

SYNOPSIS

Our play is set at (a fictional) Purchase College and its surrounding enchanted forest, inhabited by mythical and magical fairies. At the top of the play, adversaries-turned-lovers Theseus and Hippolyta plan their upcoming wedding. A

THP student, Peter Quince, hopes to present his senior project (a play called Pyramus and Thisbe) at their wedding celebration. Quince and his collaborators rehearse his site-specific play in the woods. Meanwhile, 4 students are caught up in a love triangle. Two young men, Lysander and Demetrius, are both in love with Hermia. Hermia loves Lysander, but her father refuses to support her choice, insisting that she marry Demetrius, who is, in turn, beloved by Helena. Hermia and Lysander attempt to run away together, but are pursued by Demetrius and Helena. In the woods, the lovers lose their way, entering the domain of the fairies.

In fairyland, a terrible feud has erupted between Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of the fairies, over a changeling boy. To punish and manipulate Titania into giving him the boy, Oberon drops a magical flower potion onto her eyes while she sleeps. The potion causes Titania to fall desperately in love with the first creature she sees when she awakes: Quince's lead actor, Nick Bottom, newly anointed (courtesy of Puck) with a donkey's head. On the instruction of Oberon, Puck applies the love juice to Lysander's eyes: he quickly renounces Hermia in favor of Helena. Oberon tries to amend the situation by anointing Demetrius' eyes, but chaos ensues when both men declare their love for Helena. Eventually, the lovers wear themselves out and, as they sleep, Puck uses the love juice to restore Lysander's love, uniting them in matched pairs. Oberon and Titania also reconcile. Peter Quince's senior project is put on in honor of the group wedding (!) of the 3 campus couples.

Introducing...



The Courtiers & Lovers!



Theseus (he/him) – Theseus is the king of Athens/Purchase. His favorite thing in the world is an entertaining spectacle.

Hippolyta (she/her) is a fiercely independent woman who believes she needs no man, but when she meets Thesus, she unexpectedly falls in love. Despite her strong demeanor, Hippolyta has a hidden soft spot for Thesus, allowing her guard to lower when she's with him. However, in the presence of others, she conceals her affection, unwilling to fully reveal her vulnerability.

Philostrate (she/her) – Personal Assistant to Theseus.

Egeus (he/him) is a high lord in the court of Athens. He is the father of Hermia, and has a superiority complex that has caused him to develop a “my way or the highway” attitude.

Hermia (she/her) – A headstrong but heedless young girl in star-crossed love. She leaves her family and friends for Lysander only for everything to be confused again.

Demetrius (he/him) – A pretentious dude who wants the heart of Hermia and hates Lysander with a higher passion. Not one to take rejection, he pursues the lovers throughout the woods.

Lysander (he/him) A clever and passionate young man. He is completely devoted to whomever he loves.

Helena (she/her) – A lovesick noblewoman with an inclination for desperation. She is best friends with Hermia and in an unrequited love with Demetrius.

Introducing...



The Fairies!



Titania (she/her) – Queen of the fairies and Oberon's lady. A powerful, maternal, headstrong and alluring being of the Earth.

Oberon (He/Him/They/Them) – A mischievous, vindictive, fairy who is very possessive. Oberon is husband to Titania and is king of the fairies. He plans a humiliating scheme against Titania, for a slight he endured. Oberon, during his scheming, finds a kindred spirit in one of the lovers and takes pity on her.

Puck (also called Robin: she/her) – a silly girl who likes to be silly.

Peaseblossom (she/her) – A member of Titania's fairy train, she serves her fairy queen most dutifully and is always at the ready to complete any job assigned to her. She also loves a good song and dance.

Mote(she/her) – Mote is a fairy who will ALWAYS have Titania's back. She's a protector of nature with a particular interest in gardening.

Cobweb (she/her) is a mischievous and physically motivated fairy. She finds peace in dahlias and dandelions. She writes poetry using berry juice on birch bark.

Mustardseed (she/her) is a fairy who is alternately spicy, bitter or sweet.

Introducing...



The Student Thespians! (Mechanicals)



Peter Quince (he/him) – a student playwright, whose senior project is the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe.

Nick Bottom (he/him) – No one loves the theatre more than Bottom. He is silly, goofy, perhaps a bit arrogant, but his heart is always in the right place. Plays Pyramus in Pyramus and Thisbe.

Snug (they/he/she/any) – A timid, introverted, neurodivergent-coded literature major. Forced to do the senior project to get out of their shell. Plays the lion in Pyramus and Thisbe.

Tom Snout (he/him) – The set designer and an actor for Peter Quince's senior production, Snout plays the Wall in Pyramus and Thisbe. He is protective and loyal of his fellow castmates, and does his best to keep an open ear and mind to their suggestions.

Starveling (they/them) – A shy costume designer with stage fright that is roped into being an actor in Peter Quince's senior project. Plays Moonshine in Pyramus and Thisbe.

Francis Flute (they/them) – A young, distracted lighting designer excited to make their debut as an actor (but they would never admit that). Plays Thisbe in Pyramus and Thisbe.

The Stage Manager (he/him) is the voice of reason in Peter Quince's "Pyramus and Thisbe" (the play within the play). He has secretly always wanted to be an actor, but was always too nervous to give it a shot.