

AMidsummer Nights

By William
Shakespeare



Adapted &
Directed by
Dusten Welch

JUNE 21-JULY 7 ²⁰²⁴

Fri & Sat @ 7pm
Sun @ 4pm

TOUR



Please Take Our
CSF DIGITAL SURVEY

And help us stay Cleveland's most accessible theater!

www.clevelandshakespeare.org/survey
2134 Lee Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

William
Shakespeare's



Setting: *The City of Athens
and Forest of Athens*

Runtime: *100 mins (approx.)*

Production Staff

Director & Choreographer
Dusten Welch

Production Stage Manager
Kelsey Malone

Costume Designer
Jasmine Renee

Production Intern
Zoe Pace

Cast

PUCK/PHILOSTRATE.....Rachel Rittner
HIPPOLYTA/TITANIA.....Katherine Nash
THESEUS/OBERON.....Cody Swanson
EGEUS/BOTTOM/PYRAMUS.....Allen Branstein
HERMIA/SNUG/PEASEBLOSSOM/LION.....Jasmine Renee
DEMETRIUS/SNOUT/MUSTARDSEED/WALL...Cole Tarantowski
LYSANDER/FLUTE/COBWEB/THISBE.....Sam Bartlett
HELENA/QUINCE/MOTH/PROLOGUE...Dylan Seders Hoffman

Artistic Staff

Dusten Welch
Artistic Director

Cody Swanson
Director of Operations

Rachel Gold
Associate Artistic Director

Board of Directors

Rodger Govea
Keith Kornajcik
Lynn Murray
Amelia Blonsky
Austin Barnes
Celeste Cosentino
Holly Masterson
Tyson Douglas Rand

Upcoming Events

CLEVELAND'S most accessible **THEATER**
Cleveland Shakespeare Festival productions are Family-Friendly, FREE to the Public, and Feature Local Artists who have strong ties to Northeast Ohio.

2024 **FREE**

KING LEAR

Directed by Rachel Gold

Shakespeare's gripping tragedy about betrayal, power, madness, and love. This timeless tale is perfect for both newcomers and seasoned theater lovers alike!

Tours: July 19 - August 4



THE TEMPEST

A KIDShakes Production

Directed by Molly Cornwell

A perfect event for young children and families! This interactive and abridged production celebrates classic culture through creative problem-solving and exploration nature! (For children ages 5-10)

Tours: August 24 - September 14



get
your

Shakespeare

www.clevelandshakespeare.org

on

The Players

CSF



RACHEL RITTNER
Puck / Philostrate

Rachel is a rising third-year student at Case Western Reserve University majoring in Theatre and Applied Mathematics. This is her first time performing with the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, and she is so excited to work with such a talented cast and team. She has been seen both on stage and screen. Favorite credits include Belaria (*Cymbeline*), Marjory (*The Moors*), and Peggy Sawyer (*42nd Street*). She would like to thank Dusten for this incredible opportunity, as well as her family for not complaining when she kept her car in Cleveland instead of sending it home. @rachelrittner



KATHERINE NASH
Hippolyta / Titania

Katherine is a performer and artist based in Cleveland, Ohio. A graduate of Indiana University, she holds a BA in Theatre and Drama with a focus in acting. Recent acting credits include: *Significant Other* (Dobama Theatre), *The Temptation of Adam* (Cleveland Public Theatre), *Make Believe* (Dobama Theatre), *2023 Marilyn Bianchi Kid's Playwriting Festival* (Dobama Theatre), *After The Blast* (Convergence-Continuum), and the various iterations of *Bedroom Culture* (Cleveland Public Theatre). Katherine would like to express much love and gratitude towards her friends and family.



CODY SWANSON
Theseus / Oberon

Cody Swanson (Theseus/Oberon) is a professional actor, teacher, stage manager, and fight choreographer, who is ecstatic to be bringing The Bard back to the urban (and not so urban) parks with The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival! He is a proud graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA and of the Academy for the Performing Arts in Chagrin Falls, OH, where at the latter, he taught theatre for over five years. You may have seen him recently in *Ragtime* at Cassidy Theatre as Tateh. Favorite regional credits include *Young Frankenstein* (Igor) at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutio) and *Measure for Measure* (Duke Vicentio) both with The Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, *Assassins* (Sam Byck) at Lakeland Civic Theatre, and *Bus Stop* (Carl) at Big Dog Theatre. In addition, Cody also has performance credits with Shadow of the Run and The Cleveland Play House. Many thanks to Dusten, Rachel, Kelsey, and of course: to those who he's privileged to share the stage with for always making the experience the best! Thank you, Jasmine, for your constant love, and for my favorite smile. Finally: thank YOU, audience member, for continuing to support live theatre!



ALLEN BRANSTEIN
Egeus / Bottom / Pyramus

Allen is very happy to be back with CSF. Other parts have been Agrippa, Titus, Shylock, Dogberry, Caesar, Gravedigger, Ghost, Wolsey, Dennis, Duke Senior, Toby Belch, Malvolio, Richard III, Friar, the lovely Nurse...and others. He has done some films, some commercials, some stand-up, some vaudeville in "The Mike and Al Show" and he would like to thank Paula...because he can.



JASMINE RENEE
Hermia / Snug / Peaseblossom / Lion

Jasmine is a multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated with a BFA in Dramatic Arts from The New School of Drama. Most recently, Jasmine appeared in Cleveland Play House's *Teddy Bear Mountain*. Other acting credits include *Hamlet* (Ophelia) with Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, *DreamWalkers* (Molly) with Shadow of the Run, *Kentucky* (Amy) at The New School of Drama, and *Othello* (Duke of Venice) with No Man's Land Theatre Co. in NYC.



COLE TARANTOWSKI
Demetrius / Snout / Mustardseed / Wall

Cole is thrilled to be making his Cleveland Shakespeare Festival debut. Cole has recently earned his bachelors degree in acting from Baldwin Wallace University. Cole is an artist from Berea Ohio who has most recently performed in *The Ballad of Blank Meter* as Jonathan with Frantic Theatre Co. Cole has also recently started his journey as a play-write with his first short play being produced in April. Cole would like to thank Dusten for this amazing opportunity and Yuval for being his biggest supporter.



SAM BARTLETT
Lysander / Flute / Cobweb / Thisbe

Samuel is absolutely honored to be making his debut for the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival! He is a graduate of Marietta College. Recent acting credits include: *Newsies* (Davey), *Georg* (Spring Awakening), and *Phil* (Be Aggressive), *Malcolm* (Macbeth), *Leaf Coneybear* (25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee), and *Jimmy* (Reefer Madness). He wants to express how much gratitude and love he has for his family and friends who always support his endeavors. IG: @samueljbartlett



DYLAN SEDERS HOFFMAN
Helena / Quince / Moth / Prologue / Moonshine

Dylan is thrilled to be making her Cleveland Shakespeare Festival debut! Off-Broadway: *The Sorceress*, National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene (New York Times Critic's Pick). New York: New Yiddish Rep, The Brick, New York Theater Festival, Center for Performance Research. Film: *STRIYA*, *Yiddish Mean Girls*. As a director and producer, her short film, *Yiddish Mean Girls*, was lauded as one of the twelve "Best Jewish Pop Culture Moments" of 2022 by Hey Alma Magazine and has been an official selection at film festivals across the country and internationally. BA: Bryn Mawr College. Add'l Training: Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She is very grateful for the opportunity to be performing in her hometown for the first time in ten years! IG: @DylanSeders



DUSTEN WELCH
Director

Dusten creates productions that are imaginative, powerful and poignant. He is an award-winning director and a multi-award-winning fight choreographer with the Kennedy's Center American College Theatre Festival program. First appearing on the CSF stage as Hamlet, Dusten has either acted, directed, produced or choreographed 18 productions for CSF since 2008. His directorial debut production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (the first time he staged this play) helped win CSF Cleveland's Best Outdoor Arts Experience with Cleveland Scene Magazine in 2015. In addition to being the Artistic Director of Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Dusten is the Art Director for the Society of American Fight Director's national magazine *The Fight Master*, adjunct professor of stage combat and resident fight choreographer for Baldwin Wallace University, and a founding owner of Creative Sidekick Studios. This show is for Willa, who is about to experience Shakespeare for the very first time: may your imagination lead you to the most wondrous dreams...



KELSEY MALONE
Production Stage Manager

Kelsey (she/her) is a stage manager and theatre artist based in Cleveland, OH. She recently graduated with a BA in Stage Management from Baldwin Wallace University, and this is her first season with Cleveland Shakespeare Festival! Previous stage management credits include *Measure For Measure* (BW Theatre & Dance), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Great Lakes Theater), and *Make Believe* (Dobama Theatre). Kelsey would like to thank her family and friends for always making time to see her shows <3 Enjoy the show!

Thank You

Generous Support Provided By:

Carol Dolan and Gregg Hill
Rodger Govea
The Chagrin Valley Jaycees
Marianne Mitri
Anonymous