

A charming, perhaps magical, 'Eve'

If magical fairies really did hold the love lives of men in the palms of their hands, one could find himself falling for an ass.

It happens in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", a season when anything can happen due to the grand festival of witches and fairies.

The play consists of three love affairs between Lysander (Jeff Eaton) and Hermia (Nancy Stillions), Demetrius (Earl Halbe) and Helena (Theresa Holsapple) and Titania, queen of the fairies (Katie Sullivan) and Nick Bottom who's head is magically transformed into an ass's (Randy Arney).

Needless to say, the conniving fairies have a heyday turning the Athens area into a suburban Peyton Place.

The Theatre Department did a very convincing job of transporting the audience back to fairyland and the fairies should be thanked for that.

From their bubbly little tee hees and gliding movements across the stage right down to their cute little fairy ears, their presence could be felt, whether one saw them or not. And Patrick Richardson who portrayed Puck, the chief fairy advisor to the king of the fairies, was the embodiment of cunning, playfulness and irresponsibility. His movements were fluid and graceful and one almost expected him at any moment to fly away.

Both Katie Sullivan and Peter Samuel, who

Sandy Pietrzak



portrayed Titania and Oberon respectively, fit the characters perfectly. Lumbering around in exaggerate platform fairy boots, which must have been a feat in itself, they expressed the typical husband-wife personalities of your typical middle-class household, despite their magical powers. And it is a truly romantic sight to see Titania slumber with her lover's ass-head in her lap. Randy Arney, who played Nick Bottom, was excellent in his role as he rather immodestly paraded around the stage, delivering his lines with some humorous gestures.

The singing was fresh and alive, "swifter than the moon's sphere," in fact.

The performances will continue at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. May 1 in the Doudna Fine Arts Center Theatre.

Just be wary of the fairy that may be perched on the back of your seat—he may tweak your ear, emit a faint giggle and change the whole course of your love life.