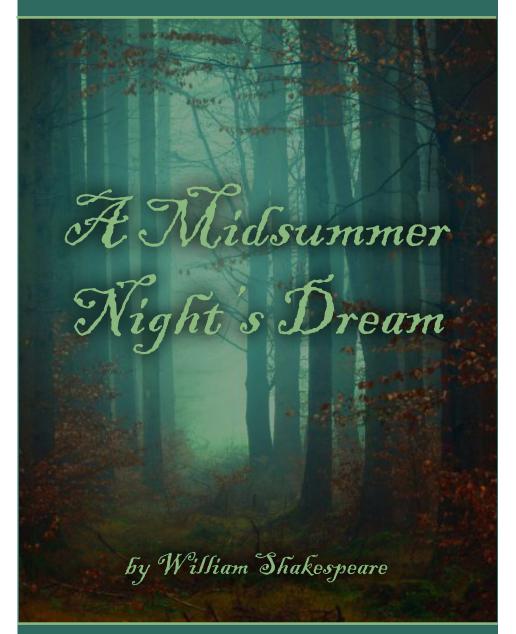
SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR





William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Puck/Theseus/Starveling	Parker Sera
Oberon/Demetrius/Flute	Christopher Prescott Carter
Egeus/Helena/ Snout/Peaseblossom	Charlie Lavaroni
Hermia/Titania/Quince	Yamini Jain
Lysander/Botom/Cobweb	Robert Kittler
Director	Sydney Schwindt
Director	3 3
	Robyn Grahn
Assistant Director/Tour ProductionManager	Robyn Grahn Min Kahng

<u>Alternates</u>: Marjan Safa (alternate to Parker Sera); Alan Coyne (alternate to Christopher Prescott Carter); Bianca Chesnut (alternate to Charlie Lavaroni); Natalie Ayala (alternate to Yamini Jain); Evan Held (Alternate to Robert Kittler)

Synopsis

Lysander loves Hermia, and Hermia loves Lysander. Helena loves Demetrius; Demetrius used to love Helena but now loves Hermia. Egeus, Hermia's father, prefers Demetrius as a suitor, and enlists the aid of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, to enforce his wishes upon his daughter. According to Athenian law, Hermia is given four days to choose between Demetrius, life in a nunnery, or a death sentence. Hermia, ever defiant, chooses to elope with Lysander into the surrounding forest.

Complications arise in the forest. Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of Fairies, are locked in a dispute over a boy whom Titania has adopted. Oberon instructs his servant Puck to bring him a magic love flower, which Oberon will sprinkle on the Queen's eyelids as she sleeps, whereupon Titania will fall in love with the first creature she sees upon awakening. Meanwhile, Helena and Demetrius have also fled into the woods after Lysander and Hermia. Oberon, overhearing Demetrius's denouncement of Helena, takes pity upon her and tells Puck to place the magic flower upon the eyelids of Demetrius as well, so that Demetrius may fall in love with Helena. Puck, however, makes the mistake of putting the love spell on the eyelids of Lysander instead. Helena stumbles over Lysander in the forest, and the spell is cast; Lysander now desires Helena and renounces a stunned Hermia.

In the midst of this chaos, a group of craftsmen are rehearsing for a production of "Pyramus and Thisbe," to be played for the Duke at his wedding. Puck impishly casts a spell on Bottom to give him the head of a donkey. Bottom, as luck would have it, is the first thing Titania sees when she awakens; hence, Bottom ends up being lavishly kept by the Queen. Oberon enjoys this sport, but is less amused when it becomes apparent that Puck has botched up the attempt to unite Demetrius and Helena. Oberon himself anoints Demetrius with the love potion and ensures that Helena is the first person he sees; however, Helena understandably feels that she is now being mocked by both Demetrius and Lysander (who are both magically enamored of her).

Finally, Oberon decides that all good sports must come to an end. He puts the four lovers to sleep and gives Lysander the antidote for the love potion so that he will love Hermia again when they all wake up. Next, Oberon gives Titania the antidote, and the King and Queen reconcile. Theseus then discovers Lysander, Hermia, Helena, and Demetrius asleep in the forest. All return to Athens to make sense of what they think is a strange dream. Likewise, Bottom returns to his players, and they perform "Pyramus and Thisbe" at the wedding feast (which has since become a wedding of three couples). As everyone retires, fairies perform their blessings and Puck delivers a tender epilogue soliloquy.

Gast



Parker Sera - Puck/Theseus/Starveling (she/they) is an actor, poet, and teaching artist who is most often based in Philadelphia. She is proud to be making her West Coast debut as Puck/Theseus/Starveling. Most recently, she appeared in Theatre at Monmouth's *As You Like It, Blithe Spirit* at The Walnut Street Theatre, and Circle Mirror Transformation at New Jersey's Eagle Theatre. Parker received her MFA in acting from Temple University, where she also teaches. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre from the Santa Fe University of Art & Design. When she isn't acting, Parker works as a teaching artist for Philadelphia's Lantern Theatre Co. and leads trauma-informed arts workshops with international nonprofit BuildABridge. parkersera.com



Christopher Prescott Carter - Oberon/Demetrius/Flute (he/him) has been acting in the bay area theatre scene for twenty-four years. During that time, he has had the pleasure to work with companies like Theatreworks, Tabia Theatre, Renegade Theatre, Bus Barn Stage Company, We Players, Standford Rep, Northside Theatre, Cedar Fairs, American Immersion Theater, and many others. He won the Hal Todd Award for Excellence in Acting, as well as the Theatre Bay Area Award for Best Ensemble.



Charlie Lavaroni - Egeus/Helena/Snout/Peaseblossom (gender inclusive) is a bi-coastal actor and teaching artist. They have proudly worked with: SF Shakespeare Festival, Livermore Shakespeare Festival, Catalyst Theatre, Big Idea Theatre, Davis Shakespeare Festival, SFBATCO, and Shakespeare & Co. Some of his favorite recent credits include: Clown- over 14 different characters! (*The 39 Steps*); Nell Gwyn (*Charlie and Nell*); Hades (*Shining*); Burgundy/others (*King Lear*); and Touchstone (*As You Like It*). They have trained at Shakes and Co's prestigious month-long intensive and are a Resident Artist at HamletIsntDead in NYC. charlielavaroni.com



Yamini Jain - Hermia/Titania/Quince (she/her) is an actor based in the Bay Area and this is her first professional production. During high school, she performed in many plays and musicals which sparked her love for acting. This passion made her move from her hometown Dubai to America, where she is pursuing it alongside a degree in Psychology. Coincidentally, her first experience of Shakespeare was at a local performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. She hopes to recreate and share the joy of Shakespeare with everyone. She is playing Hermia, Titania, and Quince in this production by the SF Shakespeare Festival.



Robert Kittler - Lysander/Bottom/Cobweb (he/him) is thrilled to be a part of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. His love for this material began at age 11 when his parents enrolled him in Shakespeare Camp at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC. Since then, Robert has studied acting at Studio Acting Conservatory in DC, American Conservatory Theatre in SF, and the Scott Freeman Studio in NYC. Robert has worked with Theatre Rhinoceros, the Playwrights' Center of San Francisco, Boxcar Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre Center, and California Shakespeare Theatre.



Cast Asternates



Marjan Safa - Puck/Theseus/Starveling (she/her) is a San Francisco based actor and is delighted to be making her debut with SF Shakes. She was last seen in Monday nights Playground as Alison Lennox in *A Peace of Stone* and as Betty 5 in *Collective Rage* at the Pear Theatre in Mountain View. She has previously worked with Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Altarena Playhouse, TheatreFirst, Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco Playhouse, Palo Alto Players, San Francisco Playwights' Center and Multi-Ethnic Theatre. She is a graduate of the American Conservatory Theatre (A.C.T.) Summer Training Congress, and has trained extensively at both ACT and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Currently she is in ongoing classes with Richard Seyd at the Seydways Acting Studios. She likes to read, bake, walk and dip her toes in water in her spare time. Visit her webpage at marjansafa.com



Alan Coyne - Oberon/Demetrius/Flute (he/him) is probably on his fourth Tour with SF Shakes, though they say if you can remember Tour, you weren't really there. With Free Shakes, he has played Bolt in *Pericles* and Don John in last year's *Much Ado About Nothing*. He has also acted with Central Works (*The Victorian Ladies' Detective Collective, Escape from the Asylum*), Custom Made (*The Braggart Soldier, Chess, Cloud 9*), Ferocious Lotus (*Evolution*), Golden Thread (*Autobiography of a Terrorist*), and Lafayette Town Hall Theatre. Catch him (if you can) in Golden Gate Park this April/May in We Players' *Adventures with Alice*.



Bianca Chesnut - Egeus/Helena/Snout/Peaseblossom (she her) is so grateful to be a part of the SF Shakespeare Festival's Shakespeare on Tour Company! She is a recent graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, receiving her degrees in Drama and Classical Acting. Some of her recent credits include Juliet/Sampson in *Romeo & Juliet* and Olivia in *Twelfth Night* with the Blue Ridge Young Actors Guild and Franny Glass in a student film adaptation of J.D. Salinger's *Franny & Zooey*. You can find more of Bianca's work at biancachesnut.com



Natalie Ayala - Hermia/Titania/Quince (she/her) is ecstatic to be back as teaching artist and tour actress with SF Shakes after playing Luciana and Duke in *The Comedy of Errors*, as well as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* in Shakespeare on Tour productions. She is excited to finally perform in her "dream" show *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Hermia, Titania, and Quince! She was most recently seen in Plethos Productions as Yolanda in *In The Heights*. Other performances include *Memoria del Silencio* (Elia) SF Shakes' *Hamlet* (Voltemand/Player/Sailor), *Sweet Charity* (Hostess), and *All In The Timing* (Kafka). At San Francisco State University her credits include *Shakespeare Goes To School Cabaret* and *Trifles* (Mrs. Peters). When not acting, she is teaching drama and directing shows at many schools.



Evan Held - Lysander/Bottom/Cobweb (he/him) has been an actor and teaching artist in the Bay Area since his 2018 Educational Tour of *The Comedy of Errors* with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. He's been acting up and down the Bay Area, and is currently co-leading educational programming at San Francisco Shakespeare. He's ecstatic for the Tour to make its reemergence, and delighted to take part in spreading the joy of Shakespeare across California.

Greative Team



Sydney Schwindt - Director (she/her) is a Resident Teaching Artist with SF Shakes as well as is an actor, fight director, teaching artist, and visual artist. She joined the SF Shakes family in 2015 playing Rosalind in the tour of *As You Like It*. Favorite acting credits include: Laertes *Hamlet*, SF Shakes; Sally Ride *She Persisted the Musical*: Bay Area Children's Theatre; Helena *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Benvolio *Romeo and Juliet*, Helena Landless *Mystery of Edwin Drood* Davis Shakespeare Festival; Cassandra *Jihad Jones & the Kalashnikov Babes* Arabian Shakespeare Festival; Hartford Stage, Berkeley Rep, Mirage Entertainment, The Hampton Theatre Company. Education: BFA Hartt School of Music, Dance, and Theatre, Accademia dell'Arte, Society of American Fight Directors, DAI, SF Clown Conservatory. sydney-schwindt.com



Robyn Grahn - Production Manager (she/her), a Resident Artist with San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, is very excited to return to working with Shakespeare on Tour! She has also worked with Playground SF, Livermore Shakespeare, Shotz-Amios West, Marin Shakespeare, 6NewPlays, SF Olympians, and Ross Valley Players. Favorite roles include Viola from *Twelfth Night*, Emilie from *Emilie*, and Louka from *Arms and the Man*. She is an avid environmentalist & artist, doula & momma, and always looking for new opportunities.

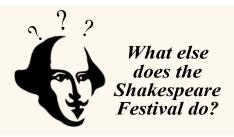


Min Kahng - Composer (he/him) is an award-winning playwright, composer, lyricist and creative coach whose works include The Adventures of Honey & Leon, The Four Immigrants: An American Musical Manga (Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award, Theatre Bay Area Award, Edgerton New Play Award, NAMT Production Grant), GOLD: The Midas Musical (Theatre Bay Area Award), Iris Lee's Audio Odyssey (published by Playscripts), Inside Out & Back Again, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon: A Musical Adaptation, Bad Kitty On Stage!, The Song of the Nightingale and Tales of Olympus. Kahng also wrote the NEA-funded project Story Explorers, an original musical for young audiences with autism. Kahng is an alumnus of MacDowell, Playwrights Foundation Resident Initiative, Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, Djerassi, Willapa Bay AiR, and the TheatreWorks New Works Festival. He has been invited as a Guest Lecturer/Artist at Harvard University, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, San Jose State University and The San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Kahng is a Jonathan Larson Grant Finalist, a Richard Rodgers Award Finalist, and a Dramatists Guild committee member. minkahng.com



Lee Garber-Patel - Costume Designer (they/them) has worked on several productions in a variety of capacities, from backstage to onstage. In their first year as a production intern with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, they focused on the costumes and wardrobe department. They are currently at UC Berkeley, working towards a B.A. in Media Studies, with a double minor in Theatre and Ethnic Studies.





FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Now in its 41st season, our signature <u>Free Shakespeare in the Park</u> program has helped to make the words and themes of Shakespeare accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status, or level of education. Every summer we bring a new production to outdoor venues across the San Francisco Bay Area and invite the community to join us in the park – no reservations, tickets, or prior Shakespeare experience required!

This summer we present *Cymbeline*, Shakespeare's epic romantic adventure. It features a dazzling mix of comedy, tragedy, and fairy tale that concludes with inventive scenes of revelation and joyous reconciliation

In this tale King Cymbeline of Britain has banished Posthumus who has secretly married his daughter, Princess Imogen. A series of unimaginable misadventures ensue that test the strength of their commitment to each other.

In 2023 Free Shakespear in the Park will visit the following locations:

Cupertino's Memorial Park,

July 22-August 6 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 6pm

Redwood City's Red Morton Park

August 12-27 on Saturdays and Sundays at 6pm

San Francisco's McLaren Park

September 2-10 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday at 2pm



Free Shakespeare in the Park's 2019 production of As You Like It

BAY AREA SHAKESPEARE CAMP



For over 30 years San Francisco Shakespeare Festival has been offering **Shakespeare Camps** for kids of all experience levels, ages 7 to 18. Camp sessions range from 2 to 4 weeks and are held in venues across the Bay Area, typically on weekdays during summer break, with a few weekend and spring and fall options as well.

Our teaching artists are working actors, stage managers, directors, and designers. In each session campers engage with each other in activities ranging from games and basic acting skills to more specialized training and deeper exploration of the themes and language of Shakespeare, culminating in a live performance attended by family and friends

SATURDAY UPSTART CROWS



<u>Saturday Upstart Crows</u> is a physically and mentally engaging Shakespeare experience where students age 11-18 deepen their skills and knowledge through a comprehensive rehearsal process that explores language, history, voice, movement, text analysis, and play. This Spring's class meets Saturdays, Mar 18-May 6, from 1-5 pm at the Phoenix Theater, San Francisco. It will include a particular focus on themes of Politics, Rhetoric, and Zero-Sum thinking as investigated in *Julius Caesar*.

IN-SCHOOL SESSIONS



We also provide <u>in-school sessions</u> to help educators in the classroom. Let our expert teaching artists activate your students' creativity, connection, and confidence. Building upon the foundation of your classroom, we facilitate the artistic and personal growth of each student while transforming the group into a fun, engaging, interactive ensemble, using curriculum that is specifically tailored to learning objectives and adapts to students. Our Education program brings over 30 years of educational and theatrical expertise to students for an immersive experience that they will never forget!

Most of our programs can be taught in-person or virtually.

Pricing or education questions? Contact education@sfshakes.org

SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR



For 34 years our <u>Shakespeare on Tour</u> program has traveled across California to bring a one-hour version of a Shakespeare play to thousands of students. Our touring troupe brings sets, props, costumes, and music to enliven their active and engaging performance. The tour visits more schools and libraries than any other theater group in the state.

SHAKESPEARE'S HEARTBEAT



Shakespeare's Heartbeat uses the Hunter Heartbeat Method developed by Kelly Hunter of Flute Theatre, utilizing the iambic pentameter (heartbeat rhythm) of Shakespeare's words and the physicality of his characters to engage with students on the autism spectrum. It is also effective across a constellation of abilities. Geared towards grades 4-12, this program's interactive games and gestures are paired with short phrases from Shakespeare's works to improve social skills and help with identifying and expressing emotions.

SHAKESPEARE FOR ALL NEIGHBORS



Shakespeare for All Neighbors (S4AN) is a pilot storytelling workshop series taking place in San Francisco's Tenderloin. This ongoing program meets Friday afternoons. Neighbors experiencing homelessness in the Tenderloin engage with workshops in Shakespeare and Storytelling. Festival teaching artists lead group exercises in creative thinking, acting, improv, and storytelling.

For more information about these exciting programs and others, please visit <u>sfshakes.org</u> or call us at 415-558-0888.

We'd love to hear from you!



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