

# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY FLAVIA POTENZA



Lily Bleu Andrew plays the mischievous Puck. Photo by Ian Flanders

## PIXIE DUST DREAMS, ALL IN A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S WORK

Sunday afternoon, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, transformed the Theatricum stage from melancholy to magic.

Almost before the play began, there was magic in the air. It begins, however, with a love quadrangle: Hermia (Kaitlyn Fae), Duke Egeus' (Ata Farhadi) daughter, is forbidden to wed her love, Lysander (Brant Rotnem). Instead he insists that she marry Demetrius (Paul Stanko), with whom Hermia's lifelong friend, the insecure Helena (Rosemary Borwnlow), is in love. Hermia and Lysander run away to the forest but not before Helena tells Demetrius of the plan, who goes after Hermia. Helena follows.

The energy onstage is electric, fast-paced and well-spoken for such speed. Thankfully, the cast carries these traits throughout.

In the forest are two very different folks: Fairy Queen Titania's (Elizabeth Tobias) band of fairies and some "hard-handed craftsmen," rehearsing a hilarious, fumbling play that they hope to perform at the Duke's wedding. It is truly one of the funniest parts of the play, thanks to this merry band of players, Peter Quince (Christine Breihan), Nick Bottom (Christopher W. Jones), Francis Flute (Cameron Rose), Robin Starveling (Cindy Gustafarro), Tom Snout (Timothy McCray) and Snug (Kelvin Morales). Enter King of the fairies, Oberon (Michael McFall), and Titania. They are preparing to bless the marriage of Theseus (Jonathan Blandino), the Duke of Athens, to Hippolyta (Clare Snodgrass), queen of the Amazons, but are squabbling over a young Indian prince given to Titania by the prince's mother. Oberon wishes to make him a knight, but Titania refuses.

Enter Oberon's servant, the mischievous Puck (Lily Bleu Andrew), swinging in on a rope and the magic begins. Seeking to play a trick on Titania, Oberon sends Puck to find a flower, the juice of which can be spread over a sleeping person's eyelids to make Titania fall in love with the first thing she sees upon waking. Of course that will be one of the band of players, Nick Bottom, who has been turned into an ass. Noting Demetrius' cruelty to Helena, he also orders Puck to spread some juice on the eyelids of the "young Athenium man," meaning Demetrius. Instead, Puck mistakes Lysander who, upon waking sees Helena and falls madly in love with her.

Take it from there and be prepared to be entranced.

Lily Bleu Andrew in her first time in the role of Puck is an uncompromising presence, leaping and prancing about and "chirruping" with the other

fairies as they go about their fairy business. Even at intermission, she is here and there, chirruping in someone's face and as quickly gone on to startling the next unsuspecting target. Eventually, she settles into the trees, waiting (in character the whole time) until it's time for Puck to make right the wrongs so everybody, especially the audience, goes home happy.

What else can you say about an ensemble company, all of whom play their parts to create the whole.

It all felt sweet and soft and exciting...like pixie dust. ■

*A Midsummer Night's Dream continues through September 4, with a special Labor Day performance and Prologue Discussion.*