

Ballet

N E B R A S K A

ARTISTIC STAFF

Erika Overturff, Artistic Director & CEO

Matthew Carter, Ballet Master

ARTISTS

Erin Alarcón	Rebecca Brenner	Matthew Carter
Ryan Christopher	Katherine Eppink	Claire Goodwillie
Alyssa Grimsley	Alexandra Hoffman	Erika Overturff
Wyatt Payne	Bret Samson	Kelsey Schwenker
Amaris Sharratt	Anders Southerland	Anna Swenson
Katie van der Mars	Chloé Watson	Sasha York

APPRENTICES

Nora Carr
Rachel Smith

Elena Carter

Kogan Murphy
Whitney Walsh

Trainees: Emily Eisel, Katerina Schweitzer

Costume Designer	Deborah Overturff
Costume Assistant	Wendy Linville
Dance Administrator	Jolie Koesters
Development Director	Sarah Maloney
Executive Assistant	Shanna Zordell
Marketing Coordinator	Kelsey Schwenker
Operations Manager	Erin Alarcón
Pianist	Iryna Van Dyke
Production Manager	Lance Glenn
Repertory Ensemble Coordinator	Kelsey Schwenker
Teachers	Judith Leppek, Angela Rodriguez, Michelle Strong
Visual Media Designer	Jim Williams

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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BALLET NEBRASKA PRESENTS
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Omaha's Orpheum Theater • May 5 & 6, 2018

Choreography	Oskar Antunez
Music.....	Felix Mendelssohn
Costume Design.....	Deborah Overturff
Sets and Props.....	Clyde Overturff, Shanna Zordell, Lance Glenn, Rebecca Brenner, Hannah Clark, Oskar Antunez
Lighting Design	Bill Van Deest, Carol Wisner
Wardrobe.....	Deborah Overturff, Shanna Zordell, Wendy Linville, Rebecca Brenner, Amy Voogd, Barbara Wilwerding, Mona Schlautman
Production Manager	Lance Glenn
Stage Manager.....	Taylor L. Vann
Crew.....	Hannah Clark, Rachel Jamison, Jason Shannon
Orpheum Theater Stage Crew	Members of IATSE Local 42

CAST

The Fairy Royalty

Puck, fairy page of Oberon	Matthew Carter
Fee, Puck's friend.....	Alexandra Hoffman
Oberon, King of the Fairies.....	Sasha York
Titania, Queen of the Fairies	Katie van der Mars
The Changeling.....	Owen Fuesel

The Mortals

Lysander, in love with Hermia.....	Anders Southerland
Demetrius, in love with Hermia.....	Wyatt Payne
Hermia, in love with Lysander	Rebecca Brenner
Helena, in love with Demetrius.....	Claire Goodwillie
Egeus, Hermia's father	Ryan Christopher
Theseus, Duke of Athens.....	Jeff Ludwig
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons	Alyssa Grimsley*, Amaris Sharratt°
Page	Alyssa Schnabel
Bottom, a weaver	Ryan Christopher

Titania's Fairies

Moth.....	Bret Samson
Cobweb.....	Anna Swenson
Peaseblossom	Katherine Eppink
Mustardseed.....	Kelsey Schwenker

Artisans (In the Play)

Bottom (Pyramus)	Ryan Christopher
Snout (The Wall)	Casey Kelley
Flute (Thisbe).....	Nick Giacoppo
Starveling (Moonshine).....	Josephine Garro
Snug (The Lion).....	Claire Horacek
Quince (The Author)	Emily Bauer
A Puppy	Lauryn Vanderheiden

The Fairy Kingdom

Firefly Fairies	Hanna Adangnihoude, Ella Bauerly, Emily Douglas, Vada May Herrera, Alivia Inselman, Ava Morey, Caroline Morey, Hannah Nehls, Ava Owen, Lauryn Vanderheiden
Woodland Fairies	Nora Carr, Elena Carter, Emily Eisel, Alyssa Grimsley ^o , Remmi Hartmann, Kogan Murphy, Katerina Schweitzer Amaris Sharratt*, Rachel Smith, Whitney Walsh, Chloé Watson
	Myca Cumpston, Grace Horacek, Annalee Larsen, Sydney Vanderheiden, Emily Voogd, Megan Workman
Woodland Sprites	Emma Gould, Ashtyn Graham, Tianna Hartin-Kovy, Mara Isaacson, Lindsey Kader, Sophie St. Amour
	Ellie Gorman, Natalie Haberman, Ava Jensen, Katie McGraw, Samantha Padilla, Emily Patterson, Annika Simanek
Fairy Attendants to the Changeling.....	Caroline Collard, Natalie Haberman, Noelle Haberman, Camille Kouba, Rachel Oiler, Lauren Patterson, Camryn Stahm
Gnomes.....	Ava Cutinella, Vivian Dauner, Isabella Garcia, Zoey Harstad, Piper Isham, Alyssa Schnabel, Addison Scott, Leighton Wilson
Baby Gnomes.....	Ella Bauerly, Vada May Herrera, Matthew Murray, Ava Owen

** denotes May 5 casting; ^o denotes May 6 casting*

THE STORY: "THE COURSE OF TRUE LOVE NEVER DID RUN SMOOTH."

ACT I : Theseus, the Duke of Athens, is to be married to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons. He orders a magnificent party be prepared in celebration of their wedding. However, some other lovers in the city of Athens are not as happy as their ruler.

Hermia and Lysander are a young couple in love. However, Hermia is also loved by Demetrius, who has been granted her father's permission to marry her. According to Athenian law, Hermia must either marry the man her father chooses (Demetrius), be sent to a nunnery, or be put to death.

Faced with these unhappy options, Lysander and Hermia plot to leave Athens and Hermia confides in her friend Helena about it. As it happens, Helena is desperately in love with Demetrius and, hoping to get on his good side, tells him about Hermia's plan. Lysander and Hermia run away together in the woods, with Demetrius after them...and Helena after him.

This same evening, some extremely amateurish actors gather in the woods to practice a play they plan to present in honor of Theseus' wedding. Meanwhile, the fairies also gather to hold their midnight revels. Fairies cannot be seen by mortal eyes unless they choose to make themselves visible, and they delight in playing jokes on humans who stray into their realm.

The fairies are led by Oberon and his beautiful queen, Titania - but all is not well with the royal couple. He admires her human changeling child, and insists the child join his own household - but Titania refuses. Oberon plans to retaliate. He sends his mischievous servant Puck to find a certain flower - the juice of which, when placed on a sleeping person's eyes, causes him or her to fall in love with the first creature seen upon waking. Oberon plans to make Titania fall in love with some unsuitable creature, hoping to embarrass her into admitting she has been too stubborn.

Hearing the young people approaching, Oberon watches as Demetrius searches, pursued by Helena. Oberon feels sorry for her. When Puck returns with the flower, Oberon instructs him to use it on Demetrius so that he may fall in love with Helena.

Titania, tired from her revelry, asks her fairies to sing her to sleep. When the fairies leave, Oberon drops juice from the flower into Titania's eyes. Meanwhile, Hermia and Lysander, lost and weary, lie down to rest. In flies Puck, still searching for Helena and Demetrius. He mistakes Lysander for Demetrius, drops some juice in his eyes, and leaves, thinking his task is accomplished.

But the real Demetrius runs deeper into the woods, leaving Helena lost and alone. When she notices Lysander sleeping nearby and awakens him, Lysander - under the spell of the flower - immediately declares his love for her. She flees, confused, and he follows her. Hermia awakens soon after, unaware of what has happened, and runs off in search of Lysander.

Hermia runs into Demetrius and demands to know where Lysander is. Getting no answer, she storms away. By this time, Demetrius is exhausted and falls asleep. Oberon realizes Puck's mistake and Puck tries to fix it by using the flower potion on Demetrius.

In rushes Helena, still pursued by Lysander. Demetrius wakes up, sees Helena, and immediately falls in love with her, just as Lysander did. Helena now has two men after her. She is upset and fights them off, believing that Lysander and Demetrius are only making fun of her.

Meanwhile, the amateur actors practicing their play unknowingly cross paths with the fairies. Puck, the prankster, transforms the head of the foolish weaver Bottom into that of a donkey. Puck leads Bottom on a chase which ends not far from the sleeping fairy queen.

Intermission (20 minutes)

ACT II: Titania gently awakens to a strange sight. Under the flower's spell, she falls instantly in love with the donkey-headed Bottom and orders her fairies to attend his every need. They are puzzled by this command, but cheerfully do their queen's bidding.

In another part of the woods, Hermia eventually finds the other three and is confused and angry. She has absolutely no idea how both of the men who were once in love with her are now in love with Helena.

Oberon, realizing the situation, orders Puck to set matters straight. After the exhausted lovers fall asleep, Puck again places the potion in Lysander's eyes, hoping that all will be well in the morning.

The next day, discovered by the hunting party of Theseus and Hippolyta, the lovers awaken, now matched in happy pairs, and the previous night seems as insubstantial as a dream. Theseus gives both couples permission to marry on this day set aside for his own wedding to Hippolyta.

Back in the woods, Oberon lifts the spell on Titania, who is shocked to wake up next to the donkey-like Bottom. A very bewildered Bottom, restored to his human form by Puck, reunites with his fellow actors just in time to save the play. They present an entertainingly awful tragic production, *Pyramus and Thisbe*, much to the merriment of the wedding guests.

After the play is over, the bridal couples retire. The fairies bless all of the couples and their marriages. Oberon and Titania's fairy kingdom is once again united. Puck's final appearance suggests to the audience that perhaps the entire situation was nothing more than a midsummer night's dream.



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