



SHAKESPEARE'S  
**A MIDSUMMER  
NIGHT'S DREAM**



GRAND  
OPERA  
HOUSE  
YORK  
AN ATG ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

**AUDITION PACK**



# WELCOME



Hello, Welcome to the Audition Process for our upcoming production of Shakespeare's A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

We are so excited to be creating a brand new production of this show alongside the Grand Opera House York, it is set to be an immense project and we are now looking for a sensational cast of actors from across York and the surrounding areas who want to help us to tell this incredible story with the usual York Stage energy and style!

We really cant wait to meet you all at auditions. At York Stage we strive for brilliance and aim to get the very best cast we can from talent based around the region, this doesn't mean you have to have tons of experience though. Our creative team are great when it comes to spotting raw talent and thrive on taking chances on new faces... so come in, show us how brilliant you are and trust us to do the rest!

What we can offer at York Stage is a concise, structured rehearsal period in which your time will not be wasted, a brilliant creative team who strive to make our rehearsal studio's a fun place to be: where you can create brilliant work with high quality talent and unrivalled production values with a professional team of technicians joining us as we head into production week.

In order for you to prepare fully for your audition we have created this pack which should contain all the information you may need to prepare for your audition. Please take the time to read the contents thoroughly, even if you have auditioned for us before, if you have any questions they should be answered in this pack but if not, please do send us an email.

Good luck and remember to keep calm, we only want you to be your best!

Nik Briggs - York Stage

# SYNOPSIS

## THE STORY

A whimsical romp through order and chaos, reality versus illusion, and the rollercoaster of love and matrimony! Enter Theseus, the Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, the fierce Queen of the Amazons, gearing up for a wedding bash that'll be the talk of the town.

## INTO THE WOODS

Egeus drags his defiant daughter Hermia before the Duke, demanding she marry Demetrius. But Hermia's heart sings for Lysander! The Duke, all business, gives her an ultimatum: obey Dad or face a rather dramatic fate. So, Hermia and Lysander plan a midnight escape, spilling the beans to their friend Helena, who's secretly crushing on Demetrius. Hoping to snag his heart, she spills the tea about Hermia's getaway. Off they all dash into the forest!

Meanwhile, a band of amateur actors, the Mechanicals, led by the ever-enthusiastic Quince, are busy rehearsing a play for the Duke's wedding—The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe, right in that same enchanted forest.

## LOVE STRIKES

In another corner of the woods, Oberon and Titania, the fairy royal couple, are having a spat over Titania's refusal to hand over her page-boy. Oberon, not one to back down, sends his mischievous sidekick Puck to fetch a magic flower that'll make Titania fall head over heels for the first thing she sees upon waking.

Puck, eavesdropping on the tradesmen's rehearsals, turns Bottom's head into a donkey's—a classic mix-up! The other actors scream and flee. Titania, waking up, locks eyes with Bottom and is smitten like never before!

Helena's relentless pursuit of Demetrius leads to more chaos, disturbing Oberon, who instructs Puck to zap Demetrius with the magic flower too. But oops! Puck accidentally hits Lysander instead, making him swoon over Helena. Cue the confusion! Hermia's not having it and goes full-on friend-attack mode.

## STOP HERE IF YOU DON'T WANT SPOILERS...

Eventually, Oberon lifts the spells, and everyone gets a beauty snooze. Titania is mortified to realize she loved a donkey, but hey, love is weird! The lovers wake up, convinced it was all a bizarre dream. Lysander and Hermia are back to their old selves, and Demetrius finally admits he's been crushing on Helena all along. Bottom wakes up to share his 'strange dream'—the irony is rich!

The grand wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta turns into a triple whammy celebration as the other lovebirds tie the knot too. And just when you think it's over, Quince and Bottom's crew take the stage for a hilariously amateur play!

As the couples retire, Oberon, Titania, and their fairy entourage bless the night, and Puck cheekily asks the audience to give a round of applause if they enjoyed the show!



# CASTING BREAKDOWN

## THE VISION

Live music, flying fairies and a rave in the woods; this new production of A Midsummer's Night's Dream is set to be an energetic and delirious theatrical event.

When a gangland feud comes to an end, Northern Theseus takes his Southern conquest back to be his wedded prize. Four young and spirited lovers, who live under the laws of Theseus are brought before him by a disrespected father. Faced with the prospect of a forced marriage, two of the lovers seek an escape via the woods that previously they have partied in.

Elsewhere a group of amateur actors come together to rehearse a play for the upcoming wedding celebrations of Theseus with hilarious consequences.

As night falls and everyone heads into the woods, the world's of mortals and magic collide. The fairy Kingdom, infused with the chav culture of Theseus and Hippolyta, is at war and results in an evening which is fuelled with raw emotion and high stakes for everyone. Puck, loyal servant to the Fairy King weaves their way around the forest like a street rat, doing the bidding of his master Oberon whilst creating their own mischief.

## CHARACTERS

**THESEUS**, Duke of Athens/**OBERON**, King of the Fairies - *Think Northern Gangland Boss turns Frank Gallagher from Shameless. His love and sense of duty runs deep and therefore when he is crossed it can lead to an angry tirade or sloppy drunken mess.*

**HIPPOLYTA**, Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus/**TITANIA**, Queen of the Fairies - *A Fiery Southern Chavette who has now faces marrying her foe as a result of her loss in battle. In Fairy mode though she is a woman not to be crossed and will happily cut others with her words.*

**PHILOSTRATE**, Master of the Revels to Theseus - *Works for Theseus. Controlled, organised (Roll could double with Puck).*

**THE MOON** - *A female vocalist, she oversees the evening and infuses the action of the play with live music. Think vocals and visuals that you would expect from a Lady Gaga gig.*

**EGEUS**, Father to Hermia - *A disrespected, Northern working class Father.*

**LYSANDER**, a young courtier, in love with Hermia - *Northern, working class, street wise, a chancer who may have had a bit of a past that makes him less worthy in the eyes of the older generation.*

**DEMETRIUS**, a young courtier, in love with Hermia - *Northern, more controlled and contained but still able to handle himself.*

**HERMIA**, Daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander - *Northern, fierce, outspoken.*

**HELENA**, in love with Demetrius - *Northern, pensive girl who yearns for acceptance.*



# CASTING BREAKDOWN

## CHARACTERS CONT...

*The Mechanicals - The casting and world of the Mechanicals will be dependant on those who audition. We are open to considering either ideas of a group of Retirement Home residents who are putting on the play, a group of Amateur actors of all ages or a college class of acting students.*

*QUINCE - Will naturally become a leader in the world of the Mechanicals.*

**SNUG**

*BOTTOM - Tries hard, big headed at times. Has naturally loatharious leanings.*

**FLUTE**

**SNOUT**

**STARVELING**

*PUCK, or Robin Goodfellow, serves Oberon - Puck has a glint in their eye and mischief in their soul. As servant to Oberon, in this chav fuelled romp, think young street rat, a Northern urban Artful Dodger who looks like they would mug you on first appearance as opposed to perform magic on you!*

*PEASE-BLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, MUSTARD-SEED, serve Titania Other Fairies attending on their King and Queen - Think how these meddling magical creatures could work with the spirit of a Lauren Cooper (Am I Bovered?), Vicky Pollard or even Kevin and Perry type energy.*

*FAIRY ENSEMBLE/ATHENIAN YOUTH ENSEMBLE - These ensemble roles will require young performers (ages 14+) who are comfortable with movement and music. Playing peers to the four Young Lovers who rave in the woods and later on ensemble members of the Fairy Kingdom.*

**AUDITION SIDES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR 'AUDITION SIDE' DOCUMENT'**





# AUDITION PROCESS

## INITIAL AUDITIONS – 17/11/24

Our first round of auditions will take place on stage at the Grand Opera House York on Sunday 17th November.

Auditions will start at 11:30am. Please arrive at the Cumberland Street entrance to the Grand Opera House, 10-15 minutes before your audition time.

You will be seen, one by one, by our creative team for the first round of auditions. At this time you will perform two of the set pieces from our audition sides. These sides can be found and downloaded from our website's audition page. When choosing your two pieces we ask they are not from the same group of characters eg. the Young Lovers, Mechanicals or Fairy Kingdom. At this initial call we are looking at how you deliver text both vocally and physically and are interested in seeing two varied performances so we can see how versatile you can be as an actor, and ultimately that you have a playful sense of exploration which will be paramount in the rehearsal room.

Please make sure you have read our casting breakdown for general guidance on how we imagine the character's in the show as part of our story telling to help you develop your audition piece.

## RECALL AUDITIONS

We will invite some performers back for group scene readings following the initial calls. These recalls will either take place later in the afternoon on the 17th, or at a later date TBC, depending on the number of people auditioning.

Some people may also be asked to take part in a movement session and or music call as part of our recall process.

Full details of what we will need to see will be given following the initial calls.

## OUTCOME

We will respond to all people who audition for us within a week of their final audition. Unfortunately due to the number of applications we get we are unable to offer feedback to those who are not offered a place within the cast.



# YOUR COMMITMENTS

## REHEARSALS

For those successful in being cast we will begin rehearsals in January 2025.

Rehearsals will take place in York on a Sunday early afternoon across a 4hr call, then on either one or two weekday evenings on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 7pm. For your convenience, we will issue a full rehearsal schedule at the first rehearsal as not everyone will be called to every rehearsal.

It is encouraged that if you accept a place in the company for A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM you DO NOT audition or accept roles in productions that rehearse around the same time.

Whilst we understand there will be occasions you may not be available for rehearsals it is NOT accepted by the creative team for rehearsals to be missed because of attendance at rehearsals for any other shows. Please let the team know at auditions if there are any other shows you are involved in so we can assess the viability of you taking part in both, again it must be stressed it will be expected rehearsals for A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM will be given priority over other rehearsals in all instances.

## PERFORMANCES

Performances will take place at Grand Opera House York from the 6th-11th May 2025. There is an intense schedule during show week, including day time dress rehearsals and matinee performances so please check you can attend all of the following times before auditioning and would be allowed time off work for the following...

Monday 5th - Technical Rehearsal from 5pm  
Tuesday 6th - Dress Rehearsal Call @ 12pm and Show Call @ 6pm  
Wednesday 7th - Show Calls (1hr before performance) @ 2:30 and 7:30pm  
Thursday 8th - Show Calls (1hr before performance) @ 7:30pm  
Friday 9th - Show Calls (1hr before performance) @ 7:30pm  
Saturday 10th - Show Calls (1hr before performance) @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday 11th - Show Calls (1hr before performance) @ 2:30pm and 7:30pm

## FEES

There will be no show fee payable for this production. Due to the number of resting actors and professional performers who audition and take place as part of our local castings we try to avoid the needs for fees to be paid by adults to take part in our Grand Opera House shows.

We do not charge additional subs, membership fees or any other levy's.