

Steven Brown

A Midsummer Night's Dream

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a romantic comedy Shakespeare play. It follows Helena, Lysander, Demetrius and Hermia, four young Athenians, who are all in love with each other. The play starts with Hermia's father stating to Theseus, a lord of Athens that she is to marry Demetrius, despite Hermia loving Lysander. We then soon find out that Helena loves Demetrius, but the love isn't mutual. Hermia and Lysander plan to leave Athens so that they can be married and be with each other, through Helena's love for Demetrius she tells him that Hermia is planning on leaving, resulting in Demetrius going to find Hermia and Lysander and stop them and marry Hermia. Parallel to the story, Oberon a powerful king of the fairies along with Puck, a mischievous Sprite, have a little bit of fun with the fairy queen Titania, with a love potion. During the play Oberon hears Helena declaring her love for Demetrius, and he sees that Demetrius doesn't love her. Oberon decides to make Demetrius fall in love with Helena, with the same love potion, with the help of Puck. The mischievous Puck unfortunately makes a mistake and places the potion upon Lysander who wakes up and sees Helena and immediately falls in love with her, and at the same time Demetrius, who is under the love potion, falls in love with Helena as well.

For me, I found Clare Corbett, who played Puck, to be appropriately cast for the role of Puck. She brought to life the classic Puck in a humorous manner. Whenever Clare entered the stage as Puck, the audience found her to be an excellent character. If people within the audience didn't know the story of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Clare's adaptation of Puck made the play easy to understand the characters. I also found Pete Ashmore, who played Lysander, and Kieran Buckeridge, who played Demetrius, to once again be effective characters. When both characters were in love with Helena, Pete and Kieran created a hilarious adaptation of the loved up men. Looking around at the audience, this scene for me stands out as being the scene where the majority of people were laughing. Each cast member had the right role for them. The actors who played the fairies, Jared Ashe, Dominic Brewer, Richard Galazka, Julie Jupp and Christopher Wilkinson, played instruments and sang during some parts of the play. Each time, they were all in sync with each other and they worked perfectly together. Also each character within the play had to be able to dance, which they all performed perfectly.

As the play was performed in The Round Theatre, the play had to adapt to its surroundings. The scenery was a basic set design. It consisted of a crescent moon shaped block that changed according to its scene, for example when the scene was in the forest, the scenery would change to look like shapes found in a forest. I found this to be very effective and creative.

As a Shakespeare fan myself, this adaptation was excellent as it kept the archaic lexis of Shakespeare to keep the authentic feel to the well known play. I would and have already suggested this play to friends and family as it was excellently performed and kept a heart warming feel throughout. The play not only appeals to

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Shakespeare fans, but to all demographics, as the play is full of humour that all ages will understand and find amusing. An excellent piece of theatre!