

A Midsummer Night's Dream
by
William Shakespeare

An adaptation for young
audiences by
Brett Elliott

Kingsmen Shakespeare Company
Shakespeare Educational Tour

Dramatis Personae

Actor 1	Theseus, Oberon
Actor 2	Puck, Hippolyta
Actor 3	Demetrius, Bottom, Pyramus
Actor 4	Lysander, Flute, Thisbe
Actor 5	Hermia, Quince, First Fairy, Prologue
Actor 6	Egeus, Helena, Snug, Titania, Wall, Lion

PROLOGUE

*FROM BACK OF HOUSE WE HEAR THE SOUND OF SINGING AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS.
ACTORS ENTER BACK OF HOUSE SINGING, PLAYING INSTRUMENTS, AND DANCING.*

ALL(sung)

From far across the land we've come
To bring our tale to you,
A tale of magic fairy lands,
A tale of true love, too.

Into this humble hall we march,
Upon this stage we climb,
To weave a world of fantasy
In gesture, word, and rhyme.

Kings and queens and common folk
From lands far and near,
Alive for you within the words
Of William Shakespeare.

Where comedy and tragedy
Will blend in harmony,
And tales of old will rise again
On wings of poetry.

So follow us into the days
Of ancient history.
Imagination come to life
With Kingsmen Company
The Kingsmen Company.
The Kingsmen Company.

THE ACTORS CONTINUE HUMMING UNDERNEATH THE FOLLOWING PROLOGUE.

ACTOR 1

Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye. Ladies and gentlemen, lads and lassies, groundlings and groundling-ettes. Direct from the renowned Globe Playhouse in London, England, and performing under a charter from Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth the First, we are the one, the only, the unparalleled, the inimitable, the world famous (yet ever humble), Kingsmen Shakespeare Company.

ACTOR 3

We travel the world over, bringing the works of the world's greatest playwright, to people everywhere. And we have come here to your very town for one night and one night only.

ACTOR 6

Ladies and gentlemen, we have for you this day the grandest of shows, the rarest of spectacles, the most magnificent of comedies, William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – an ancient story of magic, of forbidden desire, of the tangled web of human destiny, and of the triumph of true love. To begin, we travel back to the realm of the mighty Duke Theseus and his soon-to-be queen, Hippolyta.

ACTOR 2

There we learn of the beautiful young maid, Hermia, and her love Lysander. Rather than be forced to marry the unfaithful Demetrius, Hermia and Lysander escape. They flee to the forest pursued by Demetrius and his forgotten love, Helena. There, the four young people are caught in a battle between the rulers of the spirit world, the powerful and rash Oberon, and Titania, the queen of the fairies.

ACTOR 5

Magical spells of love are plied by the mischievous fairy known as Puck, and everyone falls in love with the most unlikely people. But love eventually conquers all, and our heroes return to Athens where they are treated to a play by Bottom and his hardworking friends from the city.

ACTOR 4

So sit back and prepare yourself to be transported on this wondrous journey. A journey that begins thousands of years ago, in the legendary city of Athens, in the palace of ... Duke Theseus...

ACT I, SCENE I.

Athens. The palace of THESEUS.

ENTER THESEUS, EGEUS, HERMIA, LYSANDER, AND DEMETRIUS

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour
Draws on apace; four happy days bring in
Another moon: but, O, methinks, how slow
This old moon wanes!

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

Four days will quickly steep themselves in night;
Four nights will quickly dream away the time;

EGEUS (ACTOR 6)

Happy be Theseus, our renowned duke!

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Thanks, good Egeus: what's the news with thee?

EGEUS (ACTOR 6)

Full of vexation come I, with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.
Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord,
This man hath my consent to marry her.
Stand forth, Lysander: and my gracious duke,
This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child;
Be it so she will not here before your grace
Consent to marry with Demetrius,
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,
As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death, according to our law.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

What say you, Hermia? be advised fair maid:
Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

So is Lysander.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

In himself he is;
But in this kind, wanting your father's voice,
The other must be held the worthier.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Take time to pause; and, by the next new moon—
The sealing day betwixt my love and me --
Upon that day either prepare to die
For disobedience to your father's
will,
Or else to wed Demetrius, as he would.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Relent, sweet Hermia: and, Lysander, yield
Thy crazed title to my certain right.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

You have her father's love, Demetrius;
Let me have Hermia's: do you marry him.

EGEUS (ACTOR 6)

Scornful Lysander! true, he hath my love,
And what is mine my love shall render him.
And she is mine.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Demetrius, come;
And come, Egeus; you shall go with me,
I have some private schooling for you both.
For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself
To fit your fancies to your father's will,
Or else the law of Athens yields you up.
Demetrius and Egeus go along.

EXEUNT ALL BUT LYSANDER AND HERMIA

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

How now, my love! why is your cheek so pale?
How chance the roses there do fade so fast?

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Belike for want of rain, which I could well
Beteem them from the tempest of my eyes.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Ay me! for aught that I could ever read,
Could ever hear by tale or history,
The course of true love never did run smooth.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Then let us teach our trial patience,
Because it is a customary cross,
As due to love as thoughts and dreams and sighs.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

A good persuasion: therefore, hear me, Hermia.
I have a widow aunt, a dowager
And she respects me as her only son.
From Athens is her house remote seven leagues;
There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;
And to that place the sharp Athenian law
Cannot pursue us. If thou lovest me then,
Steal forth thy father's house to-morrow night;
And there in the wood, a league without the town,
There will I stay for thee.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

My good Lysander! I do swear to thee
To-morrow truly will I meet with thee.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Keep promise, love. Look, here comes Helena.

ENTER HELENA

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

God speed fair Helena! whither away?

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

Call you me fair? that fair again unsay.
O, teach me how you look, and with what art
You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

O that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

The more I hate, the more he follows me.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

The more I love, the more he hateth me.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Take comfort: he no more shall see my face;
Lysander and myself will fly this place.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

To-morrow night,
Through Athens' gates have we devised to steal.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

And in the wood,
There my Lysander and myself shall meet;
And thence from Athens turn away our eyes,
Farewell, sweet playfellow: pray thou for us;
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius!

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Helena, adieu:
As you on him, Demetrius dote on you!

EXIT

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

How happy some o'er other some can be!
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
He will not know what all but he do know:
For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,
He hail'd down oaths that he was only mine;
And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,
So he dissolved, and showers of oaths did melt.
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:
Then to the wood will he to-morrow night
Pursue her; and for this intelligence
If I have thanks, it is a dear expense.

EXIT

SCENE II. Athens. QUINCE'S house.

ENTER QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, AND STARVELING

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Here is the scroll of every man's name, which is
thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our
interlude before the duke and the duchess, on his
wedding-day at night.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats
on, then read the names of the actors, and so grow
to a point.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Marry, our play is, The most lamentable comedy, and
most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisby.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

A very good piece of work, I assure you, and a
merry. Now, good Peter Quince, call forth your
actors by the scroll. Masters, spread yourselves.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Ready. Name what part I am for, and proceed.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

What is Pyramus? a lover, or a tyrant?

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

A lover, that kills himself most gallant for love.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

That will ask some tears in the true performing of
it: if I do it, let the audience look to their
eyes; To the rest: yet my chief humour is for a
tyrant: I could play Ercles rarely,

The raging rocks
And shivering shocks
Shall break the locks
Of prison gates;

This was lofty! Now name the rest of the players.
This is Ercles' vein, a tyrant's vein; a lover is
more condoling.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.

FLUTE (ACTOR 4)

Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Flute, you must take Thisby on you.

FLUTE (ACTOR 4)

What is Thisby? a wandering knight?

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

FLUTE (ACTOR 4)

Nay, faith, let me not play a woman; I have a beard coming.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

That's all one: you shall speak as small as you will.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Let me play Thisby too, I'll speak in a monstrous little voice. 'Thisne, Thisne;' 'Ah, Pyramus, lover dear! thy Thisby dear, and lady dear!'

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

No, no; you must play Pyramus: and, Flute, you Thisby.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Well, proceed.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Myself, Thisby's father:
Snug, the joiner; you, the lion's part: and, I
hope, here is a play fitted.

SNUG (ACTOR 6)

Have you the lion's part written? pray you, if it
be, give it me, for I am slow of study.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but roaring.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Let me play the lion too: I will roar that I will
do any man's heart good to hear me. [*Roars*]

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

An you should do it too terribly, you would fright
the duchess and the ladies, that they would shriek;
and that were enough to hang us all.

ALL

That would hang us, every mother's son.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

I will roar you as gently as any
sucking dove; I will roar you an 'twere any
nightingale. [*Roars*]

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

You can play no part but Pyramus; for Pyramus is a
sweet-faced man; a proper man, as one shall see in a
summer's day; a most lovely gentleman-like man:
therefore you must needs play Pyramus.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Well, I will undertake it.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

But, masters, here
are your parts: and I am to entreat you, request
you and desire you, to **learn** them by to-morrow night;
and meet me in the wood, I pray you, fail me not.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

We will meet; and there we may rehearse most
obscenely and courageously. Take pains; be perfect: adieu.

EXEUNT

ACT II, SCENE I.

A wood near Athens.

ENTER, FROM OPPOSITE SIDES, A FAIRY, AND PUCK

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

How now, spirit! whither wander you?

FIRST FAIRY (ACTOR 5)

I do wander everywhere
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the fairy queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

King Oberon doth revel here to-night:
Take heed the queen come not within his sight;
For Oberon is passing fell and wrath.

FIRST FAIRY (ACTOR 5)

Either I mistake your shape and making quite,
Or else you are that shrewd and knavish sprite
Call'd Puck: are not you he?

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Thou speak'st aright;
I am that merry wanderer of the night.
I jest to Oberon and make him smile
When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile,
Neighing in likeness of a filly foal:
And sometime lurk I in a gossip's bowl,
In very likeness of a roasted crab,
And when she drinks, against her lips I bob
But, room, fairy! here comes Oberon.

FIRST FAIRY (ACTOR 5)

And here my mistress. Would that he were gone!

ENTER, FROM ONE SIDE, OBERON; FROM THE OTHER, TITANIA

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

What, jealous Oberon! Fairies, skip hence:

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Tarry, rash wanton: am not I thy lord?

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Then I must be thy lady: Why art thou here?

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

I do but beg a little changeling boy,
To be my henchman.

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Set your heart at rest:
The fairy land buys not the child of me.
His mother was a votaress of my order:
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;
And for her sake I will not part with him.

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Give me that boy, and I will go with thee.

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Not for thy fairy kingdom. Fairies, away!
We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.

EXIT TITANIA

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Well, go thy way: thou shalt not from this grove
Till I torment thee for this injury.
My gentle Puck, come hither.
Fetch me that flower; the herb I shew'd thee once:
The juice of it on sleeping eye-lids laid
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this herb; and be thou here again

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes.

EXIT

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Having once this juice,
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes.
The next thing then she waking looks upon,
Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,
She shall pursue it with the soul of love:
But who comes here? I am invisible;
And I will overhear their conference.

ENTER DEMETRIUS, HELENA, FOLLOWING HIM

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.
Where is Lysander and fair Hermia?
Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant;
But yet you draw not iron, for my heart
Is true as steel: leave you your power to draw,
And I shall have no power to follow you.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Do I entice you? do I speak you fair?
Or, rather, do I not in plainest truth
Tell you, I do not, nor I cannot love you?

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

And even for that do I love you the more.
I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius,
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit
for I am sick when I do look on thee.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

And I am sick when I look not on you.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

I will not stay thy questions; let me go:
Or, if thou follow me, do not believe
But I shall do thee mischief in the wood.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

Ay, in the temple, in the town, the field,
You do me mischief. Fie, Demetrius!

EXIT DEMETRIUS

I'll follow thee and make a heaven of hell,
To die upon the hand I love so well.

EXIT

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Fare thee well, nymph: ere he do leave this grove,
Thou shalt fly him and he shall seek thy love.

RE-ENTER PUCK

Hast thou the flower there? Welcome, wanderer.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Ay, there it is.

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

I pray thee, give it me.
I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,
Lulled in these flowers with dances and delight,
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.
Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:
A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a disdainful youth: anoint his eyes;
But do it when the next thing he espies
May be the lady: thou shalt know the man
By the Athenian garments he hath on.
Effect it with some care,
And look thou meet me ere the first cock crow.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Fear not, my lord, your servant shall do so.

EXEUNT

SCENE II.

Another part of the wood.

ENTER TITANIA, WITH HER TRAIN

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Come, now a roundel and a fairy song;
Then to your offices and let me rest.

THE FAIRIES SING

EXEUNT FAIRIES. TITANIA SLEEPS

ENTER OBERON AND SQUEEZES THE FLOWER ON TITANIA'S EYELIDS

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

*What thou seest when thou dost wake,
Do it for thy true-love take,
Be it ounce, or cat, or bear,
In thy eye that shall appear
When thou wakest, it is thy dear:
Wake when some vile thing is near.*

EXIT

ENTER LYSANDER AND HERMIA

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Fair love, you faint with wandering in the wood;
And to speak troth, I have forgot our way:
We'll rest us, Hermia, if you think it good,
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed;
For I upon this bank will rest my head.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Here is my bed: sleep give thee all his rest!

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

With half that wish the wisher's eyes be press'd!

THEY SLEEP

ENTER PUCK

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Through the forest have I gone.
But Athenian found I none,
Night and silence.--Who is here?
Weeds of Athens he doth wear:
This is he, my master said,
Despised the Athenian maid;
Churl, upon thy eyes I throw
All the power this charm doth owe.
So awake when I am gone;
For I must now to Oberon.

EXIT

ENTER DEMETRIUS AND HELENA, RUNNING

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

O, wilt thou darkling leave me? do not so.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Stay, on thy peril: I alone will go.

EXIT

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

O, I am as ugly as a bear;
For beasts that meet me run away for fear:
But who is here? Lysander! on the ground!
Lysander if you live, good sir, awake.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.
Transparent Helena! Nature shows art,
That through thy bosom makes me see thy heart.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

Wherefore was I to this keen mockery born?
When at your hands did I deserve this scorn?
O, that a lady, of one man refused.
Should of another therefore be abused!

EXIT

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

She sees not Hermia. Hermia, sleep thou there:
And never mayst thou come Lysander near!
And, all my powers, address your love and might
To honour Helen and to be her knight!

EXIT

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Ay me, for pity! what a dream was here!
Lysander, look how I do quake with fear:
What, out of hearing? gone? no sound, no word?
Either death or you I'll find immediately.

EXIT

ACT III, SCENE I.

The wood. TITANIA lying asleep.

ENTER QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, AND FLUTE

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Are we all met?

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Pat, pat; and here's a marvellous convenient place
for our rehearsal. This green plot shall be our
stage, and we will do it in action as we will do it
before the duke.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Peter Quince,--

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

What sayest thou, bully Bottom?

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

There are things in this comedy of Pyramus and Thisby that will never please. First, we must have a wall in the great chamber; for Pyramus and Thisby says the story, did talk through the chink of a wall.

SNUG (ACTOR 6)

You can never bring in a wall. What say you, Bottom?

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Some man or other must present Wall: and let him have some plaster, or some loam, or some rough-cast about him, to signify wall; and let him hold his fingers thus, and through that cranny shall Pyramus and Thisby whisper.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit down, every mother's son, and rehearse your parts. Pyramus, you begin:

ENTER PUCK BEHIND

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

What hempen home-spuns have we swaggering here, So near the cradle of the fairy queen?

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Speak, Pyramus. Thisby, stand forth.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Thisby, the flowers of odious savours sweet,--

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Odours, odours.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

--odours savours sweet:
So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisby dear.
But hark, a voice! stay thou but here awhile,
And by and by I will to thee appear.

EXIT

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

A stranger Pyramus than e'er played here.

EXIT

FLUTE (ACTOR 4)

Must I speak now?

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Ay, marry, must you; for you must understand he goes
but to see a noise that he heard, and is to come again.

FLUTE (ACTOR 4)

Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,
As true as truest horse that yet would never tire,
I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

'Ninus' tomb,' man: why, you must not speak that
yet; that you answer to Pyramus: you speak all your
part at once, cues and all Pyramus enter: your cue
is past; it is, 'never tire.'

RE-ENTER PUCK, AND BOTTOM WITH AN ASS'S HEAD

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

If I were fair, Thisby, I were only thine.

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

O monstrous! O strange! we are haunted. Pray,
masters! fly, masters! Help!

EXEUNT QUINCE, SNUG, AND FLUTE

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

I'll follow you, I'll lead you about a round,

EXIT

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Why do they run away? this is a knavery of them to make me afeard.

RE-ENTER SNUG

SNUG (ACTOR 6)

O Bottom, thou art changed! what do I see on thee?

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

What do you see?

EXIT SNOUT

RE-ENTER QUINCE

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Bless thee, Bottom! bless thee! thou art translated.

EXIT

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

I see their knavery: this is to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, do what they can:

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

I pray thee, gentle mortal, **speak** again:
Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy **voice**;
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape;
And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me
On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that: and yet, to say the truth, reason and love keep little company together now-a-days;

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.
And I do love thee: therefore, go with me;

EXEUNT

SCENE II. Another part of the wood.

ENTER OBERON

OBERON (ACTOR 1)
I wonder if Titania be awaked;

ENTER PUCK

OBERON (ACTOR 1)
Here comes my messenger.
How now, mad spirit!

PUCK (ACTOR 2)
My mistress with a monster is in love.

OBERON (ACTOR 1)
This falls out better than I could devise.
But hast thou yet latch'd the Athenian's eyes
With the love-juice, as I did bid thee do?

PUCK (ACTOR 2)
I took him sleeping,--that is finish'd too,--
And the Athenian woman by his side:
That, when he waked, of force she must be eyed.

ENTER HERMIA AND DEMETRIUS

OBERON (ACTOR 1)
Stand close: this is the same Athenian.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)
This is the woman, but not this the man.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)
O, why rebuke you him that loves you so?
Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)
What's this to my Lysander? where is he?
Ah, good Demetrius, wilt thou give him me?

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)
I had rather give his carcass to my hounds.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Out, dog! out, cur! thou drivest me past the bounds
Of maiden's patience. Hast thou slain him, then?
Henceforth be never number'd among men!
And from thy hated presence part I so:
See me no more, whether he be dead or no.

EXIT

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

There is no following her in this fierce vein:
Here therefore for a while I will remain.

LIES DOWN AND SLEEPS

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

What hast thou done? thou hast mistaken quite
And laid the love-juice on some true-love's sight:

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

About the wood go swifter than the wind,
And Helena of Athens look thou find:
By some illusion see thou bring her here:
I'll charm his eyes against she do appear.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

I go, I go; look how I go,
Swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bow.

EXIT

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

*Flower of this purple dye,
Hit with Cupid's archery,
Sink in apple of his eye.
When his love he doth espy,
Let her shine as gloriously
As the Venus of the sky.*

RE-ENTER PUCK

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Captain of our fairy band,
Helena is here at hand;
And the youth, mistook by me,
Pleading for a lover's fee.
Shall we their fond pageant see?
Lord, what fools these mortals be!

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Stand aside: the noise they make
Will cause Demetrius to awake.

ENTER LYSANDER AND HELENA

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Why should you think that I should woo in scorn?
Scorn and derision never come in tears:
How can these things in me seem scorn to you,
Bearing the badge of faith, to prove them true?

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

You do advance your cunning more and more.
These vows are Hermia's: will you give her o'er?

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

I had no judgment when to her I swore.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

Nor none, in my mind, now you give her o'er.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Demetrius loves her, and he loves not you.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!
To what, my love, shall I compare thine eyne?
Crystal is muddy. O, O, let me kiss
This princess of pure white, this seal of bliss!

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

O spite! O hell! I see you all are bent
To set against me for your merriment:
Can you not hate me, as I know you do,
But you must join in souls to mock me too?
A trim exploit, a manly enterprise,
To conjure tears up in a poor maid's eyes.

Re-enter HERMIA

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Thou art not by mine eye, Lysander, found;
Mine ear, I thank it, brought me to thy sound
But why unkindly didst thou leave me so?

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Why should he stay, whom love doth press to go?

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

What love could press Lysander from my side?

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Lysander's love, that would not let him bide,
Fair Helena, who more engilds the night
Than all you fiery oes and eyes of light.
Why seek'st thou me? could not this make thee know,
The hate I bear thee made me leave thee so?

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

I say I love thee more than he can do.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

If thou say so, withdraw, and prove it too.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Quick, come!

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Lysander, whereto tends all this?

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Hang off, thou cat, thou burr! vile thing, let loose,
Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent!

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Why are you grown so rude? what change is this?
Sweet love,--

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Thy love! out, tawny Tartar, out!
Out, loathed medicine! hated potion, hence!

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Hate me! wherefore? O me! what news, my love!
O me! you juggler! you canker-blossom!
You thief of love! what, have you come by night
And stolen my love's heart from him?

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

Fine, i'faith!

Have you no modesty, no maiden shame,
Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Puppet? why so? ay, that way goes the game.
Now I perceive that she hath made compare
Between our statures; she hath urged her height;
And are you grown so high in his esteem;
Because I am so dwarfish and so low?
How low am I, thou painted maypole? speak;
How low am I? I am not yet so low
But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

I pray you, though you mock me, gentlemen,
Let her not hurt me: You perhaps may think,
Because she is something lower than myself,
That I can match her.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Lower! hark, again.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

Good Hermia, do not be so bitter with me.
I evermore did love you, Hermia.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Be not afraid; she shall not harm thee, Helena.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

No, sir, she shall not, though you take her part.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

O, when she's angry, she is keen and shrewd!
She was a vixen when she went to school;
And though she be but little, she is fierce.

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

'Little' again! nothing but 'low' and 'little'!
Why will you suffer her to flout me thus?
Let me come to her.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Get you gone, you dwarf;
You minimus, of hindering knot-grass made;
You bead, you acorn.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

You are too officious
In her behalf that scorns your services.
Let her alone: speak not of Helena;
Take not her part; for, if thou dost intend
Never so little show of love to her,
Thou shalt aby it.

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Now she holds me not;
Now follow, if thou darest, to try whose right,
Of thine or mine, is most in Helena.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Follow! nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jole.

EXEUNT LYSANDER AND DEMETRIUS

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

You, mistress, all this coil is 'long of you:
Nay, go not back.

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

I will not trust you, I,
Nor longer stay in your curst company.
Your hands than mine are quicker for a fray,
My legs are longer though, to run away.

EXIT

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

I am amazed, and know not what to say.

EXIT

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

This is thy negligence: still thou mistakest,
Or else committ'st thy knaveries wilfully.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Believe me, king of shadows, I mistook.
Did not you tell me I should know the man
By the Athenian garment he had on?

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Thou see'st these lovers seek a place to fight:
Hie therefore, Robin, overcast the night;
Then crush this herb into Lysander's eye;
Whose liquor hath this virtuous property,
To take from thence all error with his might,
And make his eyeballs roll with wonted sight.
And then I will Titania's eye release
From monster's view, and all things shall be peace.

EXIT

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

*Up and down, up and down,
I will lead them up and down:
I am fear'd in field and town:
Goblin, lead them up and down.*
Here comes one.

RE-ENTER LYSANDER

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Where art thou, proud Demetrius? speak thou now.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Here, villain; drawn and ready. Where art thou?

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

I will be with thee straight.

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

*Follow me, then,
To plainer ground.*

*EXIT LYSANDER, AS FOLLOWING THE VOICE
RE-ENTER DEMETRIUS*

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Lysander! speak again:
Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled?

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

*Thou coward, art thou bragging to the
stars, Telling the bushes that thou look'st for
wars, And will not come?*

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Yea, art thou there?

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Follow my voice: we'll try no manhood here.

EXEUNT, RE-ENTER LYSANDER

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

He goes before me and still dares me on:
When I come where he calls, then he is gone.
That fallen am I in dark uneven way,
And here will rest me.

LIES DOWN

Come, thou gentle day!

SLEEPS

RE-ENTER PUCK AND DEMETRIUS

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Ho, ho, ho! Coward, why comest thou not?

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Where art thou now?

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Come hither: I am here.

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

Now, go thy way. Faintness constraineth me
To measure out my length on this cold bed.
By day's approach look to be visited.

LIES DOWN AND SLEEPS

RE-ENTER HELENA

HELENA (ACTOR 6)

O weary night, O long and tedious night,
Abate thy hour! Shine comforts from the east,
And sleep, that sometimes shuts up sorrow's eye,
Steal me awhile from mine own company.

LIES DOWN AND SLEEPS

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

Yet but three? Come one more;
Two of both kinds make up four.
Here she comes, curst and sad:
Cupid is a knavish lad,
Thus to make poor females mad.

RE-ENTER HERMIA

HERMIA (ACTOR 5)

Never so weary, never so in woe,
I can no further crawl, no further go;
Here will I rest me till the break of day.
Heavens shield Lysander, if they mean a fray!

LIES DOWN AND SLEEPS

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

On the ground
Sleep sound:
I'll apply
To your eye,
Gentle lover, remedy.

SQUEEZING THE JUICE ON LYSANDER'S EYES

Jack shall have Jill;
Nought shall go ill;
The man shall have his mare again,
and all shall be well.

EXIT

ACT IV, SCENE I.

The same. LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA lying asleep.

ENTER TITANIA AND BOTTOM; OBERON BEHIND UNSEEN

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed,
While I thy amiable cheeks do coy,
And kiss thy fair large ears, my gentle joy.
Say, sweet love, what thou desirest to eat.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Methinks I have a great desire to a bucket
of hay: good hay, sweet hay, hath no fellow.
But, I pray you, let none of your people stir me: I
have an exposition of sleep come upon me.

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms.
O, how I love thee! how I dote on thee!

THEY SLEEP

ENTER PUCK

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Welcome, good Robin.
See'st thou this sweet sight?
Her dotage now I do begin to pity:
Be as thou wast wont to be;
See as thou wast wont to see:
Now, my Titania; wake you, my sweet queen.

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

My Oberon! what visions have I seen!
Methought I was enamour'd of an...

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

There lies your love.

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

How came these things to pass?
O, how mine eyes do loathe his visage now!

OBERON (ACTOR 1)

Come, my queen, in silence sad,
Trip we after the night's shade:

TITANIA (ACTOR 6)

Come, my lord, and in our flight
Tell me how it came this night
That I sleeping here was found
With these mortals on the ground.

EXEUNT

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer: my next is, 'Most fair Pyramus.' Heigh-
ho! Peter Quince! Flute, the bellows-mender! Snug, the joiner! God's my life, stolen
hence, and left me asleep! I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it
was. Methought I was—and methought I had,—but man is but a patched fool, if he will
offer to say what methought I had. I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of
this dream: it shall be called Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom.

EXIT

HORNS WINDED WITHIN
ENTER THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

We will, fair queen, up to the mountain's top,
And mark the musical confusion
Of hounds and echo in conjunction.
But, soft! what nymphs are these?

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

My lord, this is fair Hermia here asleep;
And this, Lysander; this Demetrius is;
This Helena, old Nedar's Helena:
I wonder of their being here together.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Good morrow, friends. Saint Valentine is past:
Begin these wood-birds but to couple now?

LYSANDER (ACTOR 4)

Pardon, my lord.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

I pray you all, stand up.
I know you two are rival enemies:
How comes this gentle concord in the world,

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

They would have stolen away; they would, Lord Theseus

DEMETRIUS (ACTOR 3)

My lord, fair Helen told me of their stealth,
And I in fury hither follow'd them,
But, my good lord, I know not by what power,--
But by some power it is,--my love to Hermia,
Melted as the snow,
And all the faith, the virtue of my heart,
The object and the pleasure of mine eye,
Is only Helena.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Fair lovers, you are fortunately met:
For in the temple by and by with us
These couples shall eternally be knit:
Away with us to Athens; three and three,
We'll hold a feast in great solemnity.

EXEUNT LOVERS

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

'Tis strange my Theseus, that these
lovers speak of.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

More strange than true: I never may believe
These antique fables, nor these fairy toys.
The lunatic, the lover and the poet
Are of imagination all compact:

Exeunt

SCENE II. Athens. QUINCE'S house.

Enter QUINCE, FLUTE, and SNUG

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Have you sent to Bottom's house ? is he come home yet?

SNUG (ACTOR 6)

He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt he is transported.

ENTER BOTTOM

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Where are these lads? where are these hearts?

QUINCE (ACTOR 5)

Bottom! O most courageous day! O most happy hour!

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

Masters, I am to discourse wonders: but ask me not what; the short and the long is, our play is preferred. No more words: away! go, away!

EXEUNT

ACT V, SCENE I.

Athens. The palace of THESEUS.

ENTER THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Come now; what masques, what dances shall we have,
Is there no play,

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus
And his love Thisbe; very tragical mirth.'

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

We will hear that play;
Let them approach.

ENTER PYRAMUS AND THISBE, WALL, MOONSHINE, AND LION

PROLOGUE (ACTOR 5)

Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show;
But wonder on, till truth make all things plain.
This man is Pyramus, if you would know;
This beauteous lady Thisby is certain.
This man, with lime and rough-cast, doth present
Wall, that vile Wall which did these lovers sunder;
And through Wall's chink, poor souls, they are content
To whisper. At the which let no man wonder.
This grisly beast, which Lion hight by name,
The trusty Thisby, coming first by night,
Did scare away, or rather did affright;
For all the rest,
Let Lion, Wall, and lovers twain
At large discourse, while here they do remain.

EXEUNT PROLOGUE, THISBE, AND LION

WALL (ACTOR 6)

In this same interlude it doth befall
That I, one Snout by name, present a wall;
And such a wall, as I would have you think,
That had in it a crannied hole or chink,
Through which the lovers, Pyramus and Thisby,
Did whisper often very secretly.
This loam, this rough-cast and this stone doth show
That I am that same wall; the truth is so.

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

Would you desire lime and hair to speak better?

ENTER PYRAMUS

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Pyramus draws near the wall: silence!

PYRAMUS (ACTOR 3)

O grim-look'd night! O night with hue so black!
O night, which ever art when day is not!
O night, O night! alack, alack, alack,
I fear my Thisby's promise is forgot!
And thou, O wall, O sweet, O lovely wall,
Show me thy chink, to blink through with mine eyne!

WALL INDICATES CHINK

Thanks, courteous wall: Jove shield thee well for this!
But what see I? No Thisby do I see.
O wicked wall, through whom I see no bliss!
Cursed be thy stones for thus deceiving me!

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

The wall, methinks, being sensible, should curse again.

ENTER THISBE

THISBE (ACTOR 4)

O wall, full often hast thou heard my moans,
For parting my fair Pyramus and me!
My cherry lips have often kiss'd thy stones,
Thy stones with lime and hair knit up in thee.

PYRAMUS (ACTOR 3)

I see a voice: now will I to the chink,
To spy an I can hear my Thisby's face. Thisby!

THISBE (ACTOR 4)

My love thou art, my love I think.

PYRAMUS (ACTOR 3)

Think what thou wilt, I am thy lover's grace;
O kiss me through the hole of this vile wall!

THISBE (ACTOR 4)

I kiss the wall's hole, not your lips at all.

PYRAMUS (ACTOR 3)

Wilt thou at Ninny's tomb meet me straightway?

THISBE (ACTOR 4)

'Tide life, 'tide death, I come without delay.

EXEUNT PYRAMUS AND THISBE

WALL (ACTOR 6)

Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so;
And, being done, thus Wall away doth go.

EXIT

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

The best in this kind are but shadows; and the worst
are no worse, if imagination amend them.

ENTER LION

LION (ACTOR 6)

You, ladies, you, whose gentle hearts do fear
The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor,
May now perchance both quake and tremble here,
When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.
Then know that I, one Snug the joiner, am
A lion-fell, nor else no lion's dam;
For, if I should as lion come in strife
Into this place, 'twere pity on my life.

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

A very gentle beast, of a good conscience.

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

Here comes Thisbe.

ENTER THISBE

THISBE (ACTOR 4)

This is old Ninny's tomb. Where is my love?

LION (ACTOR 6)

[Roaring] Oh—

THISBE RUNS OFF,

ENTER PYRAMUS

PYRAMUS (ACTOR 3)

Sweet Moon, I thank thee for thy sunny beams;
I thank thee, Moon, for shining now so bright;
For, by thy gracious, golden, glittering gleams,
I trust to take of truest Thisby sight.
But stay, O spite!
But mark, poor knight,
What dreadful dole is here!
Thy mantle good,
What, stain'd with blood!
Approach, ye Furies fell!
O Fates, come, come,
Cut thread and thrum;
Quail, crush, conclude, and quell!

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

This passion, and the death of a dear friend,
would go near to make a man look sad.

PYRAMUS (ACTOR 3)

Come, tears, confound;
Out, sword, and wound
The pap of Pyramus;
Ay, that left pap,
Where heart doth hop:
Thus die I, thus, thus, thus.

STABS HIMSELF

Now am I dead,
Now am I fled;
My soul is in the sky:
Tongue, lose thy light;
Moon take thy flight:
Now die, die, die, die, die.

DIES

THISBE (ACTOR 4)

Asleep, my love?
What, dead, my dove?
O Pyramus, arise!
Speak, speak. Quite dumb?
Dead, dead? A tomb
Must cover thy sweet eyes.
Tongue, not a word:
Come, trusty sword;
Come, blade, my breast imbrue:
And, farewell, friends;
Thus Thisby ends:
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

STABS HERSELF, DIES

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

Moonshine and Lion are left to bury the dead.

HIPPOLYTA (ACTOR 2)

Ay, and Wall too.

BOTTOM (ACTOR 3)

No assure you; the wall is down that
parted their fathers. Will it please you to see the
epilogue, or to hear a Bergomask dance between two
of our company?

THESEUS (ACTOR 1)

No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no
excuse. But come, your Bergomask: let your
epilogue alone.

A DANCE

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelve:
Sweet *love*, to bed.
A fortnight hold we this solemnity,
In nightly revels and new jollity.

EXEUNT

ENTER PUCK

PUCK (ACTOR 2)

If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumber'd here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend:
if you pardon, we will mend:
And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearned luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call;
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

CURTAIN