

## A "Midsummer Night's Dream" to be Experienced at North

By: Cameron Tyo

11/2/2025



North Montgomery High School students will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the school auditorium. Tickets are available online.

Photo provided by Autumn Hinders Photography

The stage of North Montgomery High School is to be filled with confused lovers caught in a romantic tangle, mischievous fairies, and daring kings and queens in its upcoming production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Come see the students as they present one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays, but with an 80s twist.

"The costumes and the music, featured throughout the show, are very much 80s inspired, but the show is being presented in the traditional old English style Shakespeare wrote in. However, the 80s element of the show — you know the fun costumes, crazy hair, and music — I think, will help the audience understand what is happening if they can't fully understand the old English being spoken," Elizabeth Brooks, who plays the ditzy Hermia, said.

The play itself consists of three stories that are interwoven with each other. The first introduced is the whole love web among Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius, and Helena, leading to jealousy and folly.

"It's been so fun but a challenge playing Helena. She is in love with someone who doesn't share the same sentiments, and it makes her overzealous and crazy. It is untraditional of the roles I typically play, and while a challenge at first, it's been lots of fun playing someone a bit crazy, sarcastic, and a tad bit sassy," Courtney Ratliff, who plays Helena, had to say about her portrayal.

Going more into the rehearsal process, she explains how the directors gave the actors much flexibility in their acting choices early in rehearsals, which gave them time to flesh out the personalities of their characters.

"This has been great and has helped create the character dynamics you see on stage."

The second story revolves around a group called the "Mechanicals," who are rehearsing a play for the Duke's wedding ceremony.

One of the members of this group is Nick Bottom, who plays Pyramus in the play within a play and is portrayed by Crew Cole.

"My character is sort of nerdy but is outgoing and chimes in, making himself sort of the leader of the "Mechanicals." It's been so fun to bring this character to life and to be on stage with the rest of the 40ish people cast. Despite memorizing being a little difficult, Shakespeare is hard to memorize; the cast's efforts have shown, and we've gotten past this challenge. We have been able to create an engaging and comedic show that also blends in moments of calm, reflectiveness," Cole said about his character and the creative process.

Finally, there is the conflict between King Oberon and Queen Titania. This is where the fairy Puck is introduced, played by Nathan Woosley:

"Puck is very much a mischievous guy who sets a lot of the story beats in motion, and throughout the story, the audience will be able to relate to him as he creates this dreamlike sense of illusion around him and the others in the show, leading to the hilarious chaos that ensues," Woosley reveals.

He notes that taking on the role physically was a bit difficult as he was focused on understanding what he was saying but after learning what certain words and phrases meant, he was able to play up Puck's physicality, which he thinks will help the audience understand the plot even if they are a bit confused about what is being said.

And it wouldn't be a play with just actors, as the stage crew helps significantly.

"Before we started using tech with actors, we had a whole day where we would play around with lights for the scenes and see how they looked and program different sound and light cues as we saw fit before the actors came for a smooth tech process. Tiny adjustments are made to the backbone we made during tech day as we get closer to opening night. Bright colors are used quite frequently to establish the many natural scenes in the show," said crew member Lucy Hess when asked about her experience.

Lightning and sound add so much to the hilarity, context, and realism of shows, whether fantastical or not.

It has been stated many times that directors Martin and Melvin have been amazing instructors throughout the play process, leading to the magical show that is about to be seen on stage this week. So, if you are looking for a night or afternoon of an engaging story full of comedy, fantasy, confusion, and chaos set to an 80s backdrop in a show presented by some talented students, you won't want to miss "A Midsummer Night's Dream"!

Tickets can be found at: <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing/57405>.

Shows are on **November 7th and 8th at 7:00** and on the **9th at 2:30**.

**Journal Review Article:** <https://www.journalreview.com/stories/shakespeare-with-a-twist,366289>

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**Cast List:**

Puck: Nathan Woosley

Oberon: Kyle Ratliff

Bottom: Crew Cole

Titania: Lacey Conover

Demetrius: Cole Yeager

Helena: Courtney Ratliff

Hermia: Beth Brooks

Lysander: Noah Arthur

Hippolyta: Audrey Morris

Theseus: Camden Crowder

Quince: Savannah Crowe

Flute: Caden Tyo

Snug: Henry Brooks

Starveling: Emrik Phillips

Snout: Taytum Snyder

Pinch: Hanna Brown

Egeus: Donavon Johnson

First Fairy: Emma Brown

Philostrate/Fernleaf: Clayton Sims

Peaseblossom: Kendra McClamroch

Cobweb: Lily Mycroft

Mustardseed: Annie Hess

Moth: Bridgette Laws

Firefly: Annabelle Rose

Ladywing: Charlotte Powell

Fairies/Magical Creatures/Wedding Guests: Justin Ambriz Tapia, Guadalupe Amigon, Emily Benge, Mac

Burton Preslee Claycomb, Ryhan Clemence, Emma Doughty, Liz Ellingwood, Lydia Huff, Ellis Hyams,

Kinley McCoy, Erin McKinney, Holly Nelson, Ella Redden, Shelby Walker

**Production Team:**

Directors: Mike Melvin and Daniel Martin

Choreography: Lacey Conover

Lighting Design: Lucy Hess

Costume Assistant: Audrey Morris

Makeup Design: Camma Hall and Emma Doughty

Tech: Owen Arthur, Noah Arthur, Beth Brooks, Henry Brooks, Annalyse Brown, Camden Crowder,

Drew Dark, Tyler Granson, Cama Hall, Lucy Hess, Addi Johnson, Jayna Simpkins, Lucia Southwood,

Katelyn Woolwine, Nathan Woosley, Brendan Young

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