



*school of fine arts*  
*eastern illinois university*

CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

April 1, 1977

S P E C I A L   A N N O U N C E M E N T   T O   A R E A  
S P E E C H ,   D R A M A   &   E N G L I S H  
T E A C H E R S

The Eastern Illinois University Department of Theatre Arts is pleased to announce its presentation of William Shakespeare's shimmering fantasy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with its title's promise of moon-drenched magic. The romantic comedy is being presented in conjunction with the School of Fine Arts "Celebration '77: A Festival of the Arts." Performances of "Dream" begin at 8:00 p.m. Friday, April 22, 1977 in the Doudna Fine Arts Center Theatre.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" was written after Shakespeare 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.

A preliminary reading of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in order the better to enjoy the production, makes one wonder what an English teacher would do to a student who turned in a paper written in such sloppy English as is in this sort of famous play. Suppose a student wrote the frequently quoted line, "The course of true love never did run smooth." One can imagine the bold red correction on the paper: "Smoothly! This is an adverb modifying the verb run!" Shakespeare sure(ly) did write bad(ly).

Tickets for this fantastical, elusive, hauntingly intangible

are available at the Fine Arts Ticket Office, open 1 to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday, beginning April 18. Tickets for the production are normally \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students in high school. However, we are offering you a group rate for ten or more students and their escorts for the low ticket price of \$1.00 each. If you wish to order and pay for tickets by mail, please make checks payable to Eastern Illinois University. If, on the other hand, you wish to pay for your tickets on the evening of the performance, we will hold your ticket order until you arrive. There are reserved seats for this production and we suggest you order by mail as early as possible.

Please use the enclosed TICKET ORDER FORM in placing an order.

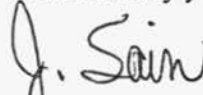
We are grateful for your past patronage and hope your continued support of our offerings provide us the opportunity to stimulate, excite and educate as well as entertain you!

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" opens at 8:00 p.m. Friday, April 22 with other performances at 8:00 p.m. April 23, 29 and 30. Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. are scheduled for April 24 and May 1. May we also suggest you attend the weekend of April 22 thru April 23 and participate in "Celebration '77?"

"Celebration '77: A Festival of the Arts" is a smorgasbord of arts offerings for people with varying interests and tastes in a festive atmosphere. If a celebration needs a cause, what better one than the coming of Spring after the worst winter in history! How better can people celebrate the recurrence of the growing season and new life than to experience the creative and performing arts! Eastern Illinois University is the greatest cultural resource in the region and those people responsible for planning "Celebration '77" have a commitment to share those resources with all of the people of the region. It is the hope of the Festival planners that students, faculty and community people from all walks of life will celebrate the arts together and have a tremendous time in the process.

"Celebration '77" represents an unusual opportunity for all areas of the arts to come together under all their various forms: folk art, popular art, and so called "legitimate" art. From puppet shows to Shakespeare; from square dance to ballet; folk music to symphonic music; folk arts to contemporary arts; film to poetry and apple pie to tacos! Something for everyone! Come! Enjoy! Celebrate!

Sincerely,



J. Sain, Promotion & Management  
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