

THEATRE AT UAH



A Midsummer
Night's Dream

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



MARCH 11 - 22 | CHAN AUDITORIUM



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As was the custom in Renaissance England, Shakespeare regularly relied upon and appropriated other writers' work for inspiration. Because of the tremendous influence of Ovid in Shakespeare's plays and poems, *Metamorphoses* has been called Shakespeare's favorite book. An epic poem in fifteen volumes, *Metamorphoses* was studied as part of the Humanist, 16th century grammar school education, of which Shakespeare was a product. Though English schoolboys read Latin, as men they could revisit Ovid in English with Arthur Golding's translation of the poem in 1567. In *Metamorphoses*, readers found a series of fantastical stories of transformation caused by love. Many of Shakespeare's comedies rely on material from *Metamorphoses*, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which includes a play within a play featuring the story of Pyramus and Thisbe.

From Book 4 of *Metamorphoses*, Pyramus and Thisbe are two Babylonian teenagers who meet, court, and fall in love through a tiny crack in a wall shared by their two houses. Though forbidden from seeing one another by their feuding parents, a series of misfortunate events involving a lioness and a dropped veil leads the lovers to commit suicide rather than live without one another. This story line appears most famously in the plot of *Romeo and Juliet*, though I think just about everyone reading these notes will agree that *Romeo and Juliet* are a more famous couple in terms of the literary representation of forbidden love than Pyramus and Thisbe. A comic adaptation of "Pyramus and Thisbe" appears in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, planned, rehearsed, and enacted by a group of working class men whose rehearsal process and production is crude and done badly for comic effect. However, the theme of forbidden love (profound in "Pyramus and Thisbe") is also present in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (albeit a less tragic and dark representation) in that Hermia is not able to marry Lysander because her father wants her to marry Demetrius, and meanwhile Hermia and Lysander's confidant, Helena, is in love with Demetrius. But in this play (and others), Shakespeare seems to have been moved by Ovid more as a source of inspiration rather than imitation.

We have attempted to follow Ovid's inspiration to Shakespeare in our production, certainly including an interest in romantic love, but also in the representation of love as a physical, visceral, and oftentimes chaotic force in our lives. Love can cause as many problems as it solves, and yet there seems little doubt there will be a happy ending for the manifold lovers in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I hope you appreciate our efforts, and that this production brings you some joy, but, if not, remember Robin's lines that close this play:

If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended—
That you have but slumbered here
While these visions did appear.

Dr. Chad Allen Thomas
Director

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by William Shakespeare

CAST

HERMIA – Victoria Wiegand
LYSANDER – Kieran Kelly
HELENA – Laura Ashley Butler
DEMETRIUS – Kareem Omar
THESEUS – Charlie Rogers
HIPPOLYTA – Catie Wells
EGEUS – Emily Shaffer
PHILOSTRATE – Wayne Blanks
NICK BOTTOM – Matt Jones
PETER QUINCE – Joanna DeAtley
FRANCIS FLUTE – Logan Osborn
TOM SNOUT – Cheyenne Hall
SNUG – Katherine Phillips
ROBIN STARVELING – Bakari Prigg
OBERON – Jeff White
TITANIA – Mandy L. Hughes
ROBIN GOODFELLOW (PUCK) – Larkin Grant
PEASEBLOSSOM – Alex Beck
COBWEB – Sarah Kamel
MUSTARDSEED – Alexandra Wiegand
MOTE and "FAIRY" – Zoe Bofill

CREATIVE TEAM

Director – Dr. Chad Allen Thomas

Producer – David Harwell

Asst. Director – Lee Hibbard

Stage Manager – Karen Baker

Asst. Stage Manager – Brittany Harper

Asst. Stage Manager – Sarah King

Set Designer/Technical Director – Tom Gray

Sound Designer – Johnna Doty

Technical Advisor – Noel Webster

Lighting Designer – Mike Morin

Light Board Operator/Asst.– Kailey Burkhardt

Projection – Clay Anderson

Props – Logan Osborn

Costume Designer – Heather Baumbach

Costume Asst. – Kaylie Miller

Stitcher – Shirley Sartin

Asst. Sound Technicians – Carmen Michael Childers, Jesse Pate,
Zachary Patrick, Wesley Weirich

Marketing – Eric McCowan and Diana LaChance

Box Office/Administration – Donna Lamp

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US AT UAH.EDU/THEATRE OR 256-824-6871.**

CAST



VICTORIA WIEGAND – HERMIA

Victoria is a senior English major. So while she's studied Shakespeare before, this is her first time acting in it! Imagine her surprise when she got a lead! Previous shows include *Urinetown*, *Music Man*, and *Anything Goes*. She thanks her family, Makenzie, and Chad for believing in her. Love y'all!



KIERAN KELLY – LYSANDER

Kieran is grateful to be joining UAH Theatre again. Last fall he was in *How to Succeed in Business*, and he is excited to be a part of this fantastic cast and crew. He wants to thank everyone for all the hard work and great talent that has gone into this show.



LAURA ASHLEY BUTLER – HELENA

Laura Ashley is new to the Huntsville area, but has already fallen in love with its mountains. Previously, she worked at Lexington Children's Theatre as an actor/teaching artist. She currently teaches art in Madison. Laura Ashley dedicates this performance to her mother, for being supportive and never cringing during her on-stage kisses.



KAREEM OMAR – DEMETRIUS

Kareem is a sophomore at UAH pursuing an honors dual degree in Aerospace Engineering and Applied/Theoretical Physics. This is his first production with UAH Theatre. He would like to thank Mr. Harwell, Dr. Thomas, Ms. Baker, and the amazing behind-the-scenes crew that makes the show possible!



CHARLIE ROGERS – THESEUS

Charlie is thrilled to return to the stage with UAH Theatre. His previous appearances have been in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *How To Succeed in Business*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their amazing support, and his family for keeping him confident – especially his long-suffering wife.



CHRISTA REAVES – HIPPOLYTA

Christa has recently been seen in IMP's *The Foreigner* and *Into the Woods*, as well as Theatre Huntsville's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress*. She was the assistant director on Rocket City Shakespeare's premiere production, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and played Rosalind in their production of *As You Like It*. Previous Shakespearean credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, and *Midsummer* (as Hermia). Christa recently received her Master's degree in English from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she teaches freshman composition.



EMILY SHAFFER – EGEUS

Emily graduated from UAH in 2012 with a degree in Music and English. She now works for the Huntsville Madison County Public Library system. Her recent roles include Tranio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Sicinius in *Coriolanus*, both with the newly formed local company Rocket City Shakespeare. She thanks Chad, Karen, Lee, and every other person in the cast and crew for giving her the chance to perform in one of her favorite comedies!



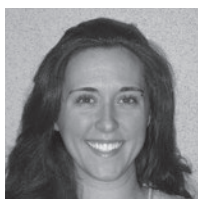
WAYNE BLANKS – PHILOSTRATE

Wayne is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering major, and this is his first UAH show! He would like to thank the cast and crew for the wonderful opportunity of being in a UAH production with such a talented group of individuals.



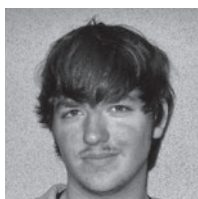
MATT JONES – NICK BOTTOM

Matt Jones is excited to make his debut with UAH Theatre. Matt is finishing his master's in Experimental Psychology at UAH and earned his bachelor's from The University of Alabama, where he double majored in Theater and Psychology. In his off time, he is a stand-up comedian for Huntsville Comedy. Matt has been featured in shows such as *An Enemy of the People*, *Tales of the Lost Formicans* (Jerry), and *Sideshow* (Roustabout).



JOANNA DEATLEY – PETER QUINCE

After an absence from theater due to moving, Joanna is excited to be back as Petra Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Loving Shakespeare, she's been in *Romeo and Juliet* as well as Shakespearean shorts. Joanna lives in Union Grove, works for the post office, and trains dogs.



LOGAN OSBORN – FRANCIS FLUTE

Logan is a transfer student and a junior at UAH. He has worked as a props crewmember for *Anything Goes* and *How to Succeed*. Logan also got the chance to be the stage manager for *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* this past November. He looks forward to being a part of future shows and expanding his theater experience.



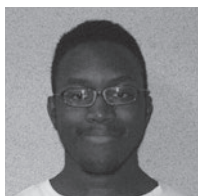
CHEYENNE HALL – TOM SNOT

Cheyenne is a Mathematics major at UAH. This is her first play at with UAH Theatre, and her first role in a Shakespearean play. She is honored to be working with such amazing people as those involved with bringing this play to the audience.



KATHERINE PHILLIPS – SNUG

Katherine Phillips is a UAH student, and this is her first time being involved in any theater production. She's incredibly excited and thankful to be involved in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



BAKARI PRIGG – ROBIN STARVELING

Bakari Prigg is excited to not only be in his third UAH Theatre production but to also be in his first Shakespearean play. Bakari first entered the UAH stage as an FBI agent and a sailor in the 2014 production of *Anything Goes*. His most recent involvement with UAH Theatre was in *How to Succeed in Business* as the villainous but comical Bud Frump. He is both happy and honored that, as this is his first Shakespearean play, he has been chosen to be a part of the hilarious and "rude" group of mechanicals. Other than acting, Bakari enjoys the art of puppetry, which has been his primary area of performing arts for over a decade. He is a sophomore at UAH majoring in English Education and minoring in Theatre.



JEFF WHITE – OBERON

Jeff White has been onstage and behind the scenes of Huntsville theater for over 20 years, and is excited to be onstage with this excellent cast. A photographer by day who loves to capture the performing arts, he was just named "Photographer of the Year" by the American Advertising Federation of North Alabama. Favorite past roles include: Mercutio, *Romeo & Juliet*; Bottom, *Midsummer Night's Dream*; Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe, *Sanders Family Christmas (RT)*; Ebenezer Scrooge, *A Christmas Carol*; and Sylvanus, *Dragon of Nitt (FP)*. Jeff would like to thank Chad, Karen, and the rest of the UAH Theatre gang for giving him this challenging but fun opportunity; his awesome cast mates; and his Jo, the beautiful and talented Mrs. White."



MANDY L. HUGHES – TITANIA

Mandy is very excited to take this trip into the woods. Having recently received her MA in English from UAH, Mandy is hoping to embark on a Ph.D. program in 2015. In the meantime, she works as an instructor of English and as the artistic director and founder of Rocket City Shakespeare (look for her upcoming work in this summer's *Richard III*). Thanks to Chad for this fantastic opportunity; to Laura, Karen, and the team for their support; and most especially to Vance, Soph, The Baby X, and you, the audience.



LARKIN GRANT – ROBIN GOODFELLOW [PUCK]

Larkin is thrilled to play in Fairyland! Favorite roles range from young women in love to 10-year-old boys to shrews at Atlanta's Shakespeare Tavern. She spends her days as the chief strategist and co-owner of Move Digital and Our Valley Events, and as wife to her own rocket scientist.



ALEX BECK – PEASEBLOSSOM

Alex is a UAH graduate and a part-time grad student. She currently works as a civil engineer for Madison Utilities. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is her third show with UAH Theatre.



SARAH KAMEL – COBWEB

Sarah is happily returning to UAH Theatre following her debut in the 2010 APO production of *Caged Vixens*. Outside of grad school and her full-time gig, she loves traversing the globe, playing her ukulele, and supporting local nerds as a lead organizer for e-sports events here in Rocket City.



ALEXANDRA WIEGAND – MUSTARDSEED

Alexandra Wiegand is a freshman here at UAH. She is currently majoring in Communications with a minor in Music Technology. She has been in previous stage productions, including recitals and concerts from 10 years of dancing and singing. Alexandra is very excited to be working not only onstage, but with the music side of this play as well.



ZOE BOFILL – MOTE AND "FAIRY"

Zoe is thrilled to appear in her first UAH production! She has performed with Ars Nova School for the Arts, most recently as Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen* as well as with Theatre Huntsville as June in *The Musical of Musicals*. She thanks Dr. Thomas as well as the cast and crew for a phenomenal show!

THEATRE MINOR

UAH is proud to announce the Theatre Minor, offering interdisciplinary courses and opportunities geared toward students' interests and talents. It is an exciting complement to any major. Classes vary from theatre history and production elements to acting and design. Any career that requires presentation or performance can benefit from theatre training. Acting builds confidence and understanding. Theatre technology adds artistry to the engineering process and gives students an edge in the marketplace. From a business and management standpoint, theatre offers the unique challenge of working in a fast-paced situation that demands flexibility, creativity, and focus. Marketing students can learn how to promote public events with print material, advertising, and press.

The minor requires twenty-four credit hours; twenty-one of those are available in direct theatre study in the Department of Communication Arts, while the rest are offered in the Departments of Music, Art, English, Philosophy, and Foreign Languages.

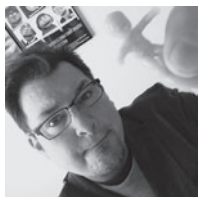
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SPOON LAKE BLUES

Fall 2013 - UAH Theatre

PRODUCERS



DR. CHAD ALLEN THOMAS – DIRECTOR

Chad is an assistant professor of Shakespeare and dramatic literature in the English Department at UAH. His work with UAH Theatre has included directing *The Comedy of Errors* (2011), *The Tempest* (2012), and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (2014), and acting as Joe Keller in *All My Sons* (2013). He is delighted to return to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was his first professional acting job (playing Lysander for Shakespeare in Santa Fe in 1993.)



DAVID HARWELL – PRODUCER

David is the associate professor of Theatre at UAH. He received his BFA in theater at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in scene design from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, in 1991. After many years of working in professional theater in New York City, Boston, and regionally, he is happy to be back in Huntsville, his hometown. David started UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director.



LEE HIBBARD – ASST. DIRECTOR

Lee is thrilled to be working with UAH Theatre on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is his first production with UAH and his fourth Shakespeare production. He works as a graduate teaching assistant in UAH's English Department and also assistant directs for Rocket City Shakespeare. Break a leg, cast and crew!



KAREN BAKER – STAGE MANAGER

This is Karen's third show with UAH Theatre, and she is thrilled to be part of the team. She received her MFA in Directing at The University of Alabama. Some of her favorite directing projects include *City of Angels*, *Children of Eden*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, and *The Baby Dance*.



BRITTANY HARPER – ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Brittany is a transfer student to UAH; she is studying Art History and Theatre. This is Brittany's second time as assistant stage manager. She could not be more thrilled to be a part of such an amazing show or to work with such a phenomenally talented and hardworking cast and crew! She hopes to be a part of future UAH Theatre productions and is thankful for this opportunity.



SARAH KING – ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Sarah is a junior Spanish major and Theatre minor at UAH. She has been involved in UAH's productions of *Urinetown*, *Anything Goes*, and *How to Succeed in Business*. Because of the UAH Theatre family, she has made the decision to seriously pursue the technical side of theater. Sarah has also assistant stage managed for the Huntsville Ballet Company's *Nutcracker*. She would like to thank her parents and brothers for their continuing support as she navigates life's adventures.



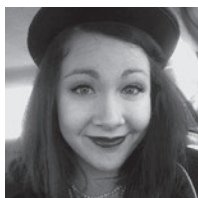
TOM GRAY – SET DESIGNER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

This is Tom's ninth show with UAH. Tom worked for the Santa Fe Opera during the 2013 season as a journeyman carpenter. He most recently returned from a summer of working in New York for the Production Resource Group. While employed there, Tom worked on a number of sets including the 2014 Tony Awards®, "The Price Is Right," and "America's Got Talent" in Radio City Music Hall. Tom also worked on the new Broadway show *On The Town*, as well as *Wicked*, *The Book of Mormon*, and others.



HEATHER BAUMBACH – COSTUME DESIGNER

Heather Baumbach is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. With over 20 years of design and production experience in stage, television, and film, her credits include the Theater Outlet, the Santa Fe Opera, the Los Angeles Opera, Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre, Main State Music Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Carsey-Warner Productions, and Comedy Central. Having moved to Huntsville in 2002 with her husband John to raise their three children, she is excited and grateful to be part of the design team for this production.



KAYLIE MILLER – COSTUME ASST.

Kaylie is a freshman Marketing major (Theatre minor) at UAH. She has loved assisting with costumes for “Mod”summer *Night’s Dream*! This is her first UAH production. Previous theater experiences include costuming the Bob Jones High School production of *Godspell*, competing with Bob Jones High School in the Walter Trumbauer Secondary Theatre Festival, and attending the Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC).



JOHNNA DOTY – SOUND DESIGNER

A Music graduate of the University of Montevallo, Johnna earned an MFA in Sound Design from Boston University in 1994. She has worked professionally in New York City and regionally, and was an assistant professor at the City University of New York–Borough of Manhattan Community College. A native of Florence, Ala., she now resides in Huntsville and teaches at UAH.



NOEL WEBSTER - TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Noel Webster is one elusive cat. The man operates Muscle Shoals Sound in Sheffield, Alabama—a recording studio with a past as rich as some of the greatest studios in rock-n-roll history. He is also the studio/Facility Manager at Roberts Hall here at UAH.



MIKE MORIN – LIGHT DESIGNER

Mike is a lighting designer based out of Atlanta. This past year he was selected to participate in the USITT Young Designers Forum. He earned his MFA in Lighting Design from The University of Alabama. Currently he serves as the Technical Director and Resident Designer at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School in Atlanta. Website: www.MikeTMorin.com



KAILEY BURKHARDT – LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR/ASST.

Kailey is a fourth-year English major/Theater minor at UAH. She has been actively involved with Huntsville's community theater for the past 10 years and is ultimately pursuing a career in theater education. She is also the UAH Theatre Department's work-study student and is extremely grateful for every opportunity the university has given her to learn and grow. She was most recently seen in UAH's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* as Suzanne.



CLAY ANDERSON – PROJECTION

Clay is happy to be contributing to this production with projection art. He is a Communication Arts major at UAH with a background in photography and videography. He works closely with the College of Liberal Arts and the Theatre Department producing promotional materials. His previous projection art experience includes the UAH-sponsored *Peace on Earth* holiday performance and the *Nutcracker*, produced and performed by the Huntsville Ballet. His photography business, Plaidtree Media Arts, can be found online at www.plaidtree.photography.



CARMEN MICHAEL CHILDERS – ASST. SOUND TECHNICIAN

Carmen Michael is a 22-year-old Music Technology major at UAH. This is his fourth production with the Theatre Department, and he is excited to be a part of the family once again. When he is not assisting with theater productions, Carmen Michael can be found spending his time recording in the studio or singing with his band, Throne of Eden. He would like to thank Johnna Doty, Noel Webster, Dr. Chad Thomas, Karen Baker, the cast, the musicians, the production assistants, and everyone who helped bring *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to life.



JESSE PATE – ASST. SOUND TECHNICIAN

Jesse Pate is a 3rd year Music Technology major at UAH from Weaver, AL. He has worked on the sound team for the UAH productions *Anything Goes* and *How to Succeed in Business* as well as played trombone for *Urinetown*. He also plays trombone in the UAH wind ensemble and the UAH brass quintet.



WESLEY WEIRICH – ASST. SOUND TECHNICIAN

Wesley is an Electrical Engineering major with a minor in Music Technology. This is his second production at UAH. Previously, he worked on the UAH Theatre department's production of *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He is currently a member of the UAH Jazz Band and Jazz Combo. Wesley looks forward to working on future productions, as well as composing and orchestrating his own musical works.



ZACH PATRICK – ASST. SOUND TECHNICIAN

Zachary Patrick is currently in his senior year as a Sociology Major double minoring in Music Technology and Theatre. Although he has been involved in theatre for a number of years as an actor, this is only his second production as an official part of the sound crew. Previously he worked as an assistant sound tech for UAH's production of *Picasso at the Lapine Agile*.



ERIC MCCOWAN – MARKETING

Eric is a graduate of the UAH Theatre cognate. He has acted in past productions at UAH such as *Spoon Lake Blues* and *A Bright New Boise*, as well as in other productions in the Huntsville community. By day he serves as the creative director for Sharp Auction Engine Inc.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Clarke Rountree – Chair of the Communication Arts Dept.

Lydia Marsh

Will Hall

Donna Lamp

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Cindi Brasher

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THEATRE AT UAH

10TH



CELEBRATING OUR 10TH SEASON



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