WWUDRAMA PRESENTS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM
A STUDENT DIRECTED SHOW

MAY 8, 9, 13, 15, & 16
VILLAGE HALL
NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Having lived in the world of A Midsummer Night’s Dream for almost a year now, I can truly say I love everything and everyone involved in it. It was the first Shakespeare I was ever exposed to, and for that it will always hold a special place for me. But it’s more than this that makes it my favorite of his plays. The story is fun and fanciful, but it does not take much digging to find how real and true the story is as well.

This was the biggest reason I set Midsummer when I did. When you strip away the romantic façade and set the story in a world torn by war, a world we all know too well, you start to see the silty layers of the characters stripped away to pain, fear, and genuine emotion. No longer are they just love-struck humans tramping through the forest looking for love, they become you and they become me, looking to find perfect love in a less than perfect world. The world you will see portrayed here is darker than any you have probably seen before for this show. We are set shortly after the end of the third world war. Thesia, duchess of Athens and ruler of the world, has declared that all marriages will be subject to DNA testing to determine genetic compatibility for the highest chance of successful offspring. If anyone refuses these matches, it is within her power to sentence them to death. Hermia comes to beg that she be given the right to marry Lysander, her true love, instead of Demetrius who has been matched to her. She is given 4 days to choose Demetrius or be put to death.

Demetrius, who was betrothed to Helena, has broken off that relationship in pursuit of the state sanctioned relationship with Hermia. Helena, still “devoutly dotes” on Demetrius, knowing they are meant to be together, even though he spurns her. Fortunately, the lovers run away to the woods to be with the one they are intended for. The fairies of the wood, though still affected by this dark new world, are able to rise above the wreckage and still find beauty. Be it in the clothes they patch together from scraps and garbage, or the music they listen and move to, they find joy even in this dark world: no one more so than Puck. She has been around a long time, seen many things, and still finds joy in the small things in life. Through her mischievous, but helpful methods, the lovers are able to overcome their obstacles and find true love.

Throughout the story, we see relationships that have gotten horribly out of balance. Thesia and her betrothed Hippolytus, a prisoner of war, who will be wedded in four days; Oberon and Titania, king and queen of the fairies, whose fights have gotten so bad they have affected the seasons, and of course our lovers all mixed up with each other. It is only after they have each had a trial of their relationship and made the conscious decision to stay together that balance is restored and relationships based on mutual love and respect can be formed.

These are the things that made me fall in love with this story. It is more than a cute tale of love and romance in the wood, it is representative of the very real struggles we deal with when relating to one another. I hope you enjoy the journey as much as I have. Thank you so much for being a part of this incredible experience.
SCENES

Setting:
Athens, The not-to-distant future, after WWII

Act 1, Scene 1:
Athens. The palace of THESEA.

Act 1, Scene 2:
Athens. QUINCE'S house.

Act 2, Scene 1:
A wood near Athens.

Act 2, Scene 2:
Another part of the wood.

Act 3, Scene 1:
The wood. TITANIA lying asleep.

Ten minute intermission

Act 3, Scene 2:
Another part of the wood.

Act 4, Scene 1:
The same. LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA

Act 4, Scene 2:
Athens. QUINCE'S house.

Act 5, Scene 1:
Athens. The palace of THESEA.
Cast

The Athenians
Thesia
Hippolitus
Egea
Hermia
Lysander
Helena
Demetrius
Philostrate

LuAnne Venden
David Owens
Rosemary Welser
Caitlin Stoodley
Christian Bell
Jessica Roe
Aaron Ricci
Michael Lee

The Fairies
Oberon
Titania
Puck
Peasblossom
Moth
Mustardseed
Cobweb

Jeremy Reed
Jessica Winters
Katelyn Schiller
Nichole Jansen
Darcy Sturges
Jennifer Landaverde
Sarah Hudson

The Rude Mechanicals
Peter Quince
Nick Bottom/Pyramus
Francis Flute/Thisbe
Robin Starveling/moonshine
Tom Snout/wall
Snug, the joiner/lion

Jonathan Palmer
Bjorn Smars
Devon Hunt
Jeffrey Rittenshouse
Andrew Sell
Randy Lutz

The Fairy Movers

Breann Eggers
Kelsey Harrison
Grace Lovera
Sarah Radelfinger
Leah Robinson
Mandi Skilton

SPECIAL THANKS

WWU Department of Communications and Languages, wwu@wwu.edu, WWU English department, Ginger Ketting-Weller, Nancy Semotuik, Brian Sheridan, Jerry Enzle, LuAnne Venden, Kevin Loomer—WWCC Theater dept. Pamela Rodman, Betty Duncan, and all the cast and crew that went above and beyond their required duties to make this show a success. I am in awe of you everyday. This show wouldn't have happened without you.
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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Producer</td>
<td>David Crawford</td>
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<td>Producer</td>
<td>Jerry Entze</td>
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<td>Director</td>
<td>Shane Wood</td>
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<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Amy Shine</td>
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<td>Assistant Stage Manager</td>
<td>Shanoah Maine</td>
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<td>Stage Hands</td>
<td>Ali Fralick</td>
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<td>Ally Oshiro</td>
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<td>Nicole Im</td>
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<td>Sabrina Tym</td>
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<td>Trevor Iwata</td>
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<td>Ryan Sturges</td>
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<td>Calvin Howard</td>
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<td>Stephanie Smith</td>
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<td>Trevor Iwata</td>
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<td>Shay Olson</td>
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<td>Chelsea Vyhmeister</td>
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<td>Pamela Rodman</td>
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<td>Betty Duncan</td>
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<td>Hair Design</td>
<td>Tatiana Beltran</td>
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<td>Jessie Michel</td>
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<td>Jaclyn Archer</td>
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<td>Amanda Kobbertad</td>
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<td>Darcy Sturges</td>
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<td>Rachel Scribner</td>
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<td>Laura Dick</td>
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<td>Fight Choreographer</td>
<td>Brian Sheridan</td>
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<td>Dramaturg</td>
<td>LuAnne Venden</td>
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<td>Runway Coach</td>
<td>Amanda Kobbertad</td>
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<td>Program/Poster Design</td>
<td>Sarah Radelfinger</td>
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THE ATHENIANS

LuAnn Venden (Thesia) WWU professor of English and former Co-Artistic Director of wwu drama, last appeared on the Village Hall stage as “Queen Victoria” in The Pirates of Penzance and as “Lady Bracknell” in The Importance of Being Earnest. The last production she directed was Sense and Sensibility. She is delighted to be acting with her husband, David Owens, for the first time—and would like to emphasize that their on-stage relationship does not resemble their home life in the least.

David Owens (Hippolytus) has enjoyed performing in two previous productions on the Village Hall stage, The Busie Body and Sense and Sensibility, both directed by his wife, the amazing LuAnn Venden. He is happy to finally have the chance to act with her but a little dismayed that part of the play was actually rewritten so that she still gets to boss him around.

Caitlin Stoodley (Hermia) is a sophomore Spanish major, who decided to add a drama minor after her first performance on the WWU stage as Medusa in this year’s Festival of One Acts.

Christian Bell (Lysander) is a senior history major. This is the first production he has participated in on the Walla Walla University stage. Christian is thrilled to be working with such an extraordinary cast and crew.

Jessica Roe (Helena) is a sophomore mass communication major and drama minor. You may have seen her as Rapunzel in the 2009 Festival of the Actors or Rose in the fall quarter production A Shayna Maidel. This is her fifth performance on the wwu drama stage.

Aaron Ricci (Demetrius) is a senior majoring in Spanish and speech communications. Aaron is no stranger to performing in front of Walla Walla University students. Since arriving at the school, he has been active in improv, first with ImprovChurch and later with the recently formed Fresh Cut Improv. In his first production with wwu drama, Aaron played the Odd Couple’s high-strung Felix Unger in this year’s Festival of the One Acts.

Rosemary Welser (Egea) is a sophomore here at Walla Walla University. She is working towards a Business major and plans to go into Physical Therapy. Last quarter she was privileged to be able to be involved in the Festival of the One Acts, in which she played Wallace’s mother in Women and Wallace.
THE ATHENIANS

Michael Lee (Philostrate), an alumnus of Walla Walla University (class of '06), is making his 4th appearance on the University's drama stage. His drama career is a hobby that he likes to dabble in every now and then. He always enjoys being around talented drama types, and this production is no exception. Other roles he has played include Police Sergeant in Pirates of Penzance; Mark in Game Theory; Don Pedro in Much Ado About Nothing; and (in high school) Mr. Darcy in Pride and Prejudice.

Bjorn Smars (Bottom) is a junior English major and drama minor. He has vast stage experience from his time in Minnesota and his WWU stage experience includes: A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, Ferris Wheel, Sense and Sensibility, tech crew in A Shyana Maidel; and directing "I'm Not Stupid". His favorite Roles include: Jonathan Harker in Steven Dietz's adaptation of Dracula, Cookie in Bob Carlton's Return to the Forbidden Planet, Birdie in Ted Tally's Terra Nova, and Eddie McCuen in Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.

Jonathan Palmer (Quince) is a Senior English Major who is also working towards a History and Drama double minor. He once said something funny and was thus cast as Pasquinot in The Romancers in 2007. The next time he said something funny it shattered the stars and he found himself cast as Fuzzywig, Businessman 2, and Young Boy on Street below ("you mean the one that's as big as me?") in A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley. This third time he graces the world with his wit, hopefully will not end the universe.

Devon Hunt (Francis Flute) is a sophomore music/pre-med major. This is his first stage appearance.

Jeffrey Rittenhouse (Starveling) is a Senior English Major who always gets what he wants, because he wants everything. Previous acting experiences include a role as Perseus in Medusa's Tale and the odd game of Diplomacy.

Andrew Sell (Snout) is a senior Mechanical Engineering student, and hopeful graduate this spring. He loves poutines, pomegranates, pierogies, peas, parsley and anything else starting with P, like pretty primroses placed prominently... phinicky, ok so he cheated.... He's sprinkled his precarious presence on stage here before in, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Scenes from the Long Valley and Cyrano, and has enjoyed every minute of it. So in closing, he hopes you do enjoy the show. Peace and prosperity to you all.

Randall Irving Lutz (Snug) is a sophomore biology major. Though he is not yet a drama minor, he is thinking about it...Shane and Bjorn are very convincing. Snug is his first role on stage.
THE FAIRIES

Katelyn Schiller (Puck) is an obedient sophomore Mass Communication major, but her homage lies in her Drama minor. She spent much of her freshman year on the WWU stage, but this year has dabbled in the Harper Joy Theatre and the Walla Walla Community College’s China Pavilion appearing most recently as one of the hearty Scottish women in The Women of Lockerbie. And then there was Puck. “And those things that do best please me that befall preposterously.” This will-o’-wisp is like nothing Katelyn has ever experienced. Puck bursts with cheeky light and bouts of whimsical indifference. Unlike most characters that quietly follow her home after rehearsals, Puck completely forgets about Katelyn as soon as she exits the theatre doors. Katelyn has learned not to take this personally. Puck is here tonight, as the very mention of Puck’s name is irresistible to Puck. If there is even a waft of shenanigans to be had in the forests beyond Athens, you are sure to enjoy yourselves. Puck never lets an opportunity for performing go to waste.

Jeremy Reed (Oberon) is a Mass Communications – Media major with a drama minor. Previous shows include: Happily Never After (Pied Piper), Sense and Sensibility (Edward), One Acts 2009 (Director, Ferris Wheel), Much Ado About Nothing (Messenger).

Jessica Winters (Titania) is a sophomore Communications major, focusing on journalism. She is a drama minor and has been involved in many shows since her freshman year in high school. Her performance experience includes: Robin Hood (Old Widow) Cascade Christian Academy [2005]; The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree (Patty [an Irish pirate]) Cascade Christian Academy [2006]; Through the Looking Glass (The Red Queen) Cascade Christian Academy [2007]; Handful of Nails (Martha) Cascade Christian Academy [2008]; Happily Never After (Johanna Jacobson [Princess and the Pea]) Walla Walla University [2009]; Festival of the One Acts: I’m Not Stupid (Ma) Walla Walla University [2009].
THE FAIRIES

Nichole Jansen (Peasblossom) is as excited as ever to be apart of the A Midsummer Nights Dream cast. A sophomore Elementary Education Major, She is not new to the Walla Walla stage. She was in the 2009 One Act the Sequel as the main female role. She then reappeared in the spring show as Lucy Steel in the production of Sense and Sensibility. Next she was apart of the Festival of Actors premiering the play Happily Never After in the role of Allison, the ditsy secretary. Now she is playing Peasblossom in this years spring show, and is excited to bring comedy and life to this fantastic and fun loving character.

Sarah Hudson (Cobweb) has angst. Usually she releases her angst through bad poetry, bad prose, and the construction of fairy wings. For this production she will be expressing her angst through grunts, visible disgust, and interpretive dance.

Darcy Sturges (Moth) is a junior English major with minors in drama and business. She has a plethora of hobbies and interests, some of which have been employed in this show (she knitted a costume, designed the makeup). Although she has been involved with many shows on the WWU stage in the past (acting, costumes, makeup), this is the first role she’s been able to fully explore. Moth is extremely curious about everything; shiny things distract her; she is oblivious to most of the craziness that happens around her. Please enjoy the show--and know that Darcy is more observant than she appears!

Jennifer Landaverde (Mustardseed) is finishing her second year at WWU, working towards a major in Psychology and a minor in Drama. The role of Mustardseed brings her to her third appearance on the WWU stage, after playing Maggie in this years Festival of the One Acts, and being Eva Maria Consuelo Margarita Rodríguez Sanchez de Pichucalco in last years Festival of the Actors. When not rehearsing, working, or analyzing people in class Jennifer is practicing and relaxing with her favorite improv team, Fresh Cut Improv. She really does enjoy being so involved and dramatic, both on and off stage.
Breann Eggers is excited to be participating in her first show at Walla Walla University, bringing the joy of movement to her lovely fairy movers and the rest of the cast. When not on stage here, she is busy dancing up a storm atordion Hall or the Fort Walla Walla Amphitheater. She wants to thank everyone for allowing her to work with them and especially the amazing director Shane for inviting her to join his production team. Enjoy the show!

Kelsey Harrison, a graduating History major, is excited and blessed to be on this stage one last time. For brevity’s sake, previous acting credits have been the majority of WWU productions for the past four years, and she is incredibly sad that it’s almost at an end! Kelsey is thrilled beyond explanation to get to dance again, and hopes that the audience enjoys all the hard work of the people involved and Shane’s vision for this production. Thank you all from the depths of my heart for making my time here so special. I will miss you.

Grace Lovera is a junior Commercial Art, Pre-Physician Assistant (PA) major. This is her first appearance on the wwudrama stage, but she has previous experience in Beauty and the Beast and Les Misérables.

Leah Robinson is a junior with a double major in Mass Communications and French. She’s uber-excited to get to be a part of this show as a “rhythmic mover” as it’s definitely a role unlike any she’s had before. Previous acting experience includes The Festival of the One Acts 2008, and her most recent performance as Cecily Pigeon in The Odd Couple during last quarter’s One Acts. As for “movement” experience, she was a cheerleader in high school, and now is just an enthusiastic participant of Jazercise and dancing around her room with her iPod.

Mandi Skilton is a sophomore who came to WWU all the way from North Carolina. She spent three years participating in drama at Mount Pisgah Academy. Since Mandi was a little girl she has loved dancing around wherever she went; at home, at the beach, or in the grocery store and finally took her love for dance to the stage at the age of 9. Two years later Mandi joined a minor company in Orlando, Fla., where she took tap, jazz, musical theater, ballet, pointe, lyrical, modern, contemporary, and dabbled in a little bit of hip-hop during a summer intensive dance program. This is Mandi’s 13th time participating as a dancer in a production.

Sarah Radelfinger, a senior mass communication and graphic design major, has been acting and dancing since age four. Her most recent roles include Cleopatra and Gold E. Loxxx in the One Acts at the Little Theater of Walla Walla. She is a member of Fresh Cut Improv team and likes to bust out an Indian accent whenever possible.
The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival—
XLIII

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2011.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.