

PROGRAM

The Armory Performing Arts Center
Platte Valley Players
Brighton, CO



A
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Kelly Van Oosbree
and Jeffrey Parker

www.plattevalleyplayers.org



PRESENTS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare

@ The Armory Performing Arts Center

Produced by
Kelly Van Oosbree and
Platte Valley Players

Co-Directed by
Kelly Van Oosbree and Jeffrey Parker

Costume Design by
Terri Fong-Schmidt

Set Design by
Brian Mallgrave

Sound Design by
Ryan Michener

Choreographed by
Kelly Van Oosbree

Lighting Design by
Brett Maughan

Stage Manager
Kristina Bobrowski

Assistant Stage Manager
Shay Goddard

OVERVIEW

In Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the action unfolds amidst the backdrop of Athens and an enchanted forest.

The Duke of Athens, Theseus, prepares for his wedding to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. Meanwhile, four young lovers—Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius, and Helena—find themselves entangled in a web of romantic confusion. Hermia's father, Egeus, insists she marry Demetrius or endure deadly consequences, but she loves Lysander. Helena, Hermia's childhood friend loves Demetrius but he is promised to Hermia. Lysander and Hermia escape to the forest but are followed by Helena and Demetrius.

Meanwhile, in the forest, Oberon and Titania, the fairy king and queen, are embroiled in their own dispute. Oberon seeks revenge on Titania because he is jealous that she will not give him the mortal child she has been rearing since the death of the child's mother. Due to their discord, the seasons and climate are out of sort and it is negatively effecting the mortal world. Oberon enlists the mischievous Puck to use a magical flower to manipulate Titania while she sleeps in her bower. In addition, Puck uses the magical flower to manipulate the lovers' affections.

Additionally, a group of amateur actors led by the bumbling Bottom enters the forest to rehearse a play. Puck's antics lead to mistaken identities, transformed appearances, and comical chaos. Ultimately, through a series of magical interventions and humorous misunderstandings, order in the fairy and mortal realms are restored and the lovers are reunited. Oberon and Titania bless the unions and everyone celebrates the harmony of love and reconciliation.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Cast Members

Samara Attridge	Mustardseed / Philostrate
Greer Caldwell	Snout / Wall
Bill Diggle	Oberon
Rachel Graham	Puck
Jennifer Grahnquist	Hippolyta
Kris Graves	Snug / Lion
Carley Hutson	Moth
Alex Jacobsen	Cobweb / Puck U/S
Rick Long	Robin Starveling / Moonshine
Adam Luhrs	Peter Quince
Aspen McCart	Hermia
Abby McInerney	Peaseblossom
Daniel Mothershed	Theseus
Wes Munsil	Egeus
Chase Ralston	Francis Flute / Thisbe
Charlie Schmidt	Bottom / Pyramus
Dallas Slankard	Helena
Tyler Strickland	Demetrius
Sam Werkema	Lysander
Jordann Zbyski	Titania

Production / Creative

Co-Director/Choreographer	Kelly Van Oosbree
Co-Director	Jeffrey Parker
Costume Designer	Terri Fong-Schmidt
Sound Designer & Engineer	Ryan Michener, Technical Director of the Armory Performing Arts Center
Set Designer	Brian Mallgrave
Lighting Designer	Brett Maughan
Stage Manager	Kristina Bobrowski
Assistant Stage Manager/ Spotlight Operator	Shay Goddard
Light Board Operator	Gavin Nielsen
Assistant Costume Designer	Laurie Fong
Set Construction	Jeff Rusnak, Modular Productions and University of Denver Department of Theatre
Scenic Painter	Korri Marshall

WHO'S WHO



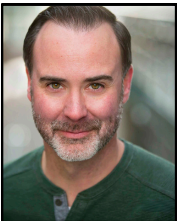
Samara Attridge (*Mustardseed / Philostrate*)

Samara Attridge, in her boundless gratitude, doth rejoice in her role within another grand production of the Platte Valley Players! She hath ere this lent her talents unto PVP in *Tomato Plant Girl*, portraying the Little Girl; in *Almost, Maine*, embodying the roles of Gayle and Rhonda; in *Urinetown*, taking on the mantle of Officer Barrell; and in *Pride and Prejudice*, gracing the stage as Elizabeth. Samara doth eagerly anticipate the conjuration of this current spectacle, wherein fairy magic shall play no small part! She doth extend her heartfelt thanks unto the wondrous cast and crew, whose benevolence, devotion, and unparalleled skill in their art doth serve as a beacon of inspiration! So, let us now immerse ourselves in the delightful absurdity of love!



Greer Caldwell (*Snout / Wall*)

Greer Caldwell is thrilled to be making her debut with Plate Valley Players! A transplant from Chattanooga, Greer was active in community theater in Tennessee and Georgia before moving to Denver in 2021. Recent shows include *Seussical* and *Carousel* with Performance Now, *Dot Gone* and *Rumors* in Broomfield, and *Something Rotten* in Longmont. Greer recently choreographed *Something's Afoot* for Longmont Theater Company in addition to youth shows for Roaming Gnome Theater in Aurora. She also co-founded the social activism group Moms for Social Justice. Tremendous thanks goes to her (five!) amazing kiddos for being the best cheerleaders, support system, inspiration, and source of joy.



Bill Diggle (*Oberon*)

Bill Diggle is thrilled to be making his Platte Valley Players debut in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His other work around Denver includes Professor Bhaer in *Little Women* and Jigger Craigin in *Carousel* (Henry Nomination), both with Performance Now, as well as Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods* with Ovation West. Some of Bill's favorite regional credits include Salieri in *Amadeus* (Texas Shakes), Thomas Jefferson in *1776* (Ford's Theatre), Curly in *Oklahoma!* (Monomoy Theatre), and Cornelius in *Hello Dolly!* (Circa '21). Bill has an MFA from the University of Houston's Professional Actor Training Program. "Thank you Kelly and Jeff for this opportunity and all the love to Katie and Emersyn whose constant support makes this all possible."

WHO'S WHO



Rachel D. Graham (*Puck*)

Rachel D. Graham is thrilled to reprise a role she first tackled when she was fifteen, performing at Miners Alley Playhouse. With a diverse repertoire at Platte Valley Players, she has had the honor of playing Sister James in *Doubt*; the title role in *The Tomato Plant Girl*; Little Sally in *Urinetown*; and Mayella in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Beyond the stage, Rachel channels her creative energy into capturing the essence of live theater—photographing countless performances across Colorado under the banner of RDGPhotography. “Accept my heartfelt gratitude for thy steadfast patronage of the arts, and may the sweetest of dreams grace thee, dear friends.”



Jennifer Grahmquist (*Hippolyta*)

Jennifer Grahmquist is thrilled to be making her Platte Valley Players debut! She was last seen as Zaneeta Shinn in *The Music Man* with Performance Now Theatre Company. Other credits include *Cinderella* (Arvada Center); Louise Biegelow in *Carousel* (Henry nomination), *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Crazy for You*, *The Producers* (Performance Now); *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Vintage Theatre); *A Chorus Line* (PACE Center); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Bowls with the Bard). Jennifer has also performed with the Colorado Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Texture Contemporary Ballet. Jennifer teaches theatre at the Denver Waldorf School and is earning her master’s in theatre education at the University of Northern Colorado. “Much love to Shane for all your support!”



Kris Graves (*Snug / Lion*)

Kris Graves is excited to be back with PVP and revisit one of his favorite plays. He has his BFA in Musical Theatre. Some of his favorite roles have been Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*; Fatty Arbuckle in *Mack & Mabel*; Frau Schmidt in *The Sound of Music*; The Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*; Luther Rosser in *Parade*. When he isn't on stage, he also loves to direct. “Thank you, Kelly and Jeff, for letting me come play. Thank you to my friends and family for their love and support.”

WHO'S WHO



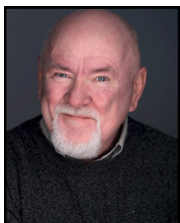
Carley Hutson (*Moth*)

Carley Hutson is thrilled to be making her Platte Valley Players debut! Carley is currently getting her BA in theatre at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her recent university credits include *Dracula* (Mina), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Mother Teresa), *Everybody* (Love), and *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff). She'd like to thank her directors Kelly and Jeff for all their support. "Enjoy the show!"



Alex Jacobsen (*Cobweb / Puck Understudy*)

Alex Jacobsen is thrilled to be in her second show with Platte Valley Players, having previously been a member of the ensemble of *Man of La Mancha*. Her other recent credits include *Bea*, *Something Rotten!* (Florida Southern Theatre); *Mrs. Lovett*, *Sweeney Todd*, (Arvada Center); *Bird Seller*, *Sweeney Todd*, (Arts HUB); *Jamie*, *Mushy* (Orlando Fringe Festival); and *Mona/Kitty*, *Chicago* (City Theatre Company). Last spring, Alex graduated summa cum laude with her BFA in Musical Theatre and a minor in Art History from Florida Southern College. Her gratitude and love goes out to her friends, family, and her mentors.



Rick Long (*Robin Starveling / Moonshine*)

Rick Long, a Littleton native, is honored to be making his Platte Valley Players debut as Moonshine in this incredible cast of talented folks! After earning an MFA in Acting from the University of Wisconsin, Rick has been seen on stages across the USA and Europe. Colorado audiences may recall his Guest Artist appearance at as Iago in *Othello* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); as Claudius in *Hamlet* (Foothills Theater Company); as Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* (THAC); Big Daddy in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (The Vintage), which garnered Rick a 2022 Henry Nomination, and most recently as Daddy Murphy in *Bright Star* and Big Jule in *Guys and Dolls* (The Thingamajig Theater in Pagosa Springs). Rick would like to thank Kelly Van Oosbree and Jeff Parker for the invitation to this fabulous party, and to Kristina Bobrowski for being our DD. Rick is also a 2023 True West Award winner for his watercolor artwork, currently exhibiting samples of his work in galleries throughout Denver and at www.RickLongArt.com.

WHO'S WHO



Adam Luhrs (*Peter Quince*)

Adam Luhrs (Peter Quince) is a serial theater hobbyist who has performed throughout the Denver area with Performance Now, Platte Valley Players, and Firehouse Theater. Favorite roles include Sparky in *Forever Plaid*, the Duke in *Man of La Mancha*, Ted Scheider in *Disaster!*, and Hot Blades Harry in *Urinetown*. Adam is thrilled to finally try his hand at some Shakespeare and would like to thank YOU for supporting live theater!



Aspen McCart (*Hermia*)

Aspen McCart is thrilled to be making their debut with the Platte Valley Players! Aspen is a junior at the University of Denver studying Theatre, Political Science, and Gender and Women Studies. Some past shows include Katherine, *The Taming* (University of Denver), and Sara, *Stop Kiss* (University of Denver). She is so excited to be in her first show outside of the university, and cannot wait for the magic of this show. Aspen would love to thank Kelly Van Oosbree and Jeff Parker for giving her such amazing opportunities time and time again, and she knows she wouldn't be where she is without them. She also gives her thanks to her family and friends who support her and all of their adventures. "I love you, momma!"



Abby McInerney (*Peaseblossom*)

Abby McInerney is very happy to be back with PVP. Previous PVP roles include a urinal manager, a lounge singer and plant food. Abby's main role is mom to Miles and Nora, and Rosie (her pup). Abby thanks Kelly and Jeffrey for letting her dust off her BFA in Drama. She also thanks her main squeeze, Patrick for 20 years of support and marrying her on Shakespeare's birthday all those years ago.

WHO'S WHO



Daniel Mothershed (*Theseus*)

Daniel Mothershed is an actor, sometimes playwright, and occasional director based in Denver with over a decade of experience making theatre in Colorado and a small Chicago apartment. Favorite theatre credits include: Nick Bottom, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Hamlet, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*; Albert Einstein (2016) and Freddy (2024), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*; Uncle Screwtape, *The Screwtape Letters*; and Brock, *Ideation*. He also co-wrote *Oh Greeley: An All-American Musical*. He is thrilled to return to this hilarious play and to make his debut with the Platte Valley Players!



Wes Munsil (*Egeus*)

Wes Munsil celebrates his seventh show with PVP. He was last seen here as Caldwell B Cladwell in *Urinetown*, and is back now with yet another ungrateful, conniving daughter. A few of his other past roles are Benjamin Franklin in *1776* (Performance Now Theatre Company, Henry award nomination), Martin Vanderhof (Grandpa) in *You Can't Take It With You* (PVP), Mr Gilmer in *To Kill A Mockingbird* (PVP), Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (PVP), Max in *Sunset Boulevard* (Vintage Theatre), Grandfather in *Ragtime* (PNTC), Mr Lundie in *Brigadoon* (PNTC), Narrator and Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods* (twice: Ignite Theatre and Fine Arts Center Repertory Theatre Company), Niels Bohr in *Copenhagen* (Stagecraft, BroadwayWorld Denver award nomination), Harry/Baptista in *Kiss Me, Kate* (PNTC), Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Ovation Players), and Elwood P Dowd in *Harvey* (Star Bar Players). He thanks his lovely wife, The Amazing Janet, for encouraging him to brush up his Shakespeare, and you, for supporting live theatre.



Chase Ralston (*Francis Flute / Thisbe*)

Chase Ralston is very excited to be making his PVP debut! Chase recently moved to Colorado from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and is currently a BFA musical theatre student at Metropolitan State University. Most recent credits include Chuck (*Footloose*); Billy Cane (*Bright Star*); Percy Jackson (*The Lightning Thief*); and Dickon (*The Secret Garden*). He'd like to give thanks to the entire production team and cast for their support and kindness. "Enjoy the show!"

WHO'S WHO



Charlie Schmidt (*Bottom / Pyramus*)

Charlie Schmidt is excited to return to PVP for his 6th show. Recent PVP credits include: Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown*; Tony Delvecchio in *Disaster!*; Wickham/Collins/Ms Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*; and Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Charlie has been performing all over Colorado for the past 20 years and also enjoys writing, directing, and producing. Charlie is the co-creator of the new musical *Totally Awesome 80s, Ski Town, USA* which had its sold out premier at the Breckenridge Backstage Theatre. Charlie would like to thank Terri, Kelly, Jeff, and the amazing cast and crew for all their support.



Dallas Slankard (*Helena*)

Dallas Slankard is thrilled to be making her Platte Valley Players debut! Some of her past favorites include *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Billie Bendix), *The Revolutionists* (Marie Antoinetter), *Othello* (Bianca), and *Boeing Boeing* (Gretchen). "As always, a big thank you to my circle of support and love! 'Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind.'"



Tyler Strickland (*Demetrius*)

Tyler Strickland is honored to share the stage with this cast under the direction of this creative team for his Platte Valley Players debut. After taking a few years off from performing to finish his education as a physician associate, he had the opportunity to return to the stage in Colorado as Black Stache in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (The Arts HUB). Some of his favorite credits from Louisville, KY, to New York City, include Orin Scrivello, DDS in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mount Carmel Theatre Company); Frank-N-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Boston University); and the Duke of Cornwall in *King Lear* (Columbia University Bard Hall Players). He would like to thank everyone involved with this production for such an incredible experience and the audience for supporting local theatre!

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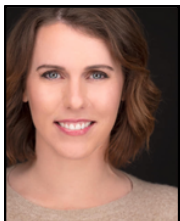
Sam Werkema (*Lysander*)

Sam Werkema is excited to be joining the Platte Valley Players for the first time! He is a student at the University of Denver where he is majoring in Theater and Computer Science. Previous credits include Haemon, *Antigone* (University of Denver); Leroy, *A Bright New Boise* (University of Denver); Demetrius, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (University of Denver); and John, *Beth* (University of Denver).



Jordann Zbylski (*Titania*)

Jordann Zbylski is thrilled to be making her Platte Valley Players debut! She has a degree in theatre from the University of Southern California and a Certificate in Applied Shakespeare from CU Boulder. She was last seen as Rosalind in *As You Like It* at Shakespeare in Clement Park. She'd like to thank Kelly and Jeff for this awesome opportunity and you, the audience, for coming to see this fabulous show. Jordann also thanks her parents for their unending support and Eric and Jude for being her biggest fans! "Tis almost fairy time!"



Kelly Van Oosbree (*Co-Director, Choreographer*)

Kelly Van Oosbree is a Henry and TrueWest Award winner, a seasoned director and choreographer and serves as PVP's Artistic Director. Some select recent directorial credits include *Damn Yankees* (Arvada Center), *The Taming* (DU Dept. of Theatre), *The Music Man* (Performance Now Theatre Company), *Man of La Mancha* (Platte Valley Players), and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Cherry Creek Theatre Company). Her upcoming projects include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* with Give 5 Productions and *Cabaret* with Platte Valley Players. Special thanks to Mallgrave, Kristina, Terri, Brett, and, of course, Professor Jeffrey Parker.

WHO'S WHO

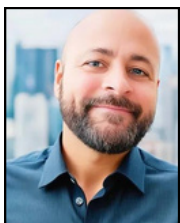


Jeffrey Parker (Co-Director)

Jeffrey Parker has previously worked with Platte Valley Players as a dialect coach on *Pride and Prejudice*, a singer in *Brighton on Broadway*, and as an actor in both *Doubt* (Father Flynn) and *Man of La Mancha* (Don Quixote). When not in Brighton, Jeffrey is a tenured professor of theatre, the director of voice and text for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and a vocal coach for both the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and the Arvada Center. He is also a two-time Henry award-winning actor. Midsummer marks his 10th collaboration with Kelly Van Oosbree, which is far too many collaborations. His book, "Experiencing Speech," is available for purchase on Amazon and Routledge.

Terri Fong-Schmidt (Costume Designer)

Terri Fong-Schmidt is thrilled to be designing her first show for Platte Valley Players. Terri has been a freelance costume designer in the Colorado area for over the past 10 years. Past credit favorites include *Totally Awesome 80s*, *Ski Town USA* (Backstage Backstage Theatre); *Little Shop of Horrors* (THAC), *A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant* (Aurora Fox). She would like to thank her husband Charlie and family for their love and support.



Brian Mallgrave (Set Designer)

Brian has worked with the Arvada Center since 2006 helping to produce over 200 original set designs, and currently serves as Director of Scenic Design there. Awarded "Alumnus of the Year, 2019" by his alma mater, UNO, he also holds several local Henry Awards, most recently for the design of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at the Arvada Center in 2022. Other local credits: Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Curious Theatre Company, DU Theatre, Give 5 Productions, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and Aurora Fox Arts Center.

WHO'S WHO



Brett Maughan (Lighting Designer)

Brett Maughan is a freelance lighting designer. He was the Resident LD for BDT Stage, where he lit *Something Rotten*, *Footloose*, *Peter & the Starcatcher*, and *Mary Poppins* (2015 Henry Award), to name a few, and frequently designs for the Aurora Fox, Performance Now, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, Platte Valley Players, and Town Hall Arts Center. Favorite designs: *Rock of Ages* (BDT), *Caroline or Change* and *Hedwig & the Angry Inch* (Aurora Fox), *American Idiot* (Town Hall) and *Drowsy Chaperone* (Performance Now - 2022 Henry Award).
www.maughanbrett.wixsite.com/lightingdesign



Kristina Bobrowski (Stage Manager)

Kristina Bobrowski's sixth production with PVP still feels like a dream to her. She is excited to work with the cast and crew of *Midsummer*, one of her all time favorite plays. Other favorite stage management credits include *Urinetown*, *Almost, Maine*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Grease* and *You Can't Take It With You*. She also serves on the PVP Board of Directors. "Thanks to David and Bry for their endless support and THANK YOU for supporting our hidden gem theater company—though we be but little, we are fierce!"

Special thanks to First Presbyterian Church of Brighton, Performance Now Theatre Company, and University of Denver Department of Theatre.

This production was made possible by the generous support of:



A Note from Artistic Director, Kelly Van Oosbree

Working with this fine group of actors on the poetry of Shakespeare has been an incredibly rewarding process. It has been a collaborative exploration of language, rhythm, and emotion, delving deep into language and human expression.

A Midsummer Night's Dream was likely written between 1594 and 1596. So, witnessing these modern actors breathe life into Shakespeare's verse and making it clear for a 2024 audience has been nothing short of magical. Together, we have dissected the nuances of every line, mining for the hidden gems of meaning and expression. Through meticulous attention to meter, rhyme, metaphor, rhetoric and antithesis, we have unearthed the poetry's power to evoke laughter, tears, and everything in between.

The process has been one of discovery and growth, both for the actors and for Jeffrey and myself. We have marveled at the beauty of Shakespeare's language and reveled in the challenge of bringing it to life on stage.

Ultimately, our collaboration has deepened our appreciation for the timeless genius of Shakespeare and the enduring relevance of his words. It has been a privilege to witness the actors embrace the poetry with passion and dedication, and we are immensely proud of the artistry they have brought to Platte Valley Player's first production of a Shakespeare play. We hope it will not be the last and we hope you enjoy the show!

Thank You for Your Support

We appreciate your support by attending this production! **However, ticket sales only cover a small portion of production costs.** Please consider making a donation of any size to Platte Valley Players: invest in the community by investing in PVP!



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