my love to you!

Helena. These tears are for Hermia. Do you want, maybe, to deny the faith you swore to her? Now your promises do not mean anything.

Lysander. I did not have judgement while I was swearing my love to her.

Helena. Neither do you have now, denying it.

Lysander. Demetrius does not love you anymore.

Demetrius (waking up). Oh Helena, my goddess, my nymph, perfect, divine! With what could I compare your eyes? Crystal is mud in comparison. And your lips, cherries to kiss...

He kisses Helena.

Lysander distracts him from Helena.

Helena. What! You made a promise to make fun of me! You two used to be rivals for your love for Hermia, and now you are partners in crime mocking me.

Lysander. Demetrius, you loved Hermia. Here, I give her to you. And you, give me the love of Helena.

Demetrius. Oh, Lysander, take your Hermia! There was a time I loved her, but now I do not anymore.

Lysander. Helena, listen. It is not like that!

Demetrius (*sees Hermia*). But, look, here she is, your love.

Hermia enters.

Hermia. My Lysander, here you are finally... The sound of your voice led me to you. How could you leave me alone?

Lysander. It was love that made me do it.

Hermia. And what kind of love could have led Lysander away from me?

Lysander. The love for the beautiful Helena. But why do you keep searching for me? Did not you understand that I abandoned you because I do not want you?

Hermia. Ah, you do not say what you think. No, it cannot be true!

Helena. Have the three of you made a deal to mock me? Hermia, how could you do that? We grew up side by side like two sisters and now you are destroying our friendship!

Hermia. I do not understand, it is you who you are mocking me!

Helena. I have always been unhappy, because I am the one who has never received love. You should have had empathy for me, not disdain.

Hermia. What are you saying? I do not understand.

Helena. Stop pretending to be sorry, and then make fun of me as soon as I turn my back... But, after all... it is also my fault!

Helena is about to leave.

Lysander. Helena, I love you. I swear it on my life.

Demetrius. And I say to you that I love you more than he could ever do.

Lysander (*to Demetrius*). If this is what you claim, come with me and prove it.

Demetrius. Come on then!

Helena. Magnificent!

Hermia. Lysander, what is this story?

Hermia tries to take his hand.

Lysander. Let me go!

Demetrius. Look at how he pretends to follow me! Coward!

Hermia tries again to stop him.

Lysander (*sharply*). I said, let me go!

Helena. What tomfoolery!

Lysander. I shall keep my word, Demetrius!

Demetrius. Write it down on paper, I do not trust you!

Hermia. Last night you said you loved me!

Lysander. The only thing I am sure of now is that I love Helena!

Hermia (*suddenly she turns to Helena*). It is you! You came to steal my love!

Helena. I am kind, but do you want me to insult you? Dwarf!

Hermia. Tell me, do you believe I am so short that I cannot stick my nails in your eyes?

Helena. Gentlemen, please, do not leave me alone... When she is angry she can be a real pest, even though she is not very tall, she is very cruel!

Hermia. Short, again? Why do you let her insult me this way? Let me at her!

Lysander. Do not worry Helena... she will not hurt you.

Demetrius. Do not worry about Helena. Look, if it should come to your mind to show Helena only an ounce of love, you will pay dearly for it!

Lysander. Now, follow me, if you have the courage, and test which one of us deserves Helena!

Demetrius. Let us go!

The gentlemen exit.

Hermia (to *Helena*). Look what you have done! I do not trust you anymore!

Helena. It is I who no longer trusts you.

Helena. I shall not stay here any longer with someone like you. You may have a strong hand with which to hit me, but I have longer legs to run!

Helena exits.

Hermia. I do not know what to think anymore!

Hermia exits.

Oberon. You have created a disaster, Puck! You always make mistakes... Or maybe, you always do it on purpose!

Puck. Believe me, King of the shadows, it was a mistake.

Oberon. Puck! Fix everything immediately. Confuse them of their ideas, make them not hurt each other and, in the meanwhile, I shall let the magic mist fall so they will fall asleep. Keep this juice: it has the power to break the previous spell. Pour it onto Lysander's eyes, and make sure you do not make a mistake this time. We shall think about the young women later. I shall do the same with my sweet Titania and she will be free from the spell. She will have learnt her lesson!

Puck. Yes, Lord of the darkness, before the sun rises everything shall happen according to your will.

The mist comes down. The four lovers cannot see anything.

Lysander. Demetrius where are you, you coward?

Hermia. Lysander?

Demetrius. Lysander, where are you hiding?

Helena. I shall go far from everyone!

Puck and all the lovers sing: "Love is in the air".

Puck.
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
EVERYWHERE I LOOK AROUND
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
EVERY SIGHT AND EVERY SOUND

Demetrius.
AND I DON'T KNOW IF I'M BEING FOOLISH
DON'T KNOW IF I'M BEING WISE
BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT I MUST BELIEVE IN
AND IT'S THERE WHEN I LOOK IN YOUR EYES

Puck.
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
IN THE WHISPER OF THE TREE
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
IN THE THUNDER OF THE SEA

Hermia. AND I DON'T KNOW IF I'M JUST DREAMING
DON'T KNOW IF I FEEL SAFE
BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT I MUST BELIEVE IN
AND IT'S THERE WHEN YOU CALL OUT MY NAME

All. LOVE IS IN THE AIR
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
OH OH OH
OH OH UH

Puck. LOVE IS IN THE AIR
IN THE RISING OF THE SUN
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
WHEN THE DAY IS NEARLY DONE

Lysander. AND I DON'T KNOW IF YOU ARE AN ILLUSION
DON'T KNOW IF I SEE TRUTH
BUT YOU ARE SOMETHING THAT I MUST BELIEVE IN
AND YOU'RE THERE WHEN I REACH OUT FOR YOU

Puck. LOVE IS IN THE AIR
EVERY SIGHT AND EVERY SOUND

Helena. AND I DON'T KNOW IF I'M BEING FOOLISH
DON'T KNOW IF I'M BEING WISE
BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT I MUST BELIEVE IN
AND IT'S THERE WHEN I LOOK IN YOUR EYES

All. LOVE IS IN THE AIR
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
OH OH OH
OH OH UH.

Everone feels sleepy and then falls asleep. Puck enters with a lantern and lights up progressively the four lovers. He stops by Lysander.

Puck. I shall apply to your eyes, gentle lover, a remedy. (*Puck squeezes the juice onto Lysander's closed eyes.*) When you wake up, you shall take delight to be in the presence of your true love, to be in her sweet company.

ACT IV

SCENE 1

*In the part of the forest where there is the bed of Titania.
Titania, Bottom, Oberon, Lysander, Demetrius, Helena, Hermia, Theseus.
Titania and Bottom enter. Oberon, not seen, is behind them.*

Titania. Come, sit down on this bed of roses, I want to pamper your soft cheeks, and kiss your so big and beautiful ears.

Bottom. Maybe it is time to go to the barber, madam.

Titania. Tell me, do you wish to listen to some music, my sweet love?

Bottom. Yes, I have a decent ear when it comes to music...

Titania. ...or, my love, tell me what would you like to eat.

Bottom. If I think well, I feel like a bunch of hay would be best, good hay, sweet smelling hay... (*He yawns.*) I do not know why but I feel sleepy.

Titania. Sleep, and I shall hold you tight in my arms. Oh, I love you so much!

They fall asleep.

Oberon (*coming forward*). Look what a delirious sight! I am beginning to have mercy upon Titania's insanity. Now that I have mocked her at my pleasure, I would break this spell. (*He squeezes the flower over Titania's eyes.*) And now, my Titania, my dear queen, wake up!

Titania. Oh, Oberon! I had such strange visions, I felt like I had fallen in love with... a donkey!

Oberon. Was that him maybe?

Titania. Oh my God, how could that happen? So my jealousy lead me to this point? Can you forgive me, Oberon?

Oberon. A little silence now. I should help this human get back his head!
And you, Titania, invoke music to help me.

Titania. So be it, (*a magic music can be heard*) the kind of music that recalls
the sleeping spell.

Oberon (*to Bottom who is asleep*). When you wake up, keep looking at the
world through the eyes of a fool!

Oberon. Come my queen, let us dance. Tomorrow we shall wish prosperity
to the Duke Theseus for his wedding. Let us fly around the world, queen,
faster than a moonlight.

They dance and then exit.

Lysander, Hermia, Demetrius and Helena are still sleeping.

Horns and shouts of the palace of Theseus hunt. The lovers wake up.

Theseus enters and sees the couples on the ground.

Theseus. What does this scene mean? Lysander and Hermia, Demetrius and
Helena. Good morning friends! Why are you here all together?

Lysander. My lord, I do not know how I arrived here! I believe I came with
Hermia. We wanted to leave the city and go to a place where we could
marry, far from the severe law here...

Theseus. Please, stand up, I know you are rivals and enemies... and how
come you sleep next to each other?

Demetrius. My lord, Helena informed me about their plan and I came here,
furious, to follow them... and Helena followed me. Then, I do not know what
kind of a spell came upon me, but my love for Hermia melted like snow in the
sun. Now, I know that I only love Helena and I shall always be loyal to her.

Theseus. Helena, I remove every punishment and I wish that these two
couples join in marriage by my side, at the temple. Come everyone and
celebrate not one, but three weddings!

SCENE 2

Same place.

Quince, Flute, Snout and Snug enter.

Quince. Bottom! Bottom! Friends, there is no sign of Bottom. Has he
returned home maybe?

Snug. Ah, without a doubt: someone took him away!

Flute. If we do not find him, we can say goodbye to the play and goodbye to
any money. How shall we carry on?

Quince. Ah, it is impossible! Where could we find another man in the city
who is as good as him for the role of Pyramus?

Flute. He is the one who has more brain than all artisans of Athens!

Snout (*cries*). Yes! And... he is also the most handsome!

Flute. Now stop... do not go too far!

Bottom wakes up.

Bottom. When my line comes, call me and I shall reply... Ohé. (*He yawns
and looks around.*) Peter Quince, Flute, Snug, Snout!

Flute. Here he is... here he is... Bottom!

Everyone hugs him.

Bottom. I had a dream that no mind could explain. I felt like I was... I was
having... never mind, I would look like a fool if I tried to tell you what I was
feeling. I was...!

Quince. Bottom! Oh what a good day it is! Oh what a good moment!

Bottom. Any news from the palace?

Snout. The ceremony is over, the Duke got married and with him also two or three great lords and ladies. If we could act in from of them, it would be our great fortune.

Quince. Let's only hope that they choose our title. Let's go, friends, and pick up the costumes, the laces for fake beards, ribbons for shoes, and meet up at the palace. Hop to it, let's go!

Everyone exits.

ACT V

SCENE 1

The palace of Theseus, where a stage has been set up.

Hippolyta. How strange the things that Helena and Hermia told me, Theseus.

Theseus. Stranger than reality! Lovers and mad people have such lively and rich minds that they perceive more than cold intellect could understand. Therefore, if you hope to feel a certain joy, you create the person that brings that joy; or at night, if you feel a certain fear, you can easily confuse a bush with a bear.

Hippolyta. True... But the story of what happened last night seems to me very extraordinary.

Theseus. Hush! It is time to see the show! Now it is necessary to choose the company that shall perform.

Hippolyta (*gives Theseus a list with some titles*). The actors are all nervously waiting by. It is time to choose which company shall perform on this stage. And remember, dear husband, to pay them... well.

Theseus. Ok. (*He looks at the list.*) So... let us see. I saw these actors last year... (*He runs his finger down the list.*) These are boring, indeed... Here... an interesting title. (*To everyone.*) I have decided: that tonight we shall see "The very tearful comedy about the cruel and very sad death of Pyramus and Thisbe".

Screams of joy and at the same time of fright.

Quince. That's us, we've been chosen! Quickly everybody... at your places. Places people... Places!

A long silence. Suddenly Snout enters in the guise of wall.

Snout - Wall (*hesitating*). Ladies and Gentlemen, ...if we offend you... it is done with... the best intention. I remind you that we have come here to please you... this is our intention! We are not here only to entertain you. The actors are ready and from their play you will learn all that is good for you to know.

Theseus (*to Hippolyta*). It seems that this person does not take notes of punctuation...

Snout - Wall. Dearest audience, this play may intrigue you. And it will continue to intrigue you until you have seen it. (*Bottom enters in the guise of Pyramus.*) This is.... This is... P... P...

Bottom - Pyramus (*to Snout, whispering*). Py-ra-mus. You are... P...

Snout - Wall (*repeats*). Pyramus I am. I mean... Pyramus... only Pyramus. And if you wish to know more, this beautiful lady is Thisbe, (*Flute enters in the guise of Thisbe*) I tell you. We shall also have Moonlight and a Lion...

Theseus. I would like to know if the lion will also speak...

Hippolyta. It would not be such a surprise, my husband. I heard that in our city donkeys can talk. If that is true, then also a lion can talk.

All the artisans exit, only the Wall remains.

Snout - Wall. And I... In this play it happens to be that I perform the wall, imagine a certain wall with a crack through which the two lovers, Pyramus and Thisbe, often whisper secretly. This clay, this lime and this stone show you that I am the wall; and this (*he makes a hole with his fingers*) is the crack through which the lovers talk.

Theseus (*comments*). He is the most human wall I have ever seen... oh, Pyramus is approaching.

Pyramus enters.

Bottom - Pyramus. Oh! Dark night! Oh, so dark night! Oh night that comes always after the day! Oh night! Oh night, oh night! Alas, alas alas, I am afraid my Thisbe is not keeping his promise, and you, wall! Oh sweet, splendid wall! Show me the crack so that I may see through. (*The Wall raises his hand and opens his fingers.*) Thank you, kind wall. But... what? I do not see Thisbe! Oh you evil wall, that do not let me see my joy, curse your damned stones that mislead me! ...and now Thisbe enters.

Flute - Thisbe. Oh wall, many times you have heard my complaints because you were separating me from my handsome Pyramus. My cherry lips often kissed your stones, your stones bound by lime and clay...

Bottom - Pyramus. I hear a voice, I am looking now through the crack to see the face of my Thisbe!

Flute - Thisbe. My love! You are my love, I believe.

Bottom - Pyramus. I am your loyal lover... but stop now, kiss me, kiss me through this wall!

Flute - Thisbe. I kiss the hole of the wall... but not your lips!

Bottom - Pyramus. Do you want to meet me right away at the grave of... Nonno!

Snout - Wall. That would be the grave of Nino...

Flute - Thisbe. Ah, I am coming right away.

Pyramus and Thisbe exit.

Snout - Wall. And this way I, the wall, have finished my part... and having done this I shall leave.

Applauses. The Wall exits.

Hippolyta (*while the Lion comes onstage*). Now it is the lion's turn! This lion is so funny.

The Lion enters.

Snug - Lion. Ladies, you very sensitive hearts, that are afraid of the horrific mouse that scuttles around on the ground, you shall now shake and shiver at the ferocious fury of the roar of this lion! But first I want you to know that I am Snug, the tailor in the guise of a lion.

Thisbe enters.

Flute - Thisbe. This is the grave of the old Ninì. Where is my love? Aaahh!

*Thisbe escapes, the Lion roars, he rips apart Thisbe's cape and exits.
Pyramus enters.*

Bottom - Pyramus. Sweet moon. (*Bottom looks around searching for the moon.*) Oh moon...

Snout enters.

Snout - Moonlight. We had a brilliant idea... to let you see the real moon shining... but unfortunately a small cloud decided to... show herself and hide the moon.

Bottom - Pyramus (*whispering*). What are you talking about? Go away.

Snout - Moonlight. Now the shy wall will turn into the Moon. (*He tries to come up with an idea. He sees some candles downstage and puts one on his hat, trying to maintain his balance.*) I am ready... ready.

Bottom - Pyramus (*resuming*). Sweet moon. I thank you for your moonlight! I thank you for shining so bright: I shall see my Thisbe. But, stop! ...Oh! Look, poor gentleman, what horrible torture is this! My eyes, do you see? How can it be? Oh dear, your golden cape... how? Stained with blood? Come, ferocious fury, cut this life, squash it, step on it, end and curse it! Oh nature, why did you create the lion? Come, tears, confuse me! Fly out, sword, and stab the chest of Pyramus, yes here on the left, where the heart beats... this way I die, this way, this way, this way... I am dead now, I have flown, my soul is in heaven... My tongue, stop talking! Moon, away! (*Snout exits trying not to let the candle fall.*) Now I die, die, die, die.

Flute - Thisbe (*enters*). Are you sleeping my love? How, are you dead, little dove? Oh Pyramus, speak, speak! Are you mute? No, you are dead! (*He suddenly starts acting with great talent.*) A grave shall cover your sweet eyes. These lily lips, this cherry nose, these little sugar cheeks are done, done! Oh lovers moan. Mouth, no more words: come loyal sword, come blade, stab my chest... (*She stabs herself.*) And farewell, friends. This way Thisbe ends, farewell, farewell... farewell. (*She dies.*)

Theseus, and the entire audience clap their hands.

Theseus. Excellent! Excellent!

*The company comes onstage holding hands with each other.
Darkness.*

Ending

Puck goes onstage.

Puck. If we shadows have offended you,
dear audience already sleeping,
think of it as a dream, or a vision,
our entire performance.
The loves of ladies and gentlemen...
have been only in your thoughts!
And if you give us an applause...
We shall free you of our presence!

Everyone sing: "Everybody dance".

EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO

CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

ROMANCE NEVER LETS YOU DOWN
PUTS A SMILE ON YOUR FACE
ANY TIME ANY PLACE
YOUR LOVED ONE HELPS RELIEVE THE PAIN
SOOTHES YOUR MIND MAKES YOU HAPPY AGAIN

LISTEN TO THE SUMMER BREEZE
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LET GO
BUT IT DON'T MEAN A THING
IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING
BOP-SHOO-WA BOP-SHOO-WA BOP-SHOO-WA

CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOU HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

SPINNING ROUND THE FOREST FLOOR
LIKE THESE LOVERS EVERYWHERE
WHO FOUND LOVE WAS IN THE AIR
STRUTTING TO OUR FAVORITE TUNE
THE GOOD TIMES ALWAYS END TOO SOON
EVERYBODY'S DANCING
LIFT YOUR FEET HAVE SOME FUN
COME ON EVERYBODY GET ON YOUR FEET
CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY'S SCREAMING

CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOU HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

(EVERYBODY DANCE) DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS

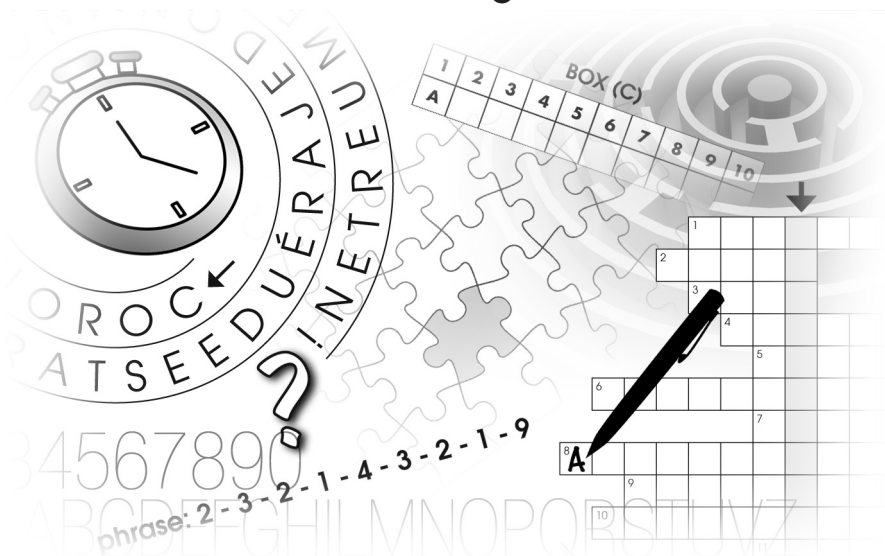
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS
EVERYBODY DANCE DO-DO-DO
CLAP YOUR HANDS CLAP YOUR HANDS.

THE END

ENJOY YOURSELF WITH OUR GAMES!

Practical exercises edited by Gianfranca Olivieri
Theatrical Season 2017/2018

A Midsummer Night's Dream



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Date _____ Signature _____

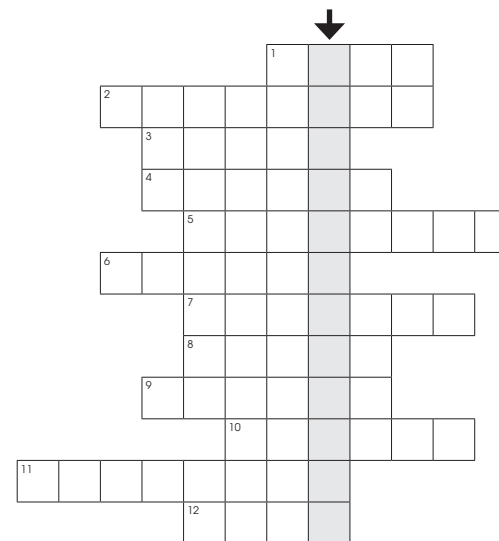
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1. PUZZLE

How can the play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" be defined?

Find the missing words in the sentences below, taken from the text and write them in the puzzle.

- Lysander has an aunt to a big fortune.
- Theseus wishes to celebrate three
- Lysander pursued Hermia and stole her
- Lysander wrote some love to Hermia.
- Demetrius received by Egeus the to marry Hermia.
- Lysander and Hermia shall meet in the
- Hermia from her father's house.
- made a mistake shooting an arrow at a white flower.
- would like to have Hermia's charm.
- Titania says that she is a powerful
- Hermia and Helena used to play together when they were
- Oberon is the of the fairies.



Now read the column under the arrow and you'll find the solution.

Solution:

2. SYNONYMS

What are the factors that make the play
"A Midsummer Night's Dream" amusing?

In the list below there are 14 adjectives, taken from the text. Find their synonyms in BOX (A) and write them on the corresponding broken lines.

BOX (A)

ATROCIOUS - ATTRACTIVE - MONOTONOUS - DEPRESSED
CLOUDLESS - ENVIOUS - ABSURD - ALARMING - CHEERFUL - AGREABLE
GENTLE - CRYING - FRIGHTENED - BLUSHING

ADJECTIVES

1. BORING
2. SWEET
3. SCARED
4. TEARFUL
5. CRUEL
6. JEALOUS
7. DREADFUL
8. HANDSOME
9. SAD
10. ASHAMED
11. KIND
12. FOOLISH
13. HAPPY
14. CLEAR

SYNONYMS

○ -----

○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

----- ○ -----

Now write the letters in the circles on the broken line, and you'll find the solution.

Solution: THE AND THE

3. LETTERS AND NUMBERS

What does Puck need in order to cast a spell?

12 sentences, taken from the text, have been divided in two parts. Match each "beginning" in BOX (A), to its corresponding "ending" in BOX (B) in order to read the complete sentence.

BOX (A)

PART 1 (BEGINNING)

- ① True love always
- 2 The more I refuse him,
- 3 I cannot compete with Hermia's eyes
- 4 I have always been
- 5 Make sure you learn them
- 6 If I do not see you
- 7 Your love is so deep
- 8 No animal has got a heart
- 9 You humans are
- 10 I will be faster
- 11 ... if you enjoy the show...
- 12 Obey to your father's will

BOX (B)

PART 2 (ENDING)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| R | unhappy, because I am the one who has never received love. |
| L | more ferocious than yours. |
| E | you may reward the actors! |
| T | encounters obstacles... |
| F | that could start a fire... |
| H | the more he follows me... |
| E | by heart for tomorrow. |
| R | or enter the convent. |
| W | than the wind. |
| D | I feel like I am dying. |
| E | that are like the stars! |
| O | so boring! |

Now match letters and numbers in BOX (C) and you'll find the solution.

BOX (C)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
T											

Solution:

4. COMPOUND WORDS

Find the title of another amusing comedy by W. Shakespeare.

9 compound words (words made up of two parts), taken from the text, have been divided: the first part is in the LIST, and the second part is in the BOX. Now recompose the compound words writing the second part of them on the broken line and its corresponding letter (between brackets) in the circle.

BOX

WITTED (Y) - DOM (I) - SUMMER (C) - LIGHT (M) - STORY (L)
MATE (E) - LASHES (E) - THOUGHTS (B) - FUL (N)

LIST

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|---|
| 1. MID | ----- | ○ |
| 2. SLOW- | ----- | ○ |
| 3. MOON | ----- | ○ |
| 4. SECOND | ----- | ○ |
| 5. PLAY | ----- | ○ |
| 6. LOVE | ----- | ○ |
| 7. KING | ----- | ○ |
| 8. TEAR | ----- | ○ |
| 9. EYE | ----- | ○ |

Now write the letters in the circles on the broken line below and you'll find the solution.

Solution:

5. A SPOT OF RELAXATION: GRID

What is Helena's great desire?

In the list below there are 14 words, taken from the text. Find them in the grid, horizontally and vertically. The remaining letters will give you the solution!

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. ACTOR | 4. MASTERPIECE | 8. VOICE | 12. SCENE |
| 2. COMEDY | 5. MUSIC | 9. PROLOGUE | 13. SHOW |
| 3. COSTUMES | 6. PLAY | 10. TITLE | 14. THEATRE |
| | 7. MEMORISING | 11. REHEARSAL | |

T	O	M	T	R	R	T	H	C	C
A	M	A	H	O	E	I	V	I	O
P	E	S	E	T	H	T	E	S	S
R	M	T	A	C	E	L	V	U	T
O	O	E	T	A	A	E	O	M	U
L	R	R	R	P	R	H	I	E	M
O	I	P	E	L	S	R	C	M	E
G	S	I	I	A	A	A	E	S	S
U	I	E	C	Y	L	S	H	O	W
E	N	C	C	O	M	E	D	Y	H
A	G	E	R	S	C	E	N	E	M



Elizabethan Gallants at a Performance.

Solution:

TEXT ANALYSIS

- **The plot**

1) Where does the story take place and who are the main characters?

.....
.....
.....

2) At the beginning of the play an amateur theatre company is rehearsing: where is the location?

.....
.....
.....

3) What do Hermia and Lysander plan to do in order to live together?

.....
.....
.....

4) What "spell" does Puck cast on Lysander and who ordered it? What is the result?

.....
.....
.....

- **The characters**

5) List the couples of lovers at the beginning and the couples that were formed during the development of the story, specifying whether they are humans or fairies.

.....
.....
.....

6) Who is Bottom? What "spell" was cast on him and why? Who falls in love with him?

.....
.....
.....

7) In act III, scene 2, Helena tells Hermia that the latter is destroying their friendship: Why? What happened between them?

.....
.....
.....

8) How many weddings are celebrated at the end of the story?

.....
.....
.....

- **Literary references**

9) Who is the author of this play and to what genre does it belong? List the titles of other three works of the same author specifying the literary genre.

.....
.....
.....

10) What is the name of the theatre company founded by the author? What are the main differences between the Elizabethan theatre and the contemporary one?

.....
.....
.....