

## **Shakespeare Delivers Laughs Amidst Moonlit Forest**

Like Shakespeare? Get your tickets now.

Not a Shakespeare fan? Never you mind. Get your tickets now.

Whether you are a die-hard fan of Shakespearean theater or not, Thin Air Theatre Company's production of the classic romantic comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare is a sure way to take the edge off spring fever.

All the world is a stage and the Butte's stage for this show has transformed into lush and magical moonlit forest, one that is alive with fairies and forest creatures. Fairies and forest creatures you say with a doubtful eye? No need to worry – the stage is also full of comical and raucous folk too.

Written in the 1590s, the show portrays the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of amateur actors, their interactions with the Duke and Duchess of Athens, Theseus and Hippolyta, and with fairies who inhabit a moonlit forest. The play is one of Shakespeare's most popular works for the stage and is widely performed across the world.

The TATC cast dons period clothing and portrays the elegance of Athenian gentles, who, true to tradition, use Shakespearean speech. The eloquent words of the poet spring forth from the proud, nearly melodrama style lovers, who expound upon love and the oddities that a few bewitching fairies have imposed upon them.

The fairies, made up of a group of Cresson Dancers along with Morgan Gengo, Mace Archer, and Rebecca Phippard, weave their plots into twists and turns almost as tangled as the vines that hang in the forest. These plots transform lovers, Matt Marceau and Rebecca Meyers, into haters and the unwanted, Ashley Casteen and Michael Black, into the cherished.

Ok enough of lovers and elegance – for those who just want a laugh...the amateur actors, led by Mel Moser, provide the comedy for the set – their characters are less refined and their humor boisterous beyond the norm at times. It is this latter group of "mechanicals" (menial workers from Athens) who steal the comedic part of the show. These actors' performance of a play for the royal wedding, is kind of like the Olio after the traditional melodrama at the Butte - comedy tends to reign supreme. If you are not rolling in the aisles from the antics of Bottom (Moser), Snug (Matt Butler), Francis Flute (Aaron Stahlecker), Lion (Matt Butler) and Snout (Michael Gilley) you need more than a spring break.

Directed by Mickey Burdick, the Butte production will show through May 10: Thursdays 7 p.m., Fridays 7 p.m., Saturdays 1 and 7 p.m., and Sundays 1 p.m. Ticket prices are: \$14.75 Adult; \$12.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children/Students; \$11.75 groups of 20 or more.

For information or to purchase tickets visit [butteoperahouse.com](http://butteoperahouse.com) or call 719-235-8944.