A Visual Story
To support your visit to Shakespeare's Globe.

Contents

Visual Story
This document will give you a detailed description of what to expect from A Midsummer Night's Dream in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe.

Included:

- Pictures of the cast in and out of costume
- Show notes and helpful information
- Synopsis
- A sonic story provided by TourettesHero
- Contact details

The Cast

This shows the cast in and out of character. Some of the characters appear in multiple costumes throughout.

Hedydd Dylan

Hippolyta / Titania

Dannie Harris

Fairy / Cover

Jack Humphrey

Egeus / Quince

Lou Jackson

Demetrius / Cobweb

Pria Kalsi

Flute / Child

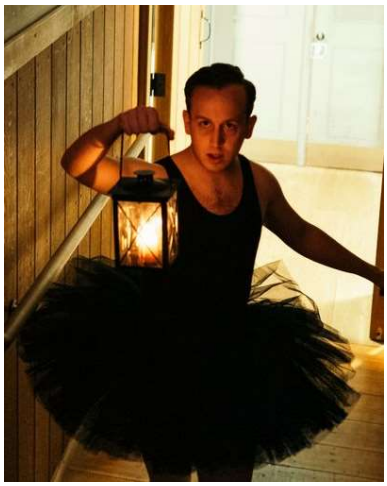
Danny Kirrane

Bottom

Tiwa Lade

Hermia / Mustardseed

Ben Lynn



Fairy / Cover

Michael Marcus

Theseus / Oberon

David Olaniregun

Lysander / Moth

Tara Tijani

Helena / Peaseblossom

Sergo Vares

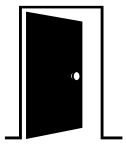
Puck

Show Notes

Relaxed Performance

A relaxed performance will take place on:

Saturday 13 December 2025 at 2.00 pm
and
Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 7.30 pm



This will mean:

- An open-door policy: you can come and go as much as you want or need to.
- A culture of acceptance and respect for however you want to experience the show.
- Movement and noise are welcome should you need or want to.
- Pre-show information packs are available online and at the welcome desk.
- A Quiet Space in the Upper Foyer.

The content of the show is exactly the same.

Content Notes

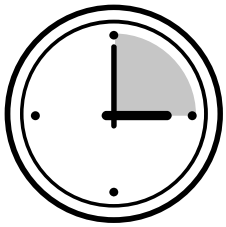
This production is suitable for ages 12+.

It contains loud noises, strong language, scenes of sexual content, drug use, and gunshots.

This content will be the same during the relaxed performance.

See the detailed synopsis and sonic story to know when to expect these moments.

Show Notes



Times
The show is roughly 2 hours and 15 minutes long.

This includes a 20 minute interval.

Music and Sound

The sonic story gives details on the music and sound throughout the show.

You are welcome to wear your own audio mufflers or borrow some from us.

Lighting

The Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is lit with candlelight.

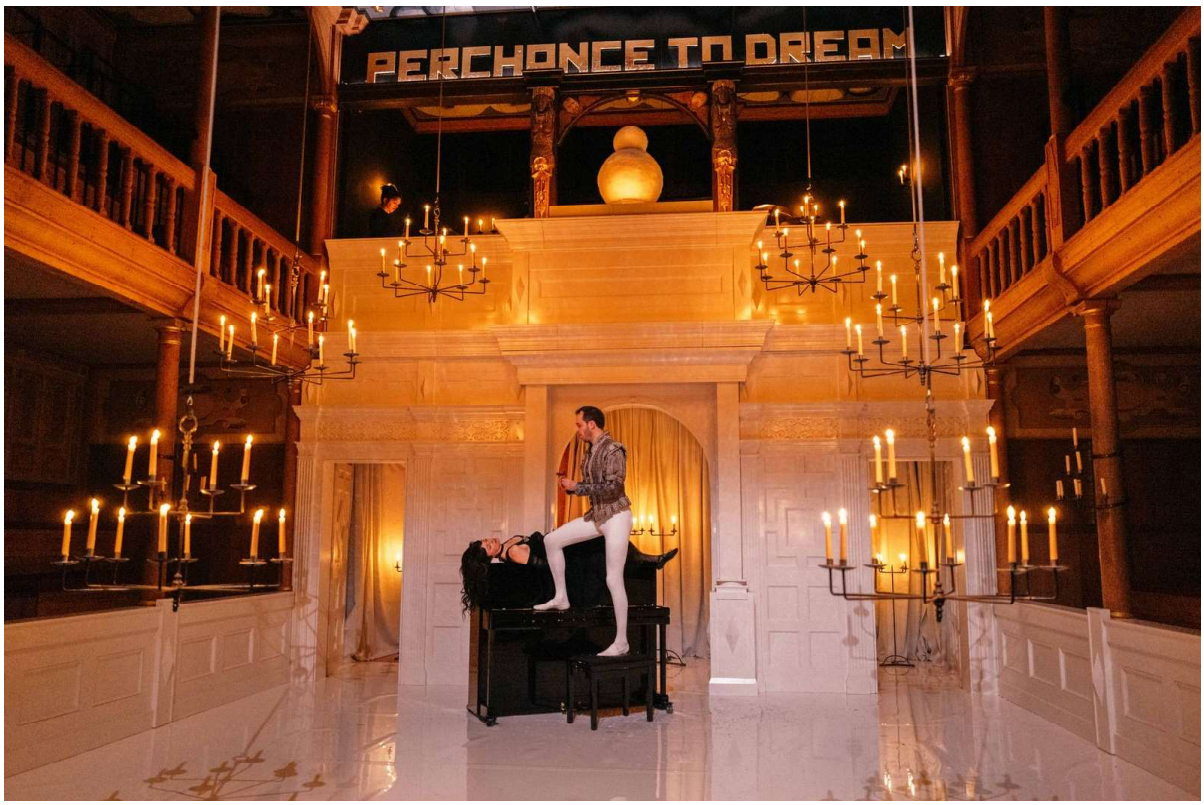
The candles move up and down throughout the show, and some candles are extinquished and relit, meaning that sometimes the show will be darker or lighter.

However, there are no pitch-black moments in the whole show.

Set and props

You can see many of the costumes used throughout the performance in the pictures throughout the synopsis.

The set looks like this:



If you don't want to know the plot of the show, you can skip to page 14.

A Midsummer Night's Dream - Synopsis

Wedding tables are on the stage. Puck enters, sits on one of the tables, and eats a banana. Once he's finished the banana, he speaks to the audience and moves around the stage like a crow.

The next scene is Oberon and Hippolyta's wedding rehearsal dinner. Egeus arrives and is very angry; he demands his step-daughter Hermia marry Demetrius or face death, but Hermia wants to marry Lysander instead. Duke Theseus supports Egeus and agrees that Hermia should marry Demetrius or face the penalties. Hermia and Lysander plan to escape Athens to marry in secret, but tell their secret to Helena, Hermia's childhood friend. Helena, who is in love with Demetrius, tells Demetrius the secret; but Demetrius is in love with Hermia, not Helena.

Quince, Bottom, and Flute, who are kitchen and serving staff at the palace, start to rehearse their own play, Pyramus and Thisbe. They pretend to snort and take drugs during this scene. Puck is also in the room and tries to join in. Bottom unsuccessfully tries to claim every role for himself. The group agrees to rehearse in the woods to avoid detection.

We see the Child and Puck interact here, as if Puck is a snowman. They speak, then Oberon and Titania enter. Oberon, the fairy king, quarrels with his wife Titania, the fairy queen, over the child Titania has adopted. To trick her and make it easier for Oberon to take the child for himself, he sends Puck to fetch a magical flower to make her fall in love with the first person she sees after she wakes up. He also tells Puck to put the love potion on Demetrius's eyes so he will fall in love with Helena, but Puck mistakenly applies the love juice to the sleeping Lysander, causing Lysander to abandon Hermia and fall instantly in love with Helena when she wakes him.

Quince, Bottom, and Flute are rehearsing in the woods. Puck transforms Bottom into a donkey. Titania is sleeping nearby and has had the love potion put on her eyes. When she wakes up, she sees Bottom and falls in love with him, even though he is a donkey!

Oberon realizes Puck's mistake and orders him to enchant Demetrius to fall in love with Helena. Demetrius and Lysander then aggressively pursue Helena and they both reject Hermia, who is confused. To prevent further violence, Puck leads the exhausted lovers through the dark until they collapse, applying a remedy to Lysander's eyes so he will wake up loving Hermia again.

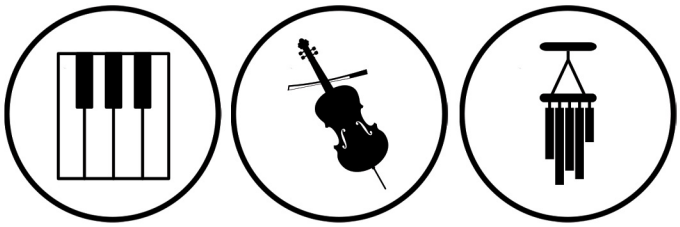
Titania and Bottom spend lots of time together; they have sex behind the piano, but we don't see anything. Oberon obtains the child from Titania and releases her from the spell, while Puck removes the donkey transformation from Bottom. Theseus and his hunting party discover the four lovers asleep in the woods; Theseus overrules Egeus's demand for punishment and decrees that the two couples will be married alongside him .

Quince and Flute panic at the palace, fearing their play and their fortunes are ruined because their lead actor is missing. Fortunately, Bottom suddenly returns in his chef's uniform, instructing them to gather their costumes immediately for the performance .

Following a drug-fueled wedding reception, the mechanicals perform a chaotic version of Pyramus and Thisbe. The mood changes very quickly when Oberon suddenly becomes furious and shoots Bottom dead. The guests leave in shock, and Puck shoots Quince as well, but Flute is hidden under the table. There are two gunshots in total.

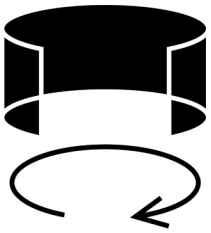
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Here is some information about the **music** and **sounds** in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

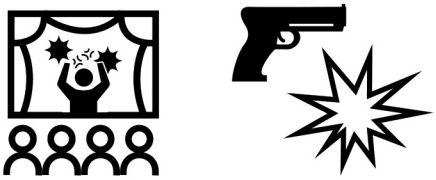


There is **music** throughout the performance. Some of the instruments played regularly include **piano, strings and chimes**.

There are some moments where characters **sing lively songs**.



Characters sometimes enter the stage by walking or running **through the audience**. This means that talking and shouting can be heard in **different places around the theatre**.



Sometimes characters **speak angrily to the audience**. There are also moments **loud bangs, crashes** and **gunshots**.

The next two pages show the '**Sonic Story'** of A Midsummer Night's Dream. This highlights loud and quiet moments from the performance, and moments where the sound changes suddenly.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Sonic Story
Act 1

Very loud
Loud
Quiet

Act 1 starts with a **loud clanging sound**, then eerie bells chime.

Very **high pitched strings**, Puck speaks dramatically, then **upbeat music** and loud talking.

Percussion and **strings**, lots of noisy movement on stage.

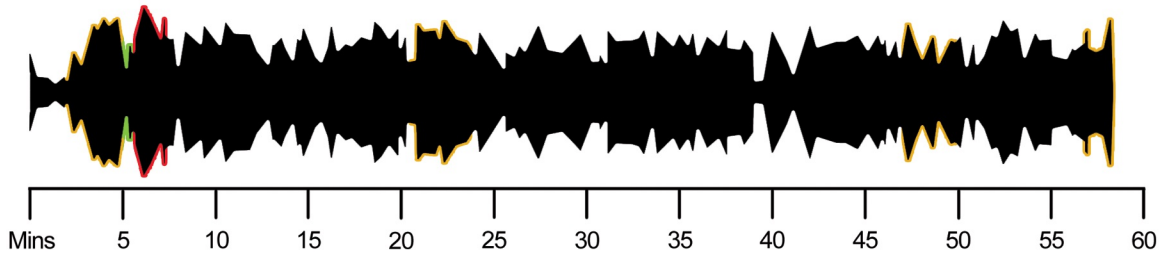
Different characters **shouting**.

Lightsaber sound as Puck enters, then **soft piano**.

Eerie music.

Strings and **percussion**, then **shouting**, **gasping** and **clattering.**

Piano and **string music** as **Act 1 finishes**, **audience applause**.



Brief quiet on stage as Theseus enters.

Loud shouting and **clattering** as food and plates get thrown.

Bottom speaks angrily to the audience, **two loud bangs**, then **twinkling chimes** and children laughing.

Fairy plays **dramatic piano** and **sings Bad Guy** by Billie Eilish.

Soft **piano**, then **shouting** and **screaming**.

Bottom sings, then magical **twinkling sounds**.

Act 2

Very loud
Loud
Quiet

Act 2 starts with playful **piano** and **percussion, then characters shout** from the audience.

Soft, magical music, then lots of **overlapping shouting**.

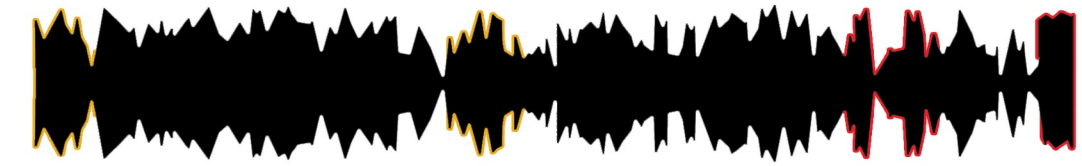
Fairies play piano and **sing** Mad World by Tears for Fears.

Mysterious music, gradually grows **louder**.

Lysander plays **piano** and **sings** Angels by Robbie Williams, until Theseus **interrupts him angrily**.

Applause, then a **loud cracking** sound.

Eerie music while Puck speaks.



Mins 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55

Characters **shout "no"** at the same time, then Helena and Hermia **shout** and **scream loudly**.

Soft piano, bells and cymbals, then **loud moaning**.

Characters **shout** and **shriek**.

Playful music as Theseus enters.

Brief trumpets.

Shouting, roaring and clapping, **loud gun shot**.

Loud gun shot, then **play ends, audience applause**.

Further information

Contact Details

Should you require more information or wish to discuss your access requirements please contact the Access team on access@shakespearesglobe.com or 020 7401 9919.

We welcome feedback about your Relaxed Performance experience at Shakespeare's Globe. Please contact us on the above details.