



February 27-28 & March 4-7, 2026, 7:30pm
March 1 & March 8, 2026, 2:00pm
Robert E. Will Theatre
URI Fine Arts Center

William Shakespeare's

A
Midsummer
Night's
Dream

Directed by
Tracy Liz Miller

Tickets Available Online:
uri.edu/theatre
OR
(401) 874-5843

For
Disability
Assistance
Please Call

URI Theatre Presents
A Midsummer Night's Dream
by William Shakespeare

COMPANY (In Alphabetical Order)

Snug the Joiner/Mustardseed.....Isaiah Agabi
Francis Flute the Bellows Mender/ First Fairy.....Aliza Almonte
Peter Quince/ Peaseblossom.....Jena Hindy
Lysander/ Fairy.....Max Hunter
Titania/ Hippolyta.....Princess Johnson
Robin Starveling the Tailor/ Cobweb.....Emersyn Nutting
Hermia/ Fairy.....Abbey Pezza
Nick Bottom the Weaver/ Egeus.....Jeremy Rodriquez
Demetrius/ Fairy.....Tatiana Sullivan
Oberon/ Theseus.....Brandon Tallardy
Tom Snout the Tinker/ Moth.....Chelsea Lynn Taylor
Puck/ Philostrate.....Chayla Valentine
Helena/ Fairy.....Mia Victorino

SWING CAST

Tom Snout/ Moth/ Snug/ Mustardseed.....Evan Asfour
Hippolyta/ Titania/ Helena/ Fairy.....Piper Colyar
Francis Flute/ First Fairy.....Emma Cotter
Demetrius/ Bottom/ Egeus/ Fairy.....Jonathan Kish
Peter Quince/ Peaseblossom.....Eva St-Germain
Puck/ Philostrate/ Hermia/ Fairy.....Gabiella Stein
Robin Starveling/Cobweb
Theseus/ Oberon/ Lysander/ Fairy.....Dylan Tallardy

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

WARNING :
This Production Contains the Following
Flashing Lights

Please turn off or place cell phones on silent mode. Their use along with cameras, recording devices, social media postings and smoking is **PROHIBITED.**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Midsummer Director's Notes Once this beloved comedy was chosen for this season, I was captured by the opportunity to build something that brought us joy – joy to the company, joy to the department, and joy to the audience.

I was also excited to approach this play that has a large list of characters, as all Shakespeare plays do, in a way that was closer to how professional theatre companies would approach producing a large cast play – by having actors play more than one role. It makes it more challenging not only for the actors but for the costume design and wardrobe crew, but perhaps more importantly, it also makes it more fun!

We have a lot of incredibly talented female and non-binary artists working on this show in all areas, making up the majority of the student body in the department. I knew that I wanted to open up most of the genders of the characters so that there would be more opportunity for all folks to be considered for roles. And not only are they embracing the roles whole-heartedly, but finding new and exciting ways to portray these characters than ever expected. It's created an exciting rehearsal experience, full of joy and collaboration. Shakespeare was gender-bending when the plays were originally produced, as women were not allowed to be professional actors at that time, forcing an all-male company to cast males to play female roles. So our approach isn't radical in the least; it's exactly what the play was originally meant to be: gender-bending.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES *continued*

So here we present to you our joyful Midwinter A Midsummer Night's Dream performed by 13 actors, all of them doubling roles to tell this tremendous tale of chaos, love, and forgiveness, infused with 1930s jazz and a side of magic thrown in. All of it designed to bring joy and delight in the middle of a harsh winter. Behind the scenes, literally right behind beautiful scenery, there is a hard-working crew making it all happen, as actors rush off stage to change costumes and gather props to make their next immediate entrance. This production couldn't happen without the team of collaborators in design and technical production, crew and wardrobe, box office and administration, and our incredibly organized stage management crew, especially Bonnie Bosworth and Ralph McElroy.

With joy,
Tracy Liz Miller

Dramaturge Notes

“A Jazzy Midsummer Night's Dream”
by Bridget Fullman

Although Shakespeare originally set *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Ancient Greece, at URI we adapted the play to take place in the 1930s Jazz Age. The Jazz Age was one of the many forms of escape that emerged during The Great Depression. Escapism is defined as the tendency to seek distraction or relief from a depressing reality; especially by seeking entertainment or engaging in fantasy. Big band jazz playing at nightclubs was the preferred form of escape for anyone going through hardship in the Jazz Age. Dances that could be performed in larger groups brought people together to share in each other's newfound joy. Our director, Tracy Miller, saw the Jazz Age as a great way to broaden the story of *Midsummer* and its characters who escape their own reality and venture into a fantastical world.

At the start of the show, Hermia's father, Egeus, complains to Theseus that Hermia refuses to marry Demetrius, the man he has chosen for her.. Theseus gives Hermia an ultimatum: Either marry the person your father has chosen, be sentenced to a nunnery for the rest of her life, or die. This sends Hermia, Lysander, Helena and Demetrius into a 'depression' from which the characters feel a need to escape.

Dramaturge Notes continued

The original play draws from different mythologies, including ancient Greek characters and “Faes” of the Celtic traditions. Worship and mythic belief is one way to give meaning to circumstances beyond human control. Since people of the Jazz Age did not worship these idols, we have taken inspiration from other cultural norms of the 1930s. During the time of the Great Depression, superstitious beliefs were popular to prevent any possibility of bad luck. For example, the sight of an owl during the daytime usually meant that the viewer should expect great misfortune to their family. Woodpeckers, Crows, and Doves were all signs of an imminent death. This is not unlike *Midsummer* characters who fall under a spell cast by the King and Queen of the Fairies, Oberon and Titania.

Instead of viewing Theseus and Hippolyta as ancient war heroes from Greek mythology, we turned to real world examples of cultural icons of the Jazz Age. Ada Smith, who was a performer and owned her own clubs served as an inspiration for Hippolyta. She is a great example of a woman with power in the Jazz age. John Hammond, our inspiration for Theseus, was a well-known and wealthy man who produced the majority of popular music which gave him great influence in the Jazz Age.

On a personal note, I am a huge Greek mythology fan which gave me the inspiration for being the dramaturge for this show. I could retell my favorite myths to you almost word for word. My grandfather, who passed away in 2022, was a very passionate fan of everything Jazz. I recalled he had a PBS DVD set of documentaries on the topic. So that was the first place I checked for information on the jazz world. It is also where I got the majority of my information. I also watched a couple of Busby Berkeley movies which helped draw me into this world. I looked into jazz’s impact overseas and used my ability to speak French to discover underground jazz clubs existed far beyond the United States’ shores.

This production was challenging but very fun to put together. We hope you enjoy it!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Steven Wilson
Assistant Technical Director.....Samuel Cote
Student TD & Asst. Prod. Mgr.....Kayla Senn
Production Manager.....Paula McGlasson

PRODUCTION STAFF *continued*

Student Production Managers.....Parker Frenze, Siobhan Kalfur
Assistant Director.....Sonia Thomas
Dance Captain & Assistant Choreographer.....Isaiah Agabi
Assistant Stage Managers.....Kenneth Dunn, Gray Jeffery,
Gavin Kiernan, Alex Pinto, Gracelyn Watkins, Zoe Ziegler
Assistant Sound Designer.....Mac Castro
Dramaturge.....Bridget Fullam
Assistant Scenic Designer.....Amelia Connor-McCoy
Charge Scenic Artist.....Cassandra McKnight
Scenic Artists.....Vanessa Chan, Amelia Connor McCoy
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Kayla Kennedy
Properties Designer.....Grey Rung
Assistant Properties Designers.....Siobhan Kalfur, Max Hunter
Lighting Supervisor.....Haley Ahlborg
Lighting Programmer.....Julia Gallery
Head Electrician.....Honor Pierce
Assistant Electricians.....Madeline Kortz, Jackson Quindazzi
Master Carpenter.....Neil G. Santoro
Carpenters.....Angus Chlebeczek, Chelsea Lynn Taylor,
Drew Babigian, Matthew Miranda, Zoe
Ziegler, Dami Oremosu
Set Construction Crew.....Melody Berenbaum,
Patricia Shchron, Camryn Fella, Sonia Thomas, THE161
Stage & Properties Running Crew.....Amelia O’Neil,
Geneva Outhouse, Guy Stomton
Light Board Operator.....Ava Sousa
Follow Spot Operators.....Calum Collard, Brian McKenna
Sound Board Operators.....Skyler Bobinski, Angus Chlebeck
Assistant Costume Designer.....Jake DeShiro
Outreach Coordinator.....Bonnie Bosworth
Admin. Asst. II.....Ralph McElroy
Costume Shop Manager.....Alison Walker Carrier
Specialty Costume Work.....David T. Howard
Costume Construction Crew..... Piper Colyar, Emersyn Nutting,
Honor Pierce, Bridget Stark, Clancy Smail, Zoe
Ziegler, Allison Whitney, THE250 Students
Stitchers.....Lauren Beaudoin, Jennifer Cannon

Wardrobe Maintenance Crew.....Allison Whitney

PRODUCTION STAFF continued

Wardrobe Crew Head.....Siobhan Kalfur
Wardrobe Running Crew.....Evan Asfour, Canyon Bake,
Laurie Brito, Courtney Geary, Noah Goldman,
Jonathan Kish, Olivia Picard, Dylan Tallardy,
Allison Whitney
Marketing Director.....Michael Galvin
Poster & Program Cover Design.....Tatiana Sullivan
Box Office Manager.....Aaron Adams
Box Office Staff.....Parker Frenze, Julia Gallery,
Gray Jeffery, Christina Lancellotta, Alex Pinto,
David Santana, Gracelyn Watkins
House Managers.....Chloe Shulsinger, Abraphine Ngafaih
Resident House Manager.....Gwen Glaude
Student House Managers.....Lolaoluwa Alarapon,
Ethan Clarke, Julia Gallery, Henry Kerr,
Abraphine Ngafaih, Nelson Vasilchik
Ushers.....THE 100 Students
Social Media Team.....Kayla Senn (chair),
Isaiah Agabi, Aliza Almonte. Parker Frenze, Siobhan Kalfur,
Sydney Nogueira, Alex Pinto, Celeste Tucci

URI THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF

Sophia Blum.....Guest Artist, Acting
Bonnie Bosworth.....Outreach Coordinator
Normand Beauregard.....Guest Artist, Stage Combat
Alison Carrier.....Costume Shop Manager
Margaret Cady.....Guest Artist, Acting
Jeff Church.....Guest Artist, Acting
Samuel Cote.....Assistant Technical Director
Maria Day-Hyde.....Guest Artist, Intro to Theatre
Tony Estrella.....Guest Artist, Acting
Erin Haas.....Guest Artist, Intro to Theatre
Jacob Richards-Hegnauer.....Guest Artist, Stagecraft
James Horban.....Assistant Professor, Design & Technology
David T. Howard.....Professor, Costume Design

URI THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF

Ralph McElroy.....Administrative Assistant II
Paula McGlasson.....Professor, Theatre Management,
Department Chair
Jennifer Madden.....Guest Artist, Theatre History
Tracy Liz Miller.....Associate Teaching Professor
Stephanie Traversa.....Guest Artist, Makeup
Rachel Walshe.....Assistant Professor, Acting, Directing
Steven Wilson.....Technical Director

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Trinity Repertory Theatre

Thanks to the generosity of Mary Higgins, a special school matinee of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be held for 400 Rhode Island high school students on March 6, 2026

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Vinnie Corbo, musician/composer/arranger/producer extraordinaire. I reached out to Vinnie in December 2025, explained what we were cooking up at URI, and he whole-heartedly granted permission to use any of his tracks for our production. “The One on the Left Ain’t Right” and his arrangement of “Toxic” are featured in our production. Check out his extraordinarily wide range of artistic work at www.vinniecorbo.com.

Kent

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We acknowledge with gratitude the many who have so graciously supported the University of Rhode Island, Department of Theatre

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Marilyn Woloohojian
The Mary Zorabedian Scholarship Endowment

RETIRED URI THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF

Joy Spanabel Emery.....Professor Emerita (deceased)
Julius Galgoczy.....Technical Director
Alan Hawkrige.....Lecturer
Michael Lapointe.....Resident House Manager,
Graphic Designer (deceased)
Judith Swift.....Prof Emerita, Comm. Studies & Theatre
Sally Tschantz-Dwyer.....Costume Shop Manager

Kimber Wheelock.....Professor Emeritus (deceased)

RETIRED URI THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF continued

Christian Wittwer.....Professor Emeritus

Bryna Wortman.....Professor Emerita (deceased)

Upcoming Production

Ride The Cyclone

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell

April 17-19 & 22-26, 2026

www.uri.edu/theatre

URI Theatre Mission Statement

The URI Theatre program provides a conservatory experience with a pre-professional liberal art setting. The distinguished faculty, guest artists and staff place an equal emphasis on the theoretical and practical understanding of theatre. Artistically vibrant, relevant and rooted in collaboration, our unique production program enriches all students and serves the educational and cultural needs of the university and the greater community