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Special Thanks To

Scott Small
Everest "Pop" Thomas and the staff of the Laurel Comedy Club
Laurel High School Drama Department and Janitorial Staff
Everyman Theatre
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Jeff Hersh
Jeff Poretsky
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Kevin Hollenbeck

The Rude Mechanicals Present
William Shakespeare's



Directed by Ty Hallmark

May 4,5,6,12,13,19,20 2006
Laurel Comedy Club, Laurel, MD
Area 405 Baltimore, MD

Cast (in order of Appearance)

Puck.....	Jaki Demarest
Mustardseed.....	Craig Lawrence
Titania.....	Ty Hallmark
Oberon.....	Yancy Davis
Hippolyta.....	Kelli Biggs
Theseus.....	Scott Farquhar
Philostrate.....	Melanie Jester
Egeus.....	J. Calvin Smith
Hermia.....	Amy Rauch
Lysander.....	Patrick Mullen
Demetrius.....	Josh Engel
Helena.....	Heather C. Jackson
Quince.....	Rob Perkins
Bottom.....	Sean Eustis
Flute.....	Brian Moor
Snug.....	Arthur Rowan
Snout.....	Elise Berg
Starveling.....	Aster Grahn
Peaseblossom.....	Allison Plourde
Moth.....	Amena Hassan
Cobweb.....	Marigot Kirsten
Dance Ensemble.....	Maureen Shanahan, Sudanah Grey, Caitlin Cushman

Crew

Director.....	Ty Hallmark
Ass't Director.....	Jay Henry
Stage Manager.....	Lyn Belzer-Tonnessen
Ass't Stage Manager.....	Torberg Tonnessen
Costume Designer.....	Heather C. Jackson
Ass't Costume Designer.....	Elise Berg
Lighting Designer.....	Patrick Mullen
Music/Sound Designer.....	Roddy Rasti
Choreographer.....	Taisha Cameron
Producers.....	Josh Engel
.....	Scott Alan Small
.....	Jaki Demarest
Marketing/Publicity.....	Scott Alan Small
Graphic Design.....	Jaki Demarest
Website Design.....	Josh Engel
.....	Kelly Williamson

their hard work to put this show together.

Allison Plourde (*Peaseblossom/Titania, u/s*) recently made her Rudes debut playing Bardolph in Merry Wives of Windsor. Previous credits include Jocasta in Oedipus Rex with Poorman Productions in Providence, RI, Germaine in Picasso at the Lapin Agile with Pawtucket Players in Massachusetts, Amanda in Ghost of Whaleswind Castle with Whodunnit Dinner Theatre of New England. Most recently, she played Poppy Norton Taylor in Noises Off with PGLT. She has a BA in theatre from Rhode Island College. She hopes to do more shows in and around Maryland.

Roddy Rasti (*Sound/Music Designer*) Somewhere in the void between post-modern agency and nonsensical buffoonery, there churns a spiral heart struggling foolishly to break time with its primordial beat. This heart pumps all but silently in the chest of Roddy Rasti, jack of more trades than he'll ever master, a silly man with expensive toys that make him look and feel far cooler than he actually is (though it seems he's got the right people fooled). Among other (pre)occupations (see also: media researcher, maverick grad student, pomo pacifist, multimedia maven-in-the-making, etc.), Rasti provides faerie food in the form of auditory inspirations for this fantastical nightscape. This is his first serious stint in theatre since his 3rd grade play, in which he, cast as leading male, dropped his first line, or rather, reversed it with his second.

Amy Rauch (*Hermia*) is making her fourth appearance with the Rude Mechanicals and is thrilled to do be doing so, and not just because she got to dye her hair and go clubbing for "research." Many thanks to Ty and Jay for this fan-

tastic opportunity, and to Heather (Cohort!) for wisdom, shopping, and coffee!

Arthur Rowan (*Snug*) has been active in the DC area for 5 years now as an actor and fight choreographer. He has worked with such companies as the Folger Theater, the Washington Shakespeare Company, and the Baltimore Opera. He received a BA in Theatre from the College of William and Mary, where he also participated in several shows with the Virginia Shakespeare Festival. As an Advanced Actor/Combatant with the Society for American Fight Directors, he consequently enjoys playing with whatever long, bladed objects he can get his grubby little hands on. Thanks to all for such an enjoyable debut with the Rudes.

Maureen Shanahan (*Fairy/Dance Ensemble*) is pleased to be performing with the Rude Mechanicals for the first time. She lives with her pet dingo, Ramrod, and enjoys rewriting episodes of CSI so they are more scientifically correct in her spare time. She has many favorite roles but has always dreamed of playing Phyllis, the Star-Struck Starfish, in "The Tide is High, But I'm Rolling On: A Tribute to Freshwater Crustaceans."

J. Calvin Smith (*Egeus*) would like to thank the Rudes for opportunities: lots of fun and challenging Shakespearean roles, and the confidence to take his act on the road. Thanks to Ty, Lyn, and Jay for opportunity and direction. Love to God, and to Kimberly and Susan. (And to you who read this! :) :*)

Torberg Tonnessen (*Asst. Stage Manager*) Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed sed ligula a odio lacinia mattis.

member that the unrest is, in fact, blessed and the dissatisfaction would be nothing were it not divine.

Amena Hassan (*Moth*) is an advocacy communications officer in Washington DC. This is her first performance with the Rude Mechanicals. Her lifelong dream is to win big, playing Plinko on the Price is Right.

Jay Henry (*Assistant Director*) This is Jay's 12th show with the Rude Mechanicals, but only his second as Assistant Director. He'd like to thank the cast, crew and Ty for what was truly a wonderful time together. He'd especially like to thank his wife for her extraordinary patience and enthusiasm during the whole process.

Heather C. Jackson (*Helena/Costume Designer*) has worked with the Rudes for over a year, appearing in *Macbeth* (Mentith), and *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Host), as well as designing for *King John* and assisting on *Merry Wives*. Other acting roles include Conrade in *Much Ado* at GAC, Cookie in *Rumors* and Quince in *Midsummer*, both at St. Mary's College of MD. She's happy to be back in *Midsummer*, the first show she designed way back. She has worked on costume crews for the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival and Opera Vivente, and designed for GAC and McDonogh School. She thanks Ty for this opportunity to really grow as an actress, and Jules for her support, whether near or far. And very special thanks to Elise for all the help, sanity and for dying her hair green.

Melanie Jester (*Philostrate*) keeps coming back to the Rudes. WHY?!...Oh now I remember because I love them so dearly. This time I get to wear pants. YEAH PANTS!!!! *runs around screaming "pants"* It's good to have a part where I can wear pants, (not

that I minded wearing a mumu Josh, or a brown "bag" Alan), I just have a love for pants. Oh and one more thing, thanks to Tor for brushing up on Philostrate's lines so that I could have my knee surgery. *huggles*

Craig Lawrence (*Mustardseed*) is back with the Rudes. Previously seen in last year's "MacBeth" as MacDuff he is overjoyed that the part of Mustardseed was offered to him to play with. Recent non-Rudes work include a revealing part in Baltimore Opera's "Dead Man Walking". Craig is an Advanced Actor/Combatant with the SAFD and is currently choreographing for Silver Spring Stage's Production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. His love goes out to the rest of the cast (Esp. our fabu director), his folks (Mom, Dad and Becky), his lady love (Kayce) and his cat (Ernie). Not necessarily in that order.

Brian Harrington Moors (*Francis Flute*) Returns to the Rude Mechanicals once again in his trademark non-traditional form. In his third production with the troupe, he revels in the chance to act outside the standard mold. Many thanks to the Rudes for putting up with his unorthodox ideas, and the audience for continuing to come see them.

Patrick Mullen (*Lysander/Lighting Designer*) This show is dedicated to everyone I've ever loved, brother or lover, family or friend, may we all one day find a way to forgive each other our faults and follies and love again without reserve.

Robert Perkins (*Quince*) marks his ninth production with the Rude Mechanicals since 2001, including *Henry VI*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tempest*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *Othello*, *As You Like It*, *Richard III*, and *Comedy of Errors*. He thanks Ty, Jay, Lyn, and Scott for all

"That wasn't so bad." We've all said it. We've all heard it. The universal phrase when things turn out better than we thought they would. Maybe it was a meeting we were dreading, or an injury we thought would hurt more, or maybe a risk we weren't sure would pay off. When it was over, we breathed deeply, let our shoulders sink a little, and then someone said those classic four words. Once again, reality proved gentler than what we feared.

Often the opposite will happen, too. Excitement and anticipation tempt us into believing things could be more than they really are. We let our imagination run wild, and sometimes it lets us down.

Imagination is such a powerful ability. To conjure things into reality with just the mind is an extraordinary gift. Don't believe me? Let's try a test: "Unicorn".

Odds are, you and the person sitting next you had the same response. An image of a horse, possibly white, appeared in your head. It had a horn in between its ears that probably pointed forward a little, proud but threatening. Neither you nor your neighbor has ever seen such a creature, but you can both agree upon a meaning for that word.

That's the power of imagination: to turn thoughts and ideas into an expression. Words, sounds, and imagery turn one solitary idea into a shared thought, an agreement, or a purpose for a group.

The cast and crew of the play you'll witness are one such group. Our purpose: to construct an imaginary bridge across nearly 400 years. A bridge that will bring an idea from one solitary man into an experience we hope to share with you tonight. The man was William Shakespeare. The idea is *A*

Midsummer Night's Dream.

And it's a magnificent idea to share this way. Within its words we find love, jealousy, and desire: the perfect tools for the imagination to warp reality around these characters. They're never far from home, but they allow their minds to take them on a fantastical experience for one night. By the end, no character is left the same. Imagination has run away with them all.

And of course, there are dreams. Dreams become so vivid and so powerful that the characters are left not knowing where reality begins and ends. Have these characters found true love? Or is it all the deception of the night?

For over a year, I've dreamed of taking these characters, people who never existed and probably never will, and making them real to you in one night. The cast and crew before you tonight will share and shape these images for you. They've created an ambitious concoction of light, sound, movement, and the Bard's great words to transport your reality into this legendary tale. Where Shakespeare saw a mystical forest, they bring you a shady, villainous nightclub. Fairies dance to hypnotic dance beats in a way the play's original actors could never have done. It's a modern play for a modern audience. To let this story stagnate over 4 centuries without the gifts of our modern imaginations would serve neither it nor you.

Sit back, relax, and let your imagination run wild with the stimulation we'll provide your senses tonight. The Rude Mechanicals are proud to present to you William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*."

Plot Summary

Egeus wants his daughter Hermia to marry Demetrius, but she wants to marry Lysander. Duke Theseus (owner of Club Soulstice) condemns her to celibacy. They explain their plan to run away to Helena, who is herself in love with Demetrius. Club owner Oberon fights with lead dancer Titania, and Oberon sends bartender Puck for a love-herb to embarrass Titania. He also sends Puck to apply it to Demetrius, but Puck accidentally applies it to Lysander, and both the boys are now in love with Helena. They fight until Oberon cleans up the mess. Meanwhile, the club's bouncers and staff prepare a play for Theseus' wedding to Hippolyta. Puck messes with Bottom's mind, and Titania (under the love-herb) falls in love with him. The play is performed to much heckling.

Cast and crew bios

Lyn Belzer-Tonnessen (*Stage Manager*), after five straight shows with the Rude Mechanicals, has made an important decision: which version of her name to use in the program. In addition to stage managing *Midsummer*, Lyn has run sound for the RM's reprise of *Comedy of Errors*, and stage managed *Merry Wives of Windsor* and *King John*. Selected highlights include stage managing *The Crucible* for Sea View Playwrights' Theatre and *The Fantasticks* for Sundog Theatre (Staten Island, NY) and performing in *Othello* (Bianca) at Sea View and in *The Pagans* (Dierdre) for Sundog.

Elise Berg (*Snout/Assistant Costume Designer*) has played many roles with the Rude Mechanicals (and now the

rude mechanicals), and plans to play many more. She thanks Ty for Snout, Brian for irish carbombs past, present and future, Heather for the bit of soul, and Jay for everything else. This bio is made of bricks, mortar, and that third thing. Go Tinhats!

Kelli Biggs (*Hippolyta*) is a veteran film actress and the producer of the Howard County Student Shakespeare Festival. She has appeared on stage recently at Laurel Mill Playhouse, Silver Spring Stage, The Warehouse Theater and Run of the Mill. She would like to thank the Midsummer Knitting Circle for being such nice Rudes. Special thanks go to Cindi at Retropolitan in Ellicott City for finding Grace Kelly's dress and Ginger Rogers' shoes.

Taisha Cameron (*Choreographer*) is excited to be working with the Rudes again. She holds a BA in Theatre Performance & Dance Minor from the University of Maryland College Park and has received further training at the DC Improv and New York Film Academy. Stage credits include: *The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mamma Louise & Safreeta Mae* (Safreeta Mae), *Color Me Dark* (female u/s), *Coyote Mischief Tales* (Mole), *Get Stuffed* (Kristin), *Macbeth* (Third Witch), *Romeo & Juliet* (Gregory, u/s Clown), *The Vagina Monologues* (Under the Burqa), *West Side Story* (Teresita), and *A Baltimore Christmas Carol* (Maggie). Thanks goes out to Ty (for this awesome opportunity) and all the wonderful dancers!

Caitlin Cushman (*Fairy/Dance Ensemble*) is thrilled to be taking part in her first Rude Mechanicals production. Caitlin has been seen in numerous performances, including Neil Simon's *Rumors*, *The Snow Ball*, *Exclusive Model*, *All the Way Home*, *Ledge*, *Ledger*, *Leg-*

end, *Hotline*, *Brigadoon*, *The Dining Room*, as well as various ensemble roles in *A Chorus Line* and *Grease*. She'd like to thank her fiance Josh, her roommate Erin, and her friends and family for their endless support, as well as the H&Ders for the "shine train." Thanks also to the cast and crew, especially Heather, Ty, and Tai for welcoming her to the Rudes.

Yancy Davis (*Oberon*) be what is known as a bandit. You gotta hand it to him when you truly understand it, 'cause if you fail to see -- read it in braille, it'll still be funky. So what's next is the flex of a genius, his rapid-stutter-steppin if you seen this. Dope, you hope that he don't really mean this. Oh, and he had fun playing Oberon in this production.

Jaki Demarest (*Puck*) "So you want me to wear something skimpy, and dance around with thin, gorgeous women half my age? Why am I cheerful about this?" Thanks to Ty, Lyn, Tor and the rest of the cast and crew for good times, moral support and the challenge of pulling it off; to Arthur for letting me drag him in at the last minute; and to Josh for bailing me out after I wrecked my car on the way to rehearsal. I'm remarkably lucky to be here and in one piece, and I'm thankful for that, too.

Joshua Engel (*Demetrius*) is doing his 19th production with the Rude Mechanicals and his third different role in *Midsummer*.

Sean Eustis (*Nick Bottom*) has been prancing about on the RM stage since 1999, in everything from 3rd spear-carrier on the left, to song-and-dance man, to melancholy muse, and even behind the wheel driving the cast's nuts. Much thanks to our Tex Support, our Compass, our Love, and especially to Ty for

being our director and leading lady. Remember, it takes a tough man to make a tender Bottom!

Scott D. Farquhar (*Theseus*) This is Scott's 7th Rude Mechanicals Production, 5th time on-stage, and 4th bio written (if you don't turn it in in time, somebody writes it for you... curse you, Alan Duda!). He would especially like to thank: Kelli, for bringing a fantastic amount of energy to his first real romantic on-stage relationship, and for teaching him how to knit; Craig, for doing such a fantastic job tying him up; Ty... Thanks for giving me the chance to say the words that meant so much to me! (Shameless plugs: splungemusic.com, prometheusradio-theatre.com)

Aster Grahn (*Starveling*) is a 21 year old transplant from the Pacific Northwest. She has a BA in international relations and only the faintest idea what to do with it. Though raised by traveling vaudevillians, this is her first foray into theater since a high school production of *Midsummer* several years ago.

Sudanah Grey (*Fairy/Dance Ensemble*) umpteenth appearance in a Rudes production but her first as a dancer. She wants to thank both Ty & Tai for letting her shake her groove thang on stage as opposed to a club because God knows she needs the practice!

Ty Hallmark (*Director/Titania*) is a theatre graduate of Rhodes College, has trained at The Globe, Royal Shakespeare Company and Studio Theatre. She's glad to be back chewing on the Bard's words after a stint as Anna in *Closer*. Love to Roddy, foremost and always. Thanks to the entire crew for keeping my head on straight and being immensely talented at what you do. Much love to the cast for all their hard work over the past two months. Re-