

Faringdon Dramatic Society



in support of the

Faringdon Branch of the
British Heart Foundation



presents

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

An Open Air production
in the grounds of
Sudbury House Hotel



Wed 12th June, 8pm
Thurs 13th June, 8pm
Sat 15th June, 2pm &
Sat 15th June, 8pm

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

www.bhf.org.uk

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by

William Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream has been described as "Shakespeare's happiest comedy" and is particularly suited to performance out of doors. It was originally written in 1595 shortly after he wrote **Romeo and Juliet** and in this play too we are shown that 'The course of true love never did run smooth' as Lysander says. It is a timeless piece even though it was written more than four hundred years ago.

There is an oblique reference to Elizabeth I, who had already been celebrated as 'The Faerie Queen'; the setting is Athens and some of the characters step out of Greek mythology. Also at one point Titania, in a beautiful speech, could almost be talking about climate change. However we have chosen to set the play in the 1920s to reflect one of the major themes: conflict between women and their men as they strive to follow their own desires. This seems particularly fitting to that time, when women were seeking to be able to vote and to further their rights. It also enables us to have a better balance of men and women in the cast.

The play was thought originally to have been performed at Court to celebrate a wedding and plans for weddings figure prominently in the action. However when fairies and sprites take an interest in human affairs confusion abounds. We and the characters wonder how much of the fantastical happenings they have dreamed, as love is transformed and misplaced, before being restored, so that confusion ends in harmony and the fairies give us all their blessing.

Carolyn Taylor

Scene: Athens circa 1920. The Garden of Duke Theseus' Palace and an enchanted wood near by.

There will be an interval of fifteen minutes between Acts I and II when the raffle will be drawn and the hotel bar open.

Cast:

The Athenian Court

THESEUS, *Duke of Athens*
HIPPOLYTA, *his betrothed*
EGEUS, *a courtier*
HERMIA, *his daughter*
LYSANDER, *in love with Hermia*
DEMETRIUS, *betrothed to Hermia*
HELENA, *in love with Demetrius*
PHILOSTRATE, *Mistress of Revels*
PHAEDRA, *attendant to Theseus*
GANYMEDE, *attendant to Theseus*

Simon Wisbey
Helen Thrower
Gary Field
Verity Roberts
Adrian Wells
Dave Oakes
Karen Irving
Jayne Isham
Loren Nicholls
Jake Nicholls

The 'Rude Mechanicals'

Nick BOTTOM, *a weaver from Athens*
Peter QUINCE }
Francis FLUTE } *workers at the*
Mrs SNOUT } *Athenian Court*
Mrs STARVELING }
Mrs SNUG }
Moonshine's Dog

Andy Pritchard
Vern Dunkley
Austen Roberts
Sarah Varnom
Joan Lee
Emma Riddle
"Erik"

Fairies and Sprites

PUCK, *a Sprite*
OBERON, *King of the Fairies*
TITANIA, *Queen of the Fairies*
COBWEB, *a Fairy*
PEASEBLOSSOM, *a Fairy*
MOTH, *a Fairy*
MUSTARDSEED, *a Fairy*
CHANGELING BOY

Debbie Lock
Dominic Bullock
Janie Eyre-Brook
Lottie Allum
Imogen Hunt
Caitlin Nicholls
Ellie Hickman
Leo Thrower

Directed by Carolyn Taylor

Production Team

Producer	Debbie Lock
Stage Manager	Jeff Barry
Assistant Stage Manager	Richard Palacio
Set design and Construction	Jo Webster, Peter Webster, Jeff Barry, Richard Palacio, Carole Tappenden
Wardrobe	Lynda Bates, Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield
Lighting	Rod Green, Justin Lee
Sound	Gary Bates
Props	Jayne Isham
Choreography	Carolyn Taylor, Lilly Sell-Dunkley
British Heart Foundation Liaison	Joy Blake
Publicity	British Heart Foundation, Joy Blake, Fiona Merrick, Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Rehearsal Prompt	Alan Taylor



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Sudbury House Hotel** for the use of the venue,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Nut Tree and Faringdon Tourist Information Office** for ticket sales.

The Principal Players

Verity Roberts (Hermia)

Verity's first appearance for FDS was as Cecily in **The Importance of Being Earnest**, and she has now taken leading roles in four of the last six pantos (**Peter Panto**, **Aladdin** and **Cinderella** and **Jack and the Beanstalk**). We have also seen her as Flora Poste in **Cold Comfort Farm**, and as Florence in **The Odd Couple**, but this is her first experience of playing a Shakespearean heroine.



Adrian Wells (Lysander)

Adrian has been a part of FDS for 16 years. He has been in award-winning productions including **The Crucible** (as John Proctor) and as Albert in **Idle Chatter**. He took part in the production of **Outside Edge** that was taken to Fort Erie in 2008 for the first Canadian exchange. Since then he has been the Beast in **Beauty and the Beast** also had roles in **Candleford**, **Our Town**, **The Odd Couple** and **London Suite**.

Karen Irving (Helena)

Karen's first appearance with FDS was as Joanna in **Present Laughter** last year. She has also performed with the Lechlade Players and the Cotswold Arcadians. Previous performances include Perdita in **A Winter's Tale** at the University of Reading and Luciana in **A Comedy of Errors** for Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. Other credits include **Noises Off** and **Teachers**.



Dave Oakes (Demetrius)

It wasn't until Dave, a musician, gained a place on the Performing Arts course at Abingdon college did he find his love for theatre performance. He has been lucky enough to play lead in numerous productions, most recently **The Pajama Game** and **Carry Me Kate**. He has enjoyed his first outing with FDS, and would like to thank everyone for making him so welcome, and for getting him to and from rehearsals!

Janie Eyre-Brook (Titania)

Janie first appeared in an FDS production (**Beside the Seaside**) nearly forty years ago. Since then she has been in several other groups and appeared in a variety of roles including Titania in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** which she is now reprising. She has also appeared in the "background" of several films and even pressed her body against Pierce Brosnan in **The World is not Enough** (well, someone had to do it).



Dominic Bullock (Oberon)

Dominic played Theseus when he was at school so he is delighted to be back in the Dream as Oberon. He has been in several FDS productions over the years including a turn as the MC in **Cabaret** (a character similar to Oberon, in some ways). A tenuous link: his former boss's wife grew up in Sudbury House - and she often used to reminisce about playing in the garden. He is pleased to be carrying on that tradition.



Debbie Lock (Puck)

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years – she has appeared in a variety of productions from **The Crucible** to **Cabaret** and has directed four pantomimes, as well as the one act play **Albert**, which won the Wallingford drama festival. One of her highlights was appearing as the tap dancing crocodile in **Peter Panto**, and she was last on stage as the front half of Magnesia the horse in **Jack and the Beanstalk**.

Simon Wisbey (Theseus)

This is only the second time Simon has trodden the boards since he played pompous cricket captain Roger in **Outside Edge** which FDS took to Canada in 2008. Before that he took part in many productions, including **Blood Brothers**, **The Crucible**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Educating Rita** (as Frank) and **Noises Off** (as Freddie). He was also a remarkable Pantomime Dame in **Snow White**.



Helen Thrower (Hippolyta)

Helen's first appearance with FDS was in this year's panto **Jack and the Beanstalk**, where she played one of the two incompetent villains. She has plenty of experience in drama, both at the Pegasus Theatre in Oxford and in schools where she has taught. At the Unicorn in Abingdon she has directed productions including **Robin Hood**, **Oliver Twist** and **Cats**.

Andy Pritchard (Bottom)

This is Andy's first role with FDS, though for many years he has been a leading player with the Cotswold Arcadians and Meysey Players. Andy is also a member of the Act IV Theatre Company and is currently playing Stamford Raffles in **Raffles - One Heart and Mind** which is at the Buxton Fringe Festival this summer. Besides commercial and TV work, Andy is also a founder member of the Lechlade Mummers.



Vern Dunkley (Quince)

An experienced actor and director with Uffington Players (most recently as René in 'Allo 'Allo), Vern last appeared with FDS in 2010 as Amos Starkadder in **Cold Comfort Farm**, along with his wife Lilly (who has worked on the choreography in this production). Since then he has been in **Neville's Island**, **Our Town** and **Oliver Twist** (as Fagin) and his CV includes Music Hall and Murder Mystery evenings.

Austen Roberts (Flute)

With a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies, Austen brings a depth of knowledge and experience to the group. He founded a drama school for 5 to 17 year olds, appeared in **The Bill**, and worked in both professional and amateur theatre in London and Derby. FDS productions he has appeared in have included **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **Candleford**, **Peter Panto** and **Present Laughter**.



Joan Lee (Mrs Starveling)

Joan joined the Dramatic Society in 1987, and after making the mistake of admitting that she could sew, has been on the wardrobe team ever since. A panto star, she is more often seen in animal roles, being in her time a lion, two halves of a horse, a fish and a toad. Her last stage appearance was as Dolly Dainty the dame in **Jack and the Beanstalk**.



Sarah Varnom (Mrs Snout)

A welcome return to the stage for Sarah, who has enjoyed all manner of roles from Wicked Witch, to leading parts in **Cabaret**, **Dancing at Lughnasa**, **Noises Off** and **The Odd Couple**, as well as Lady Bracknell in **The Importance of being Earnest**. In 2010 Sarah directed the production of **Heroes** which was a huge success, winning the NODA Flame Award that year.

Emma Riddle (Mrs Snug)

Emma studied performing arts at college and was an active member of the RMCS musical theatre group, appearing in shows such as **Half a Sixpence**, **White Horse Inn** and **Oklahoma**. Having taken a break to start her family she has returned to her love of theatre and has been in **Cinderella**, **Jack and the Beanstalk** and **Best of British**. She is very much looking forward to her first open-air Shakespeare and hopes we are blessed with some good weather for it.



Carolyn Taylor (Director)

Carolyn has directed and appeared in many productions for FDS and other companies, including a number of open air Shakespeare productions, most recently **Henry V** for Oxford Theatre Guild and **Macbeth** for the Cotswold Arcadians. Other highlights include playing Aunt Ada Doom in **Cold Comfort Farm** (where she "saw something narsty in the woodshed!"). To her list of many talents she can add that of playwright, being the author of **Beauty and the Beast** in 2009.

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over sixty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted around 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for **Heroes** in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Or email us at webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Our next production is **Wife After Death** by Eric Chappell, directed by Gary Field, described as 'a heart-warming comedy' It will be performed on 7th, 8th and 9th November at Faringdon Junior School.

British Heart Foundation

Great progress has been made in the fight against heart disease. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) has been able to play an important role in advances like improved heart valve replacements, pacemakers and more effective drugs to treat angina, heart failure and high cholesterol. Research provides the key to future knowledge - this is why the BHF exists.

We are working to solve the remaining mysteries in the fight against heart disease - the UK's biggest killer. We still don't know why some people are more likely to develop heart disease than others.

Most of BHF's funds are spent on research into the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Money is also spent on educating and informing the public and medical profession, and on life-saving cardiac equipment. The BHF also helps heart patients to return to a full and active way of life through BHF Nurses, rehabilitation courses and heart support groups.

You can play a valuable part in the continuing fight against heart disease. The BHF receives no government funding and is supported entirely by voluntary donations. Your contribution - however large or small - will go straight to the heart of the problem.



Faringdon Branch of the British Heart Foundation wishes to thank local businesses and supporters for their kind donations towards the Raffle prizes.