



A MIDSOMMER Nights Dreame.

To-Do

Group Auditions - Tuesday, Jan. 20th (3:30-7:15) and Wednesday, Jan. 21st (3:30-5:15pm)
Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C48AFA928AAFB6-61123849-midsummer>

- *Sign up for one 45-minute timeslot. These will be group auditions and you will be asked to read multiple selections with a variety of partners. No memorization required!*

Monologue Callbacks - Tuesday, Jan. 27th 3:30pm
Callback list and materials will be sent on Jan. 21. (No memorization required).

1. Sign up for an audition slot:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C48AFA928AAFB6-61123849-midsummer>
2. Familiarize yourself with the audition selections and the show in general - read it, watch a film or stage version, find a synopsis - whatever gives you a sense of the world of the play and its characters.
3. Fill out a printed audition form ****OR**** complete the digital Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/bW6TohiTWAp2f7cP9>
4. Attend your audition & break a leg!

Welcome

We are so excited to bring William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the WHS stage this spring! This is going to be a large undertaking - Shakespeare usually is - hence why we are auditioning so early. We intend to get scripts out 6 weeks before rehearsals start, so we can focus on character development and comedic timing during our rehearsal period instead of learning lines.

Shakespeare's most popular comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, breathes new life with joy, magic, and love in our spring show! Bailey has spent many hours cutting down a 3-hour play into a tight 90-minutes that the audience will enjoy.

In this show, a feuding fairy King and Queen cross paths with four runaway lovers and a troupe of actors trying to rehearse a play. Chaos ensues. The magical royal couple meddles, leading to love triangles, mistaken identities and transformations.

Important Dates

Jan. 20-21 Auditions

Jan. 27 Callbacks

Jan. 29 - Cast List Announced

**Select roles may be offered by phone before the cast list is announced*

Feb. 2 Script Pickup & Read-Thru 3:30pm

We will be in the auditorium to hand out scripts. Stay for a read-thru if you're able!

You will have six weeks to focus solely on learning your lines! We will help you interpret the meaning behind the words once rehearsals start.

March 16 - Rehearsals begin!

Rehearsals will be Monday-Thursdays from 3:30-6pm. Not all cast members will be called to every rehearsal.

April 27-May 5 - Tech Week

May 6 - Parent Preview & Senior Night 7pm

Performances:

May 6-8 TBD Daytime Matinee

Thurs. May 7 at 7pm

Fri. May 8 at 7pm

Sat. May 9 at 2pm & 7pm

Sun. May 10 at 2pm

Character Breakdown

You are welcome to audition for any role in the production! Listed pronouns were assigned by Shakespeare, but are not necessarily the expected gender expression. Some roles may double, depending on cast size and availability.

(*) indicates a role that may require *some* physical intimacy during performances. All intimacy is flexible and will be executed within the comfort levels of both consenting actors.

The Courtiers

THESEUS*

Duke of Athens, engaged to Hippolyta. To reward himself for victory over the Amazons, he will marry Hippolyta, whether she likes it or not. Brash, but kind.

HIPPOLYTA*

Queen of the Amazons, engaged to Theseus. Warm and confident leader.

EGEUS

Hermia's father, a courtier at Theseus' court. Hermia will marry his choice of man - Demetrius. Haughty and used to getting his way.

HERMIA*

Egeus' daughter and Helena's best friend. Hermia is in love with Lysander, but both Lysander and Demetrius want to marry her. Very strong-willed, independent, and loyal.

LYSANDER*

In love with Hermia. A young nobleman of Athens, he is a lover of love who doesn't mind breaking the rules to get what he wants.

DEMETRIUS*

Also in love with Hermia; formerly in love with Helena. A fellow Athenian nobleman, he is proud and headstrong, thinking he deserves more than he has.

HELENA*

In love with Demetrius; Hermia's best friend. Would do anything for love; determined and clever; sometimes jealous and self-pitying.

PHILOSTRATE

Master of Revels to the court; Theseus' party planner, judgmental but dutiful.

The Mechanicals (Villagers/Acting Troupe)

NICK BOTTOM (Pyramus)*

A weaver with aspirations to be a star; bombastic with an overblown sense of importance. Kind and well-loved by his friends. Has a tryst with Titania, Queen of the Fairies.

PETER QUINCE (Prologue)

A carpenter with the soul of an artist. Long-suffering but patient and gets things done. He is organizing his fellow troupe to perform a play for Theseus & Hippolyta's wedding.

FRANCIS FLUTE (Thisbe)

A bellows-mender forced to play a character in Quince's play that he's uncomfortable with; in the end, turns out to be a surprisingly good actor. Speaks in falsetto much of the play.

TOM SNOOT (Wall)

A tinker who wants everything to be perfect; anxious and meddlesome.

SNUG (Lion)

A joiner with trouble memorizing lines; nervous and charming.

ROBIN STARVELING (Moonshine)

A tailor who is often distracted and forgetful; a dreamer.

The Fairies

OBERON*

King of the Fairies, quarreling with his wife Titania, his sometimes paramour. Their fight throws the natural world into chaos. Vengeful, proud, craft, and powerful, but not without compassion.

TITANIA*

Queen of the Fairies, quarreling with Oberon, her sometimes paramour. Has a tryst with Nick Bottom; Doesn't back down from a fight. Haughty, dismissive, and powerful, yet loyal.

PUCK

Oberon's jester; an amoral prankster, leader of the fairies, and a lover of practical jokes. Also known as Robin Goodfellow, he is funny, rude, silly, and a little bit mean.

FAIRIES (Mustardseed, Peasblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Unnamed & Others)

4-8 players who portray the spirits of the natural world; on stage throughout the play.



A
MIDSOMMER
Nights Dreame.

Name:

Grade:

Email:

Phone:

Height:

T-shirt size:

Parent Name, Email & Ph# (required):

What roles are you most interested in?

(*new to theatre only*) List any prior theatre or Shakespeare experience:

Are you comfortable with physical intimacy on stage?

Yes No Maybe

Are you willing to play a different gender?

Yes No Maybe

Will you accept a role in the fairy company (includes Puck)?

(Be honest - makeup could possibly involve glitter)

Yes No Maybe

Are you going to prom? (Saturday, May 2)

Yes No Maybe

Do you play an instrument and/or be open to playing or singing in the show?

Instrument: _____

Yes No Maybe

Do you have any special talents?

Any health/wellness accommodations that we can do to set you up for success? Or anything we should know about you?

Please list any known conflicts March 16-May 10:

SIDE #1: BOTTOM & QUINCE

QUINCE

Is all our company here?

BOTTOM

You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip.

QUINCE

Here is the scroll of every man's name, which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our interlude before the duke and the duchess, on his wedding-day at night.

BOTTOM

First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on, then read the names of the actors, and so grow to a point.

QUINCE

Marry, our play is, The most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisby.

BOTTOM

A very good piece of work, I assure you, and a merry. Now, good Peter Quince, call forth your actors by the scroll. Masters, spread yourselves.

QUINCE

Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver.

BOTTOM

Ready. Name what part I am for, and proceed.

QUINCE

You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

BOTTOM

What is Pyramus? a lover, or a tyrant?

QUINCE

A lover, that kills himself most gallant for love.

SIDE #2: DEMETRIUS & HELENA

DEMETRIUS

I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.
Where is Lysander and fair Hermia
Thou told'st me they were stolen unto this wood;
And here am I, and wood within this wood,
Because I cannot meet my Hermia.
Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

HELENA

You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant;
But yet you draw not iron, for my heart
Is true as steel: leave you your power to draw, And
I shall have no power to follow you.

DEMETRIUS

Do I entice you? Do I speak you fair?
Or, rather, do I not in plainest truth
Tell you, I do not, nor I cannot love you?

HELENA

And even for that do I love you the more.
I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius,
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you:
Use me but as your spaniel, spurn me, strike me,
Neglect me, lose me; only give me leave,
Unworthy as I am, to follow you.

DEMETRIUS

Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit;
For I am sick when I do look on thee.

HELENA

And I am sick when I look not on you.

DEMETRIUS

You do impeach your modesty too much,
To leave the city and commit yourself
Into the hands of one that loves you not;
To trust the opportunity of night
And the ill counsel of a desert place
With the rich worth of your virginity.

HELENA

Your virtue is my privilege: for that
It is not night when I do see your face,
Therefore I think I am not in the night;
Nor doth this wood lack worlds of company, For
you in my respect are all the world:
Then how can it be said I am alone,
When all the world is here to look on me?

DEMETRIUS

I'll run from thee and hide me in the brakes,
And leave thee to the mercy of wild beasts.

HELENA

The wildest hath not such a heart as you.

DEMETRIUS

I will not stay thy questions; let me go:
Or, if thou follow me, do not believe
But I shall do thee mischief in the wood.

HELENA

Ay, in the temple, in the town, the field,
You do me mischief. Fie, Demetrius!
Your wrongs do set a scandal on our sex:
We cannot fight for love, as men may do;
We should be wooed and were not made to woo

Exit DEMETRIUS

I'll follow thee and make a heaven of hell,
To die upon the hand I love so well.

SIDE #3: LYSANDER & HERMIA

LYSANDER

Fair love, you faint with wandering in the wood;
And to speak troth, I have forgot our way:
We'll rest us, Hermia, if you think it good,
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

HERMIA

Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed;
For I upon this bank will rest my head.

LYSANDER

One turf shall serve as pillow for us both;
One heart, one bed, two bosoms and one troth.

HERMIA

Nay, good Lysander; for my sake, my dear,
Lie further off yet, do not lie so near.

LYSANDER

O, take the sense, sweet, of my innocence!
Love takes the meaning in love's conference.
I mean, that my heart unto yours is knit
So that but one heart we can make of it;
Two bosoms interchained with an oath;
So then two bosoms and a single troth.
Then by your side no bed-room me deny;
For lying so, Hermia, I do not lie.

HERMIA

Lysander riddles very prettily:
Now much beshrew my manners and my pride, If
Hermia meant to say Lysander lied.
But, gentle friend, for love and courtesy

Lie further off; in human modesty,
Such separation as may well be said
Becomes two virtuous bachelors in the woods. So
far be distant; and, good night, sweet friend: Thy
love ne'er alter till thy sweet life end!

LYSANDER

Amen, amen, to that fair prayer, say I;
And then end life when I end loyalty!
Here is my bed: sleep give thee all his rest!

HERMIA

With half that wish the wisher's eyes be press'd!

SIDE #4: HELENA, HERMIA, LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS

HELENA

O spite! O hell! I see you all are bent
To set against me for your merriment:
If you were civil and knew courtesy,
You would not do me thus much injury.
Can you not hate me, as I know you do,
But you must join in souls to mock me too?
You both are rivals, and love Hermia;
And now both rivals, to mock Helena:
A trim exploit, a manly enterprise,
To conjure tears up in a poor maid's eyes!

LYSANDER

You are unkind, Demetrius; be not so;
For you love Hermia; this you know I know: And
here, with all good will, with all my heart, In
Hermia's love I yield you up my part;
And yours of Helena to me bequeath,
Whom I do love and will do till my death.

HELENA

Never did mockers waste more idle breath.

DEMETRIUS

Lysander, keep thy Hermia; I will none:
If e'er I loved her, all that love is gone.
My heart to her but as guest-wise sojourn'd,
And now to Helen is it home return'd,
There to remain.

LYSANDER

Helen, it is not so.

DEMETRIUS

Disparage not the faith thou dost not know,
Lest, to thy peril, thou aby it dear.
Look, where thy love comes; yonder is thy dear.

Re-enter HERMIA

HERMIA

Lysander, found!
Mine ear, I thank it, brought me to thy sound But
why unkindly didst thou leave me so?

LYSANDER

Why should he stay, whom love doth press to go?

HERMIA

What love could press Lysander from my side?

LYSANDER

Lysander's love, that would not let him bide,
Why seek'st thou me? could not this make thee know, The
hate I bear thee made me leave thee so?

HERMIA

You speak not as you think: it cannot be.

HELENA

Lo, she is one of this confederacy!
Now I perceive they have conjoin'd all three
To fashion this false sport, in spite of me.
Injurious Hermia! most ungrateful maid!
Is all the counsel that we two have shared,
The sisters' vows, the hours that we have spent,
When we have chid the hasty-footed time
For parting us,--O, is it all forgot?
All school-days' friendship, childhood innocence?
We with two seeming bodies, but one heart;

And will you rent our ancient love asunder,
To join with men in scorning your poor friend? It is
not friendly, 'tis not maidenly:
And I alone do feel the injury.

HERMIA

I am amazed at your passionate words.
I scorn you not: it seems that you scorn me.

HELENA

Have you not set Lysander, as in scorn,
To follow me and praise my eyes and face?
And made your other love, Demetrius,
Who even but now did spurn me with his foot, To
call me goddess, nymph, divine and rare, Precious,
celestial? Wherefore speaks he this
To her he hates?

HERMIA

I understand not what you mean by this.

HELENA

Ay, do, persevere, counterfeit sad looks,
Make mouths upon me when I turn my back;
Wink each at other; hold the sweet jest up:
If you have any pity, grace, or manners,
You would not make me such an argument.
But fare ye well: 'tis partly my own fault;
Which death or absence soon shall remedy.

LYSANDER

Stay, gentle Helena; hear my excuse:
My love, my life my soul, fair Helena!

HELENA

O excellent!

HERMIA

Sweet, do not scorn her so.

DEMETRIUS

If she cannot entreat, I can compel.

LYSANDER

Thou canst compel no more than she entreat:
Helen, I love thee; by my life, I do!

DEMETRIUS

I say I love thee more than he can do.

LYSANDER

If thou say so, withdraw, and prove it too.

DEMETRIUS

Quick, come!

HERMIA

Lysander, whereto tends all this?

LYSANDER

Hang off, thou cat, thou burr! vile thing, let loose, Or
I will shake thee from me like a serpent!

HERMIA

Why are you grown so rude? what change is this?
Sweet love,--

LYSANDER

Out, loathed medicine! hated potion, hence!

HERMIA

Do you not jest?

HELENA

Yes, sooth; and so do you.

LYSANDER

Demetrius, I will keep my word with thee.

DEMETRIUS

I would I had your bond, for I perceive

A weak bond holds you: I'll not trust your word.

LYSANDER

What, should I hurt her, strike her, kill her dead?

Although I hate her, I'll not harm her so.

HERMIA

What, can you do me greater harm than hate? Hate
me! wherefore? O me! what news, my love! Am not
I Hermia? Are not you Lysander?

In earnest, shall I say?

LYSANDER

Ay, by my life;

And never did desire to see thee more.

Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest

That I do hate thee and love Helena.

HERMIA

O me! you juggler! you canker-blossom!

You thief of love! what, have you come by night

And stolen my love's heart from him?

HELENA

Fine, i'faith!

Have you no modesty, no maiden shame,
No touch of bashfulness? What, will you tear
Impatient answers from my gentle tongue?
Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

HERMIA

Puppet? why so? ay, that way goes the game. Now
I perceive that she hath made compare
Between our statures; she hath urged her height;
And with her personage, her tall personage,
Her height, forsooth, she hath prevail'd with him.
And are you grown so high in his esteem;
Because I am so dwarfish and so low?
How low am I, thou painted maypole? speak; How
low am I? I am not yet so low
But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

SIDE #5: THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS, HERMIA, LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS

EGEUS

Happy be Theseus, our renowned duke!

THESEUS

Thanks, good Egeus: what's the news with thee?

EGEUS

Full of vexation come I, with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.
Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord,
This man hath my consent to marry her.
Stand forth, Lysander: and my gracious duke,
This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child;
Thou, thou, Lysander, thou hast given her rhymes,
And interchanged love-tokens with my child:
And stolen the impression of her fantasy.
With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughter's heart,
Turn'd her obedience, which is due to me,
To stubborn harshness: and, my gracious duke, Be
it so she; will not here before your grace Consent
to marry with Demetrius,
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,
As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death, according to our law.

HIPPOLYTA

What say you, Hermia?

THESEUS

Be advised fair maid:
To you your father should be as a god;
Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

HERMIA

So is Lysander.

HIPPOLYTA

In himself he is;

THESEUS

But in this kind, wanting your father's voice,
The other must be held the worthier.

HERMIA

I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

THESEUS

Rather your eyes must with his judgment look.

HERMIA

I do entreat your grace to pardon me.

I know not by what power I am made bold,

Nor how it may concern my modesty,

In such a presence here to plead my thoughts;

But I beseech your grace that I may know

The worst that may befall me in this case,

If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

THESEUS

Either to die the death or to abjure

For ever the society of men.

Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires; Know
of your youth, examine well your blood, Whether, if
you yield not to your father's choice, You can endure
the livery of a nun,

Chanting faint hymns to the cold fruitless moon.

HIPPOLYTA

Take time to pause; and, by the next new moon--

THESEUS

Upon that day either prepare to die
For disobedience to your father's will,
Or else to wed Demetrius, as he would;
Or on Diana's altar to protest
For aye austerity and single life.

DEMETRIUS

Relent, sweet Hermia: and, Lysander, yield
Thy crazed title to my certain right.

LYSANDER

You have her father's love, Demetrius;
Let me have Hermia's: do you marry him.

EGEUS

Scornful Lysander! true, he hath my love,
And what is mine my love shall render him.
And she is mine, and all my right of her
I do estate unto Demetrius.

LYSANDER

I am, my lord, as well derived as he,
As well possess'd; my love is more than his; And,
which is more than all these boasts can be, I am
beloved of beauteous Hermia:
Why should not I then prosecute my right?
Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head,
Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,
And won her soul; and she, sweet lady, dotes,
Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,
Upon this spotted and inconstant man.

THESEUS

I must confess that I have heard so much,
And with Demetrius thought to have spoke thereof;
But, being over-full of self-affairs,
My mind did lose it. But, Demetrius, come;
And come, Egeus; you shall go with me,
I have some private schooling for you both.
For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself To
fit your fancies to your father's will;
Come, my Hippolyta: what cheer, my love?

Exeunt all but LYSANDER and HERMIA

LYSANDER

How now, my love! why is your cheek so pale?
How chance the roses there do fade so fast?

HERMIA

Belike for want of rain, which I could well
Beteem them from the tempest of my eyes.

LYSANDER

Ay me! for aught that I could ever read,
Could ever hear by tale or history,
The course of true love never did run smooth;

HERMIA

If then true lovers have been ever cross'd,
It stands as an edict in destiny:
Then let us teach our trial patience,
Because it is a customary cross,
As due to love as thoughts and dreams and sighs,
Wishes and tears, poor fancy's followers.

LYSANDER

A good persuasion: therefore, hear me, Hermia. I
have a widow aunt, a dowager
Of great revenue, and she hath no child:

From Athens is her house remote seven leagues;
And she respects me as her only son.
There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;
And to that place the sharp Athenian law
Cannot pursue us. If thou lovest me then,
Steal forth thy father's house to-morrow night; And
in the wood, a league without the town, There will
I stay for thee.

HERMIA

My good Lysander!
I swear to thee, by Cupid's strongest bow,
By his best arrow with the golden head,
In that same place thou hast appointed me,
To-morrow truly will I meet with thee.

LYSANDER

Keep promise, love. Look, here comes Helena.