

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

## January

Friday 25, 7:30pm

Saturday 26, 2pm & 7:30pm

Earl Cameron Theatre,

City Hall

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**HELEN TENNISON:** *Director/Set Designer*

**FILIP KRENUS:** *Bottom, Fairy*

**GEORGE OLIVER:** *Lysander, Flute, Fairy*

**HANNAH BRACKSTONE-BROWN:** *Helena, Snout, Fairy*

**JAMES BURTON:** *Theseus, Oberon*

**KUDZANAYI CHIWAWA:** *Hippolyta, Titania*

**LAINIEY SHAW:** *Patsy Quince, Egea, Fairy*

**PAUL SOCKETT:** *Demetrius, Snug, Fairy*

**SHEETAL KAPOOR:** *Puck, Philostrate*

**SUSAN HINGLEY:** *Hermia, Starveling, Fairy*

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Midsummer Scene Festival ([www.midsummer-scene.com](http://www.midsummer-scene.com)), celebrated its first five years in 2018 and the words from the comedy you are about to see sum us up accurately: *Though she be but little, she is fierce*. Based in Dubrovnik, Croatia, which boasts centuries-old tradition of open-air theatre, it coincides with the beginning of summer, and our main stage, Fort Lovrjenac, is the one of the most evocative open-air venues in Europe. It is the only English theatre festival in South-eastern Europe and the relatively short period of time it has established itself and a major cultural event.

Midsummer Scene is proud to return to Bermuda, after our first visit with *Twelfth Night* in 2017, fresh from having transferred from Dubrovnik to Vienna's English Theatre in 2016.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is the play that bears a special significance for the Festival: it was our first production, and in part, it gave the Festival its name. We have begun our life marking an important mile-

stone – 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in 2014, and ever since, the Bard has been at the core of Midsummer Scene Festival.

In 2016 we staged *Hamlet*, featuring an actress in the titular role for the first time in South-eastern Europe. In 2018 we have expanded the Festival and begun the collaboration with European Shakespeare Festivals Network, and in 2019 we will continue to grow by expanding our theatre and music programme and promoting the works of Dubrovnik Renaissance.

The version of one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies that you are about to see is directed by Helen Tennison, who envisioned the Festival's headline productions in 2015-18.

Midsummer Scene is the project of the City of Dubrovnik and the Dubrovnik Tourist Board, and it is a joint production with Brilliant Events, Dubrovnik and Honey-tongued Theatre Productions, London.

# Programme

## ACT ONE

Theseus, duke of Athens, is preparing for his marriage to Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons. But Egea demands to marry her daughter Hermia to Demetrius (who loves Hermia). She is in love with Lysander and Egea wishes the death penalty on her daughter. Theseus gives her Hermia until his wedding. Hermia and Lysander plan to flee to his aunt and reveal this to Helena, who is in love with Demetrius. Hoping to regain his love, she tells of the plan to Demetrius, who then stalks the lovers into the woods. Helena follows him.

In the woods, Oberon and Titania, the fairy king and queen, are feuding over a little Indian boy given to her by his mother. Oberon sends his servant Puck to bring a magical flower, the juice of which makes a person fall in love with the first thing they see upon waking. Oberon overhears Helena and Demetrius arguing and tells Puck to put flower drops on Demetrius's eyes. By mistake, Puck does this to sleeping Lysander who falls in love with Helena and rejects Hermia. At the same time, Oberon charms the eyes of sleeping Titania.

Some mechanicals are rehearsing a play for Theseus' wedding. Puck overhears their rehearsals and turns their leading actor Bottom into an ass. On waking, Titania falls madly in love with him.

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INTERMISSION

## ACT TWO

Oberon delights in Titania's love but discovers that Puck has caused havoc in the woods by mistake. The fairy king then charms Demetrius' eyes and he too falls in love with Helena. Lysander and Demetrius then madly pursue her, and Hermia is rejected. Puck then leads the lovers through the forest and makes them fall asleep. He also removes the ass head from Bottom and Titania is restored. The lovers awake before Theseus who finds them walking through the woods. Demetrius is now back in love with Helena, and Lysander with Hermia. They all return to Athens for the wedding and are entertained by not-so-tragic tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe performed by the mechanicals. Thus, the comedy of mistaken, confused and enchanted identities ends in a marriage and three couples retire whilst fairies make merry.

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