

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM

SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE STARS



THE AUSTRALIAN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY PRESENTS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM

DIRECTED BY GLENN ELSTON

MUSIC BY PAUL NORTON

Featuring Hugh Sexton, Alison Whyte, Fletcher O'Leary, Dion Mills, Anna Burgess,
Tony Rive, Madeleine Somers, Laurence Boxhall, Syd Brisbane, Kevin Hopkins,
Richard Piper, Lizzy Brennan, Mitchell Wills, Andrew Cullimore, Penelope Gordon,
Milly Whyte and Sasha Lippman

Choreographer
Sue-Ellen Shook

Costume
Karla Erenbots
Kaspa Elston

Production Manager
Peter Amesbury

Sound
Andrew Nielson

Set
Joshua Sunderland

Lighting
Thomas Roach
Adam Cartwright

Stage Manager
Brittany Coombs

SYNOPSIS

The tale, which takes place in the court of Athens and the woods beyond, is one of tangled loves and magic potions. Theseus, The Duke of Athens, is arranging his marriage to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, whom he has just defeated in battle. But first he has to judge a matrimonial dispute. Egeus wants his daughter Hermia to marry Demetrius, but she wants to marry Lysander. Egeus claims Lysander has bewitched his daughter and, in accordance with ancient Athenian law, demands that unless she complies with her father's wishes and marries Demetrius, she must become a nun or be put to death.

Theseus gives her three days to decide and after briefly considering their options, Hermia and Lysander elope to the nearby woods - but not before disclosing their plans to her childhood friend Helena, who is desperately in love with Demetrius. Meanwhile, a bunch of tradesmen, referred to as the mechanicals, are rehearsing a show for the Duke's marriage. Like all amateur theatricals they have their ham, in this case it is Bottom the Weaver.

As Lysander notes, "The course of true love never did run smooth", but neither do Shakespearean plots, for in the woods the lovers fall under the spell cast by Oberon, King of the Fairies, who is in dispute with Titania, Queen of the Fairies. Puck, Oberon's right-hand sprite, not only gets up to a bit of mischief but also blunders in his application of magic potions thereby mixing up who is in love with whom! The result is classic Shakespearean mayhem.







Glenn Elston

Director

Glenn pioneered outdoor theatre in Australia. An idea that started in 1987 involving 12 people, The Australian Shakespeare Company is now the largest, independent theatre company in Australia. Glenn's productions include A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing, Richard III, Henry IV Pt1, Hamlet, The Comedy of Errors, Macbeth and As You Like It. He has written and directed The Wind in the Willows, Alice in Wonderland, Jungle Book – The Next Chapter, Toad's Birthday Party, Caribbean Pirates at the Polly Woodside, Alice in Never Neverland, Lady Chatterley's Lover and A Picnic with Cole Porter. For the past 15 years he has also co-presented Walking with Spirits, a celebration of the ancient Aboriginal tradition of Corroboree at Malkgulumbu (Beswick Falls). In 2014 the Melbourne City Council presented Glenn with a Melbourne Award for Contribution to Melbourne's Profile by an Individual.



Paul Norton

Music

Paul played bass in various bands (The Runners, Wendy and the Rocketts, Steve Hoy and the Hoy Boys) before launching a solo career in 1988. Signed to Mushroom Records his single Stuck On You got to number two on the Australian charts. The single from his album Under a Southern Sky was later chosen for Australia Day Celebrations at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Paul toured Australia with The Countdown Spectacular performing to 100,000 people nationwide in 2006. As the Musical Director for The Australian Shakespeare Company Paul wrote the scores for Much Ado About Nothing, Jungle Book – The Next Chapter, Romeo and Juliet, Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, As You Like It, The Dream Fairies, Barassi the Stage Show, Alice in Wonderland and comedy Certified Male.



Karla Erenbots

Costume

Karla Erenbots studied at the Melbourne College of Textiles graduating in Studio Textiles and Designer Dressmaking, majoring in Costume Design. Karla has worked for the Australian Ballet and the MTC and has been designing and producing costumes for The Australian Shakespeare Company for the last four years on productions such as Wind In The Willows, Alice In Wonderland, Pirates Of The Caribbean, Henry IV Part 1, Midsummer Nights Dream Behind The Scenes, Macbeth, Romeo And Juliet. Most recently Karla has designed and produced costumes for the film documentary 'In Bob We Trust' directed by Lynn Maree Milburn and produced by Richard Lowenstein of Ghost Pictures.



Sue Ellen Shook **Choreographer**

Sue-Ellen has been in the dance industry for over three decades.

A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, her career covers all facets of dance, in Australia and internationally, including Film, Television, Musical Theatre, Music Concerts, Sporting Events and Corporate Entertainment. Sue-Ellen has choreographed episodes for the TV shows House Husbands and So you think You Can Dance. Her stage choreography credits include Motherhood The Musical and Menopause The Musical. She has been resident choreographer for the Australian Shakespeare Company for over 10 years in Australia and England. Her performance credits include: "Baby Doll" for Baz Luhrmann's Moulin Rouge, "Demon Woman" on the Stan series Preacher and lead dancer for the ABC's The Divorce. Stage performance credits include the Australian tour of A Chorus Line, Starlight Express (in Germany), and Tiger Lily in the Sydney production of Pan, The Production Company's Oklahoma, Boy from Oz, 42nd Street, Pajama Game, Sugar and Promises Promises, as well as the role of "Moth" in multiple seasons of ASC's "Tinkerbell and the Dream Fairies."



Peter Amesbury **Production Manager**

Peter has worked as a Lighting Designer and Production Manager in Australia and the UK since 2010.

Peter started working with The Australian Shakespeare Company in 2014, on their productions of "As You Like It", "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Shakespeare's Best Bits", "Macbeth", and "Hamlet". More recently, he is the production manager and associate lighting designer for the Australian touring production of GODSPELL The Musical playing venues such as the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne. His critically acclaimed design of "Guilty Pleasures" (Blue Saint Productions), which starred Angeliqye Cassimatis, has also toured Australia. He has created designs for shows such as "Pippin", "Wicked", "Wizard of Oz", "Songs for a New World", "The Addams Family", "Guys and Dolls", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "RENT!" and the Northern Territory's "Walking with Spirits Festival".





Hugh Sexton **Theseus, Oberon**

Spanning a career at a tick over 20 years, Hugh has performed with many theatre companies including Pop Up Globe, Theatre South, Riverina Theatre Company, La Mama, WAX Studios and the Australian Shakespeare Company. Most recently he has been touring productions with the Pop Up Globe in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Auckland as well as a national New Zealand tour with the acclaimed productions of Hamlet and Measure for Measure. Other theatre credits include the title role in Hamlet with the ASC, the title role in Macbeth with the Melbourne Company of Players as well as Malvolio in Twelfth Night with the ASC. Film and tv credits include Stingers, Blue Heelers, ABCs Dirtgame, Hunters (US), City Homicide, Dr Blake, Wentworth, Killing Time, Mitch from Neighbours and Ghost rider with Nicholas Cage.



Alison Whyte **Hippolyta, Titania**

Alison Whyte is one of Australia's most accomplished and celebrated actors, with an outstanding reputation in theatre, film and television. On the small screen, Alison has been seen in numerous productions, including ABC's Frontline and Foxtel's Satisfaction, both of which won her a silver Logie for most outstanding actress. Amongst her numerous films credits include The Dressmaker, Centreplace, The Jammed, Subterano and Saturday Night.

Alison has worked with all the mainstage theatre companies. Favourites include; The Testament of Mary (STC), Love and Infomation (STC) Richard III (MTC) which won her a Helpman and Greenroom awards, Clyburne Park (MTC), Summer of the Seventeenth Doll (MTC/Belvoir/QTC), Bloody Chamber (Malthouse) for which she was awarded a Greenroom award, The Faith Healer (Belvoir) directed by Judy Davis alongside Colin Friels, for which she won a Sydney Critics Award, Macbeth (ASC), Hamlet (ASC) and A Midsummer Night's Dream (ASC). Alison last appeared on stage in March in The Cloudstreet as Oriel Lamb (BlackSwan/Malthouse), Alison is thrilled to be back of the gardens.



Richard Piper **Bottom**

Richard has spent almost his entire 44-year career on the stage. Trained in London, he was soon performing on the West End in Grease and Elvis. He arrived in Australia in 1985 with the cult cabaret band The Bouncing Czecks. Richard has been seen in many memorable Melbourne Theatre Company productions: The Lady in the Van, Twelfth Night, Born Yesterday, Double Indemnity, Ghosts, Music, Queen Lear, The Gift, Drowsy Chaperone, Rockabye, Entertaining Mr Sloane, The Give and Take, Dumb Show, The Daylight Atheist (Green Room Award), Betrayal, Man the Balloon, Life After George, Measure for Measure, Comedy of Errors. For Malthouse Theatre he's appeared in The Black Rider, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore. For Sydney Theatre Company: The Secret River, Gross und Klein, Great Expectations, Moby Dick. Bell Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream, The War of the Roses, Henry V, Henry IV. STCSA: Moby Dick, Marat Sade, Restoration. Also an accomplished musical theatre performer, Richard's credits include: Come from Away, Oklahomal, King Kong, Billy Elliot, Rocky Horror. TV: Reckoning, Wentworth, Underbelly, City Homicide. Films: Pirates of the Caribbean, Locusts.



Dion Mills **Philostrate**

This is Dion's third summer with the ASC, prior ASC productions being "Twelfth Night", "Hamlet" and "Macbeth". A member of the Red Stitch Actors ensemble since 2002, productions with RS include "Pomona" (2019); "The Moors" (2017); "The Flick" (at Queensland Theatre in 2017); "Trevor" (2016); "The River" (2016); "Wet House" (2015); "Eurydice" (2014); "Herding Cats" (2013) and many more. Television credits include "Wentworth" (Series 8); "Jack Irish" (Series 2); "It's a Date" (Series 2); "City Homicide"; "The King" and "Stingers". Other stage productions include "Travesties" for Bloomsday in Melbourne (2019) and "All My Love" (HIT Productions), playing Henry Lawson and touring nationally 2015-2018.



Anna Burgess **Helena**

Anna is thrilled to be playing the role of Helena in Midsummer Night's Dream after playing Olivia in Twelfth Night for the Australian Shakespeare Company previously having played Osrice in Hamlet, Malcom in Macbeth, Lady Montague in Romeo and Juliet and Titania/Hippolyta in Midsummer Night's Dream.

Anna's performed in the Australian premier of the Broadway hit Bad Jews, receiving a Broadway World award for Best Actress. Her other stage credits include Women of Troy for Complete Works, Sadie Hasler's Pramkicker, the National tour of The 39 Steps, God of Carnage at Chapel off Chapel and successful Brisbane and Melbourne seasons of the new Australian play Goodbye Miss Monroe, Inconsolable for Metanoia Theatre, Groucho for the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the original Australian cast of Mel Brooks' The Producers; Rigoletto, Macbeth and The Barber of Seville (Opera Australia), Waiting for Godot, Memoranda, The Pursuit of Happiness, Karaoke the Musical; Crazy for You, Damn Yankees, Sweet Charity, 42nd Street, The Pyjama Game and Anything Goes (The Production Company).

Her recent film and tv work include the Channel 7's biopic Olivia, US feature, The Wheel, Any Questions For Ben, The Caretaker, Loves Brother, Neighbours, Last Man Standing, Good Morning Australia, Starstruck, Screen Stars, Australian Idol and Thank God You're Here.



Tony Rive **Demetrius, Tom Snout**

Tony's credits include Wait Until Dark (MTC), Barry Dickens' Squizzy Taylor and Ben Ellis' Outpatients (La Mama), Not About Heroes and The Tyrone Gallery (WAX), Closer (Milkbar), The Crucible and Forced Legacy (Bronze's Mart). Shakespearean roles include Iago (Othello, Aardvark), Banquo (Macbeth, Arthouse), Ferdinand in The Tempest and Horatio in Hamlet (Merri Shakespeare), and 19 years with the Australian Shakespeare Co playing the likes of Andrew Aguecheek (Twelfth Night), Touchstone (As You Like It) and Angelo (Comedy of Errors). Tony was also a co-conspirator in the highly successful company, Aardvark Pub Theatre. Directing credits include Bedroom Farce (DCA), the self devised Pen & the Sword (theatre ad absurdum), Love's Labour's Lost (Corrugated Iron), the award winning Vaudeville Knockout (Darwin Fringe Festival), Accidental Death of an Anarchist and the recent Twelfth Night (Darwin Theatre Co).



Madeleine Somers **Hermia**

Madeleine trained at The Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts, graduating with a major in Acting and minor in Dance. Since then, she has been performing throughout Australia and around the world. Internationally, she lived in China for two years and Hong Kong for six months acting for Disney as various Princesses, particularly in stage shows such as 'Frozen' as Queen Elsa and Princess Anna. Throughout her eighteen months with Disney, she also performed as other infamous characters such as Sleeping Beauty and Belle. She continues to work for the Australian Shakespeare Company, acting in over seven of their productions throughout Australia and around the UK. These include shows such as Alice in Never Neverland 2014/15, 2016/17 (Alice), A Midsummer Night's Dream 2017/18 (Helena), Jack and the Beanstalk 2018 (Jill), Alice in Wonderland 2018, 2019, 2020 (Queen of Hearts), and Twelfth Night 2020 (Fabian). Madeleine is excited to return to her favourite Shakespeare production, A Midsummer Night's Dream, as Hermia for the 2020/21 season.



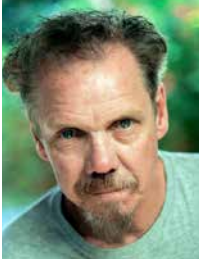
Laurence Boxhall **Lysander, Francis Flute**

Laurence was in the Melbourne Theatre Company's 2019 production of Shakespeare in Love, from director Simon Phillips. He most recent stage appearance was Patalog Theatre's Punk Rock. Recently, he was the Gen Z captain in Nine's popular Talkin' 'Bout Your Generation, with Shaun Micallef, Andy Lee and Robyn Butler. Laurence was also recently in the award-winning web series Dave and Theo, from Grannyflat Pictures, and is well known for playing the main cast role of Daniel in ABC's hilarious Ronny Chieng: International Student. Laurence made his professional stage debut in 2015 opposite Jane Turner in the Melbourne and Sydney Theatre Company coproduction of Jumpy. He made his television debut in teen series The Worst Year of My Life ... Again and was in Michael Rymer's critically acclaimed Deadline Gallipoli for Foxtel/Matchbox Pictures, as well as the feature The Spirit of the Game. Laurence has also narrated 20 audiobooks and in 2020 was voted one of the UK Publishers Association's Best New Voices. Laurence graduated from NIDA in 2018.



Syd Brisbane **Egeus, Snug**

Syd graduated from Flinders Uni Drama Centre in 1983. His first show with ASC was in 2003 in Romeo & Juliet playing the pivotal role of Peter. Since then he has appeared in with the company in A Mid Summer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing (Northern Australia Tour), Twelfth Night, The Comedy Of Errors, Henry IV Part One, Macbeth, Hamlet, Pygmalion & Alice in Wonderland. Theatre highlights include Victory (STC) directed by Judy Davis, He Stumbled The Wrestling School UK directed by Howard Barker and Fawty Towers Australia tour playing Manuel & working with John Cleese. He was nominated for green room awards for Ryan & Cat both one man shows at La Mama Courthouse. He played the title role in Squizzy a musical about the life of Squizzy Taylor. Film includes Dirt Music, Red Dog True Blue, Boxing Day, Epsilon & Silent Partner. TV Stateless, Beaconsfield, Worst Year of My Life Again & Conspiracy 365.



Kevin Hopkins **Peter Quince**

Kevin has worked in the industry for over 30 years mainly as an actor and director, and also as a teacher. He has performed in all states of Australia and internationally, and has been an ensemble member of the Australian Shakespeare company for almost 25 years, most recently playing Sir Toby Belch in last summer's ASC production of Twelfth Night, and Macduff in the ASC's 2019 production of Macbeth. Throughout his career has appeared in over 60 productions, predominantly in Shakespeare. Kevin has directed many Shakespeare plays in Australia, and was recently privileged to work with International artists in the historic Estates Theatre in Prague, directing one of Shakespeare's masterpieces, King Lear in July 2019. Kevin is really happy to be back onstage after theatre closures during 2020, and to be working with such a talented cast and crew, to be back home in the gardens.



Fletcher O'Leary **Puck**

Fletcher is a Musical Theatre graduate of Spectrum Dance and trained with Acting Performance Studio, where he got the opportunity to experience training at Stella Adler Academy of Acting in Los Angeles.

Growing up amongst a creative family, Fletcher's spark for performing began at an early age. His early career work includes being a season regular on Aussie soap 'Neighbours', playing young Peter Allen in Production Company's 'The Boy From Oz' and playing the young Duke of York in 'Richard the III' with the MTC. More recently, Fletcher worked as a tap dancer at Disneyland Paris and has just returned from overseas performing in the musical 'Footloose' with Norwegian Cruise Line. He has worked with the ASC before in various productions including Romeo and Juliet, Jack and the Beanstalk for the Melbourne Comedy Festival, Much Ado About Nothing for the Prague Fringe Festival and the 2017 season of A Midsummer Nights Dream. Fletcher is thrilled to be back working with the 'Dream' team and would like to thank his close friends and family for their everlasting support.



Elizabeth Brennan **Peaseblossom, Understudy**

Elizabeth is a Monash University Bachelor of Performing Arts graduate who has appeared on numerous stages around Melbourne. She has worked extensively with the Melbourne based theatre company The Bloomshed, most notably co-devising/performing in the award winning production of Nicolai Gogol's The Nose and their recent adaptation of Paradise Lost. Fresh from a return season of her MICF solo cabaret performance A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Ham, her theatrical credits include The Market Is A Wind-Up Toy, Fraternal for the Midsumma festival, The Rabble's In The Bleak Midwinter and the Australian premier of The Handmaid's Tale. Elizabeth toured with the Anzac Centenary Roadshow throughout 2015 and 2016 and has performed in a wide variety of Shakespearean productions such as Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, The Winter's Tale and Titus Andronicus. Having already tackled Twelfth Night's Viola and understudied Lady Macbeth for the ASC, she is delighted to be back in the gardens for A Midsummer Night's Dream once again.



Mitchell Wills

Understudy

Mitchell is a 2018 graduate of the Federation University Arts Academy in Ballarat. Whilst studying Mitchell performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom) and *The Time is Not Yet Ripe* (John K. Hill). Since graduating Mitchell performed with The Australian Shakespeare Company in *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian), *The Girl As Green As Elderflower* (Marco), and *PTV Law and Order* (Frank Ston). Mitchell is a co-founder of Sevenfold Theatre Company, having recently directed their very first production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Andrew Cullimore

Understudy

Theatre credits include: *Romeo & Juliet*, *Pygmalion*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Shakespeare's Best Bits*, *Wind in the Willows* (Australian Shakespeare Company); *Romeo and Juliet* (Page 2 Stage); *Twelfth Night* (Malkin Tower, literally in an empty swimming pool at Manchester Victoria Baths); *Hay Fever*, *Deathtrap*, *Father's Day* (Oldham Coliseum); *Bouncers*, *Charlie and Lola* (Watershed Productions); *Sarah and Duck*, *The Smurfs*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Millennium Entertainment International); *The Cabaret of Dr. Caligari* (Artizani); *Wuthering Heights*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *Arabian Nights*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Cheltenham Everyman). Television and film credits include: *Bloom* (Stan); *Emmerdale*, *The Royal Today* (ITV); *Skins* (Channel 4); *Confession* (Five Frames Left). Radio credits include: *Buddenbrooks* (BBC R4); *The Hireling* (BBC R4); *Clara's Flood* (BBC Bristol). Andrew thrived in the new medium of Zoom performances during isolation and worked with The Laboratory Theater of Florida, International Actors Ensemble, Australian Shakespeare Company, and Melbourne Writer's Theatre. Andrew also produced and directed his first feature length documentary: *Covid Creatives - The Documentary*, in association with Filmonik Melbourne for Melbourne Fringe 2020, *Pants Off*.



Penelope Gordon

Moth, Understudy

Penelope gained her love of performing at an early age, beginning her training at Wendy Samantha Productions at age 7, taking classes there for over a decade. She has also completed high level Speech & Drama examinations with Trinity College London, and recently studied in the Young Actors Studio with the National Institute of Dramatic Arts in Melbourne. Throughout her time at school, Penelope took every opportunity she could to be on stage, performing in numerous plays and musicals, with highlights including productions of *Les Misérables*, *Spamalot*, and *The Laramie Project*. More recently, in early 2020, Penelope took part in the ASC's Graduate Players program, and was set to play the role of Helena in their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in both Melbourne and Prague. Even though she is clearly the odd one out in a family consisting solely of engineers and scientists, her family has always encouraged her to follow her passion, and she'd like to thank them and her close friends for their endless support. This season of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the ASC is Penelope's first professional production, and she is thrilled to be working with such an incredible and supportive group of people.



Milly Whitlock-Whyte **Mustardseed, Understudy**

Milly recently graduated from Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School where she studied acting and played numerous roles. She has also starred in several short films and participated in the 2018 Melbourne Fringe Festival in the show 'The Ones Who Walk Away'. Not to mention she survived year 12 during Covid!



Sasha Lippman **Cobweb, Understudy**

Having just completed Year 11 at Caulfield Grammar School, Sasha has been involved in many musicals and plays throughout her high school years, both onstage and behind the scenes. Highlights include West Side Story, The Addam's Family, Big Fish and The Laramie Project. Sasha studied Speech & Drama throughout primary and middle school and is currently studying VCE Theatre Studies, Music Performance (Classical Voice) and VET Acting for Screen. Sasha is training at May Downs school of dance in tap, ballet and music theatre and has participated in many NIDA and ASC workshops and classes over the years.

Sasha is thrilled to be a part of A Midsummer Night's Dream this season with the ASC. It is her first professional production, and she is very excited to be working with such an amazing group of people.





A Midsummer Night's Dream

Director & Designer
Musical Director
Casting Associate

Glenn Elston
Paul Norton
Syd Brisbane

Production Manager
Stage Manager
Sound Design/Operator
Costume Design
Costume and Props Coordinator
Production Electrician
Lighting Programmer
Pixel Columns Built by
Additional Lighting Supplied by

Peter Amesbury
Brittany Coombs
Andrew Nielson
Brittany Coombs
Kaspa Elston
Thomas Roach
Adam Cartwright
ALook Productions
Starlite Productions
Ashley Reeves

Set Coordinator
Custom Fabrication
Engineering
Photography
Ticketing
Printing

Josh Sunderland
Ivan Tarle
Trevor Huggard
Ben Fon
Ticketmaster & SproutTix
John Lewis - Project Print

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The Australian Shakespeare Company

Artistic Director
Production Manager
Marketing Manager
Warehouse Manager
Construction Manager
Head Electrician
Publicist
Graphic Design

Glenn Elston
Peter Amesbury
Michelle Cheung
Kaspa Elston
Joshua Sunderland
Thomas Roach
Romina Favero
designjunkies.com.au



