

Spring 5-1-1987

## A Midsummer Night's Dream (1987)

San Jose State University, Theatre Arts

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Wm. Shakespeare's

A  
midsummer  
night's  
dream

San Jose State University Theatre  
May 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 8pm

TICKETS: University Theatre Box Office 5th and San Fernando  
Mon-Fri 1-5pm 6:30-8:15 show nights 277-2777



## THANKS TO OUR SEASON SUBSCRIBERS

The 1986-87 Season was one of our most successful production adventures in recent years. From the pathos of Night of the Iguana through the hilarity of Robber Bridegroom to the beauty and grace of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, the season more than fulfilled our expectations --artistically and financially. Most of this success was due to you, our loyal subscribers. Some of you are newcomers to our theatrical family, and many of you have been with us for years. To all of you, we appreciate your support and attendance. You have become the fine audience instrument on which our artists love to play. We hope you will subscribe again to next season's bill of fare. Thank you.

## THE JAMES O. WOOD AWARD

This production of A Midsummer Night's Dream is dedicated to James O. Wood. The annual Wood Award for achievement in Shakespearean study will be presented on Opening Night (May 1) following the production at a reception in the Studio Theatre. The Opening Night audience is invited to this special event.

James O. Wood, Professor Emeritus of English, served on the University faculty from 1925 to 1965. Among the hundreds of students in his Shakespeare courses was Richard Parks, the director of this production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Professor Wood took his B.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma, and was awarded the Ph. D from Yale University in 1935. During his years at San Jose State, he was a beloved professor of Shakespeare, introducing a graduate course and a lower-division course on Shakespeare, the latter still a part of the University's General Education program. His continuing scholarship has resulted innumerable articles on Shakespeare and other subjects being published both during his career and after his retirement. Three years ago, Professor Wood endowed the James O. Wood Shakespeare Award for the student who submits the best paper or creative project on the designated play each year. This year's award is for \$500.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Since joining our faculty in 1965, Richard D. Parks' directing assignments have ranged from Racine's Phedre to My Fair Lady, from Measure for Measure to Born Yesterday. Considered a theatre generalist, Parks is happiest teaching a wide range of subjects (some forty-five to date) and directing in a variety of genres and styles. Parks received his Bachelors degree from SJSU, and some of our longtime patrons may remember him as "Volpone" or "Peter Pan" in the early '60's. He went on to win acting awards at the University of Washington and Stanford University. He has appeared in SJSU Summer season productions such as The Imaginary Invalid and The Miser. In addition to his primary duties as a teacher and Director of Acting Training, Parks is a published playwright and author, producer with the National Broadcasting Company, and the Executive Director of Actors Symposium of Hollywood.

## ABOUT A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Popular with audiences for almost four hundred years, this comic masterpiece has the lilt and spirit of youth, and its romantic poetry still exudes the freshness and fragrance of Spring flowers.

Director Richard Parks describes his production of A Midsummer Night's Dream as a "joyous celebration of love and marriage." And what a celebration it is, for within the 'dream' can be found not one, but four separate love stories occurring simultaneously in four different worlds. The Bard takes us on a merry journey from the Royal Court of Athens to the enchanted world of Faerie.

There is no evidence when A Midsummer Night's Dream was written, the original production dates, or from where the subject matter and content of the play originated. However, there are similarities in word play, in lyrical quality and in rhyme with two other plays, Romeo and Juliet and Richard III, that would put the writing of the play sometime in the years 1594 or 1595. Commentators have not been very successful in their attempts to uncover the play's origins. The sources are scattered and diverse, derived from readings here and there, and from a rich oral tradition. For example, the love story of Theseus and Hippolyta most likely comes from Chaucer's Knight's Tale. Also, the tale of Pyramus and Thisby is in Ovid's Metamorphosis and in Chaucer's Legend of Good Women.

Since the play centers around a wedding, and its theme is gay and frothy in the treatment of lovers, it is fairly certain that it was written for the wedding of some great personage. An elaborate compliment to Queen Elizabeth I in Act II, Scene 1, "Fair Vestal, throned by the West", suggests that she was present when the play was first presented.

The masque was a favorite type of entertainment for weddings and gay occasions. A Midsummer Night's Dream is the Bard's nearest approach to that form of spectacular elements, costumes, and scenic devices. It tended not to concentrate too much on dramatic plot or poetry. Music, dancing and pagentry were its focus. Usually it had allegorical figures, gods, goddesses, and other creatures that sang, danced and paraded before the guests. The similarities between this form and Dream are obvious, but Shakespeare takes it a step further and incorporates poetic drama that serves to enrich and add a quality of newness to the masque that has remained undimmed to our century.

In the treatment of fairies Shakespeare departed from traditional folklore to give them a gentleness that they did not always possess. The Bard's age believed in witches, hobgoblins, and ghosts, and to the average countrymen of Warwickshire, fairies connoted devils and evil things rather than "little people." Though Shakespeare's Puck might be a shrewd and conniving "monster" he was not the terrifying hobgoblin of popular tradition, and even after Shakespeare this monster would have a disposition and nature that was vastly improved.

Many well-known actors have performed in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Both Mickey Rooney and Mia Farrow have played Puck, and Jimmy Cagney performed as Bottom in a film version of the play in which Rooney also appeared. At different times in their careers, Diana Rigg and Patrick McNee (better known to American audiences from their television series The Avengers) have appeared in Dream, as have Olivia DeHaviland, Charles Laughton, Stanley Holloway, Peter Brook: the list is long. Without a doubt, this is a play that actors love as much as audiences, and for many it has served as the vehicle that launched their careers.





# A MIDSUMMER

By William

Directed by R

Scenic Design  
Donamarie Reeds

Costume Design  
Elizabeth Poindexter

Lighting Design  
Kenneth R. Dorst

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Theseus, Duke of Athens.....	James Cornwell
Hippolyta, Queen of Amazons.....	Sudanya Kirk
Philostrate, Master of the Revels.....	Michael Pendragon
Egeus, father to Hermia.....	Gregory Rehrig
Hermia, in love with Lysander.....	Penelope Issichopoulos
Demetrius, in love with Hermia.....	Mike Huckaby
Lysander, in love with Hermia.....	Rob Langeder
Helena, in love with Demetrius.....	Allaire Paterson
Peter Quince, a carpenter.....	Jerry McAllister
Snug, a joiner.....	Kelly McAllister
Nick Bottom, a weaver.....	Colin MacDougall
Francis Flute, a bellows mender.....	Ramon Sanchez
Tom Snout, a tinker.....	Wendy McGlothlin
Robin Starveling, a Tailor.....	Teri L. Bawdon
Fairy, attendant to Titania.....	Buffy Terry
Fairies.....	Mustardseed - Kim Fleming, Moth - Tiffany Peck Peaseblossom - Mary Wong , Cobweb - Lisa Zambetti
Puck, or Robin Goodfellow.....	J.J. Formento
Titania, Queen of the Fairies.....	Heather McAllister
Oberon, King of the Fairies.....	Kurt Meeker
Indian Boy.....	Tylor Bole
Fairy Dancers.....	Jenny McAllister, Michelle Buttignol Emma Huckaby, Kristy Eldridge

## Act Information

Act I - Athens, The Palace of Theseus and a wood near Athens

Act II - The woods near Athens and The Palace of Theseus

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

# NIGHT'S DREAM

Shakespeare

Richard D. Parks



Sound Design  
James R. Earle, Jr.

Property Design  
Nita Duarte

Make-Up Design  
Fairies-Sharon Ridge  
Mortals-Kathy Keister

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Russell M. Doolittle  
Stage Manager.....Samantha Press  
Assistant Stage Managers.....Nick Ragusano, Don Ballard  
Assistant Director.....Peter Bedard  
Choreographer.....Cliff Keuter  
Scenic Artists.....Donamarie Reeds, Steve Burrignt, Peter Bedard  
Tom Grady, Paul Vezinaw  
Assistant Scenic Designers.....Peter Bedard, Steven Burrignt  
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Ronald Spaulding  
Stage Crewhead.....Linda Koch\*  
Scenery Construction Crew...Janet Shutz, William Estes, Deborah Eason-Littleton,  
Deanna MacLean and Students of Drama 52 and Drama 10  
Property Crew.....Arlene Juntado\*, Margi Hatherly  
Lighting Crew.....Sybil Barefoot, Nichole Fruge  
Sound Technician.....Michael Knutson  
Makeup Design under the supervision of.....Elizabeth M. Poindexter  
Assistant Costume Designers.....Eliza Chugg, Rhonda Roper  
Cutter/Fitters.....Rick Austin, Rhonda Roper, Maureen Smidebush  
Coutume Construction.....Roberta Alexander, Jan Kelly, Michelle Robinson  
Lonna Johnson and Students of Drama 52 and Drama 10  
Costume Crew.....Cori White\*, Victoria Mugan, Lonna Johnson,  
Brendan Ragotzy, Julie Schleimer  
Milliner Guest Artist.....Nina Jean Parker  
Millinery.....Terre Hirsch, Kendra Hirsch, Maureen Smidebush,  
Sybil Barefoot, Carol McCammon, Michelle Robinson  
Makeup Crew.....Jeff Draper\*, Theresa Spadoni  
Carol McCammon, Tracy Kimura  
Acknowledgements.....Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, San Jose City College  
Opera San Jose, Mark Turpin

\*after name denotes crew head

## UNIVERSITY THEATRE TECHNICAL PRODUCTION STAFF:

Shop Foreman.....	Steven Placke
Master Electrician.....	Chris Thorne
Scene Shop Assistants .....	James Cornwell, Russell M. Doolittle
Costumer .....	Eliza Chugg
Costume Shop Assistants .....	Rhonda Roper, Maureen Smidebush
Costume Loan Coordinators .....	Ann Rands, Colin MacDougall
Prop Room Coordinator .....	Cathy Moser
Lighting Assistant .....	Carol Couch
Sound Technician.....	Scott Santana



## UNIVERSITY THEATRE FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Director of Theatre .....	Bob Jenkins
Publicist .....	Joe Christensen
Assistant Publicist .....	Kelly Gregg
Box Office Manager .....	Kathleen Eads
House Manager .....	Darlene Conwell
Photographer .....	Jojo Soriano
Publicity Crew .....	Ann Rands, Drama 10 Students
Box Office Crew .....	Kelsey Harding, Rob Langeder, Jenny McAllister Jerry McAllister, Colin MacDougall, Greg Rehrig Michelle Robinson, Jon Selover

## JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING 1987- 88 SEASON

We've completed our selections for the new season and hope you will join us for a rich and varied repertoire which will include a tense modern work of realism, a sophisticated and witty comedy, Shakespeare's most enigmatic and perhaps most beautiful work, a famous and pertinent experiment in American expressionism, a sparkling evening of dance, and one of the world's favorite musicals.

SJSU will open its 87/88 theatre season with When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder? Written by Mark Medoff (Children of a Lesser God), Red Ryder was the winner of the Obie Award and the Outer Critics Circle award for best play. It's a typical Sunday morning somewhere in New Mexico when Teddy, a drug smuggler, arrives, and violently changes forever the lives of five people trapped in an all-night diner.

The second production will be British playwright Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, Bedroom Farce, a wickedly funny play about the blithe inconsideration of suffering married couples who inflict their miseries upon three other unfortunate couples. While the innuendos of Bedroom Farce are highly sexual, the action consists primarily of animated verbal exchanges and comic business and pratfalls. If you enjoy improbable situations and madcap humor, Bedroom Farce is guaranteed to tickle your funny bone.

With the advent of winter, we will present a play uniquely appropriate to that season, Shakespeare's A Winter's Tale. One of the last of his plays, it is considered by many the culmination of his genius. A Winter's Tale focuses on the monumental madness of Leontes, King of Sicilia, who in a jealous rage accuses his Queen of infidelity, condemns her unjustly and has their child spirited off to be killed. Too late, he realizes his mistake and is left with the bitter sorrow of what he has done. Twenty years pass and his child, who survived, has grown to the full bloom of womanhood and has attracted the undivided attention of the son of the King of Bohemia. The King forbids their love and causes them to flee to Sicilia, where their destiny awaits.

The Adding Machine by Elmer Rice will open the Spring season. This masterpiece of American expressionism evokes a ghastly vision of mechanized, computerized civilization, stocked with shabby, commonplace little creatures. Mr. Zero is a nonentity. A clerk adding up figures for twenty-five years, he is to be replaced by an adding machine. Desperate, he kills the Boss, and is tried and executed! After his death, Zero arrives at the Elysian Fields, an idyllic country, unbounded by the prison of human conventions, but Zero has no use for unlimited freedom. A celestial repair shop for worn-out souls is more to his liking. There he is permitted to work on an adding machine for what he hopes to be eternity. But no! Allured by an illusory blond named Hope he is escorted... of course to continue would give away the ending to this internationally famous, and consistently interesting outline of the life history, and later, the death history of Mr. Zero, a cog in the vast machine of modern business.

Dance Theatre '88 is an exuberant potpourri of jazz, tap, ballet, modern, ethnic and street dance. This collaboration of student, faculty, and guest choreographers and dancers is a treat for the entire family. You won't want to miss this imaginative showcase of dance talent.

In the final production of the 87/88 season, legends spring to life in Lerner and Lowe's delightful musical, Camelot. This enchanting story has a special appeal for audiences of all ages. Witness the wondrous rise and tragic fall of the dream that was Camelot through the story of the great love triangle between Arthur the King, his Queen Guenevere, and his best friend, Lancelot. Enjoy the incomparable lyrics and melodies of Lerner and Lowe. Bring the whole family and enjoy the tale of the once and future king in Camelot!

Don't let it be forgot

That once there was a spot

For one brief shining moment that was known

As Camelot. . .

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DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE!  
LAST YEARS'S SAME GREAT PRICE!