



*school of fine arts  
eastern illinois university*

CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

217/ 581-3110

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

Shakespeare's shimmering fantasy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with its title's promise of moon-drenched magic, will be presented at the Eastern Illinois University Theatre by the Players beginning April 22, 1977 at 8:00 p.m.

This is the comedy written by Shakespeare after he had achieved his first renown with the royal Histories and with "Romeo and Juliet," but while he was still young and overflowing with the rustic memories of his Stratford boyhood -- the comedy he set in an enchanted wood inhabited by dancing fairies, sweethearts befuddled with love potions and a group of country bumpkins rehearsing a preposterous play.

In effect, his comedy is a picnic, all of a soft summer's night. With wit and incomparably lovely flights of poetry, the Bard interwove in this entertaining trifle four light-hearted stories. One deals with the quarrel of Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the Fairies; a second with the mix-ups of the four "mortals" resulting from mischievous Puck's having given a love potion to the wrong man; a third with the rehearsals of the immortal Bottom and his fellow-clowns of their mock tragedy; and the fourth with the wedding party of the Duke of Athens and his bride.

Randy Arney will be seen as the conceited Bottom, Peter Samuel and Katie Sullivan as Oberon and Titania, Patrick Richardson as the sprightly Puck, the Mr. Fix-It of the fairy world, Theresa Hollsapple, Nancy Stillions, Jeff Eaton and Earl Halbe as Helena, Hermia, Lysander, and Demetrius, the sweethearts discombobulated by a wrong dose of love-juice, Ron Baumgartner and Cindi Switzer as the Duke of Athens and his bride Hippolyta, and Bill Pierson, Gary Shrader, John Hightower, Ben Andrews and Scott Q. Zimmerman as the loutish workmen comically intent on amateur theatricals. Others in the cast of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be Tony Cox, John Eckert, Cindy Federico, Janet Fox, Julia Grant, Nancy Hunt, Barry Johnson, Steve Murvin, Sandy Olney, Anne O'Meara, Marge Rapp, Wendell Sheeley, and Julie Woosley.

The comedy's total mood of lightness and spontaneity is being attended to by Gerald Sullivan as the play's director and Nancy Paule is designing the costumes of the mortal visitors and the fairy dwellers of this woodland idyl, and C.P. Blanchette is providing the background of the moonlit aisles of the enchanted forest and the Duke's palace where the revel ends.

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Tickets for the production become available Monday, April 18, 1977 at the Fine Arts Ticket Office in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Reservations may be made by phoning 581-3110 or tickets can be purchased at the Ticket Office Monday thru Friday between 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50 for Adults, \$1.50 for youth and \$1.00 for E.I.U. Students.

Other performances are scheduled at 8:00 p.m. April 23, 29, and 30 with two matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. April 24 and May 1. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is being presented in conjunction with the Eastern Illinois University School of Fine Arts "Celebration '77: A Festival of the Arts".