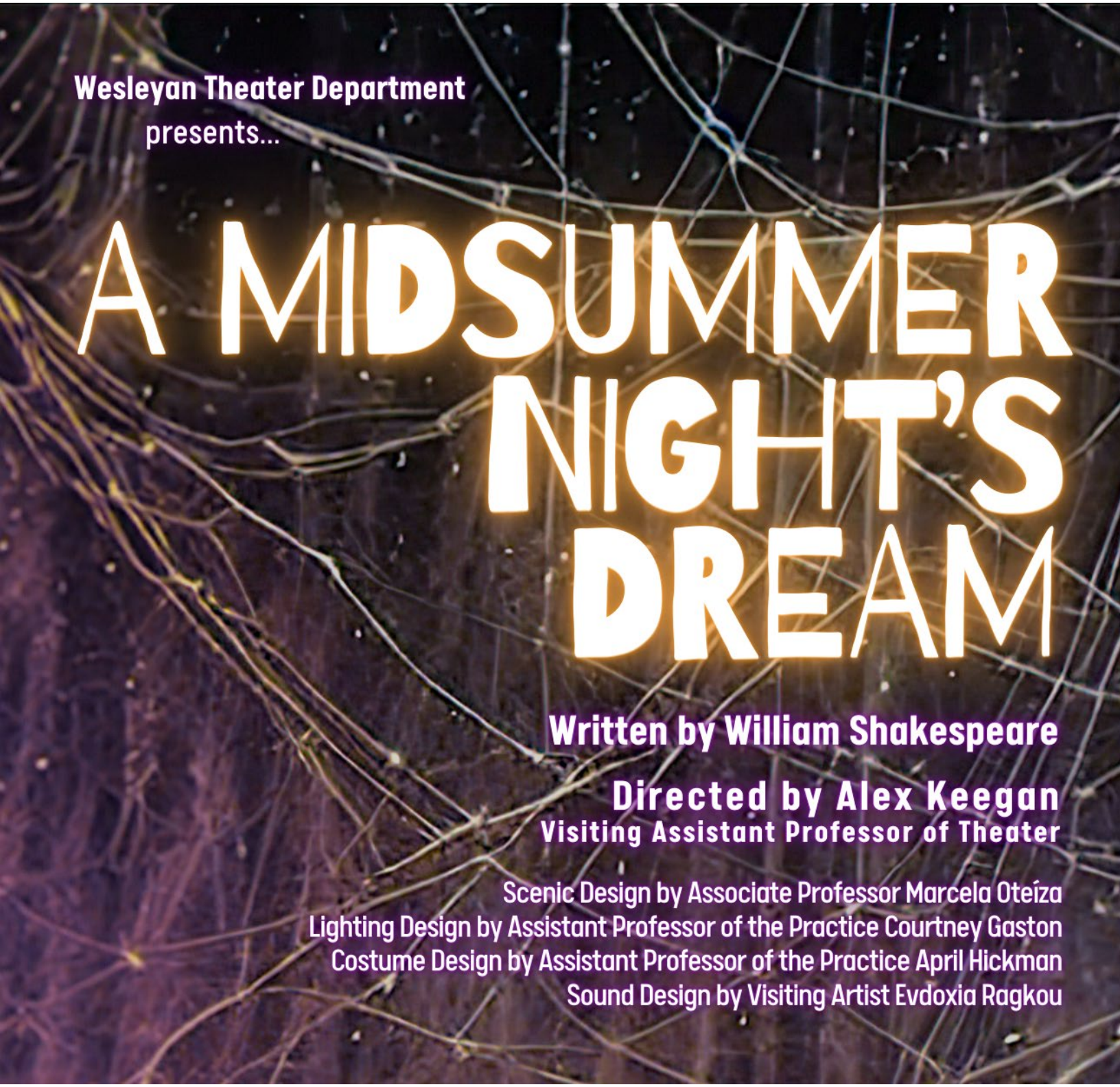

Wesleyan Theater Department
presents...
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Alex Keegan
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater
Scenic Design by Associate Professor Marcela Oteíza
Lighting Design by Assistant Professor of the Practice Courtney Gaston
Costume Design by Assistant Professor of the Practice April Hickman
Sound Design by Visiting Artist Evdoxia Ragkou



"This the silliest stuff I ever heard," so says Hippolyta as she watches a troupe of mechanicals perform a play moments after her war-made marriage to the Duke of Athens, Theseus, who earlier remarked, "Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword, and I won they love doing thee injuries, but I will wed thee in another key, with pomp, with triumph, and with reveling." Duke Theseus is determined to put the sword, the injuries, and the war in the past with no reflection. Silly stuff, indeed.

When I first encountered *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the 7th grade, I was—to be honest—quite bored by the duke and his new duchess. I was more delighted by the evident silliness—the enchantment of the woods, the miscast mechanicals, the misplaced infatuation of the young Athenian lovers. My middle school English teacher once asked all of us, whose play is *Midsummer*? Does it belong to the young lovers and their search for freedom in the woods? Or is it Bottom's—the mechanical who deems himself a theatrical star? Or does it lie with Titania and Oberon—rulers of the fairy kingdom—who have turned the human world topsy turvy with their fight for custody over a small boy taken from India? Or does it belong to Puck—the sprite who by play's end will ask for forgiveness and applause?

None of us could answer back in middle school because it seemed to us that the play belonged to all of them and none of them. In this production, we'll put forward a hypothesis addressing this question. Yet, I spent much of these months wondering, was this the correct question to ask?

Midsummer—on the page—begins with Duke Theseus trying still to woo Hippolyta when a disgruntled father marches into his court and demands his daughter, Hermia, be put to death if she won't marry the man, Demetrius, he's selected as her husband. In the face of this absurd circumstance, Hermia plans to elope with her boyfriend, Lysander. Meanwhile, Helena who loves (and was previously dating) Demetrius reveals their scheme to him and all four lovers wind up lost in the forest where they become a source of amusement for the fairy world. What a wild set of circumstances. Why does the play start with two attempted forced marriages? What does this tell us about the world we're in? Is there something to be gleaned about the power of the state and the problem of defining consent in a place where fathers and dukes have ultimate control? These were perhaps more interesting questions to ask.

And then, there are the mechanicals—striving to put on a play. Discovering all the challenges and triumphs and anxieties that come with evaluating what content will be appropriate for performance, rehearsing, and standing before an audience with limited tech time and new production elements. What are they doing in this play? Why was Shakespeare interested in the fairy kingdom, human court, and amateur players intersecting in this midsummer pageant?

When I reopened *Midsummer*, I was startled by Hippolyta and Theseus. Instead of bypassing that first scene as I had at twelve, I found myself curious about Theseus' insistence on pomp, on parties, on reveling, on his determination to move past the awkwardness of having won his bride in battle. As we staged this production, I kept thinking: how odd it must be to have lost your country, your family, your community, your home, and yet to be sitting at a play in a new nation with a new husband. How strange it must be when the world is breaking

apart—as it is for these characters if we're to believe Titania's account of the disease, natural disasters, and strife brought about by the fairy world's turmoil—and still be putting on a silly play, with silly masks, and a silly wall, and a cardboard sword. And yet, Hippolyta laughs. They all do.

Down the hall in our rehearsal room, the students playing the rude mechanicals have been consistently updating a white board with drawings as rehearsal backdrops for the play within the play. Most recently, they drew a creature—half whale, half horse—in the sea and performed the entire epic of Pyramus and Thisbe in front of this drawing. Regardless of the challenges of the day, the chaos of the world, when we got to rehearsal and they turned the white board around to display their newest drawing and peeked out from behind it, all of us would laugh and laugh. And I wondered, is this the feeling Shakespeare was after? The release of silliness when you hope the world can be calmed with a fairy's blessing.

As you join us close to May Day, and dive into a fictional Athens on a May Day centuries ago, I invite you to consider: In the direst of circumstances, what is the purpose of laughter? When we find ourselves in a war torn, uncertain, tumultuous world, why sit and watch a play? Why does Shakespeare insist on reminding us to take the time to lose ourselves in the silly stuff?

-- Alex Keegan, Director
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater



Creative Team

Director
Alex Keegan, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater

Assistant Director
Sophia Flynn '25

Scenic Designer
Marcela Oteíza, Department Chair, Associate Professor of Theater

Assistant Scenic Designers
By Martinez Castañeda '24, Parker Tey '26

Costume Designer
April Hickman, Assistant Professor of the Practice

Associate Costume Designer
Robin Mazzola, Assistant Adjunct Professor of Theater

Assistant Costume Designer
Sara Bateman '24
Bailee Gull '24

Lighting Designer
Courtney Gaston, Assistant Professor of the Practice

Assistant Lighting Designers
Alex White '26, Avivi Li '26

Sound Design
Evdoxia Ragkou, Visiting Artist

Props Managers
Kiera Moran '24, Samantha Lezama '25

Community Outreach Coordinator
Corey Garcia '25

Dramaturg
Paige Merril '26

Cast

Puck
Maya Lozea '26

Hippolyta, U/S Helena
Tilora Raphael-Shirley '27

Theseus
Sam Slye '25

Egeus
Cyris Laury-Schaefer '27

Hermia
Lila Popell '24

Demetrius
Michael Scott '27

Lysander
Yumiko Takahashi '25

Helena
CJ Joseph '24

Bottom
Liang Liang '26

Quince
Joe Greenfield '24

Flute
Daniel Brugger '26

Snout
Kiara Reeves '26

Snug
Campbell Greenberg '27

Starveling, u/s Bottom
April Schwartz '24

Peaseblossom
Adriana Alfaro Liendo '26

Cobweb
Sophie Brusini '26

Mustardseed
Bailee Gull '24

Titania
Ella Kramer '26

Oberon
Corey Garcia '25

U/S Demetrius, Lysander
Connor Hone '25

U/S Titania, Rude Mechanicals
Mia Ronn '27

Production Crew

Production Manager
Robin Mazzola, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theater

Assistant Production Manager
Senica Slaton '26

Production Technical Director
Mikey Rohrer, Visiting Assistant Professor Theater

CFA Technical Director / Master Electrician
Suzanne Sadler

CFA Assistant Technical Director
Tony Hernandez

Scenic Carpenters
Cat Edwards, Angelina Savelli

Production Stage Manager
Brianna Mattingly

Assistant Stage Managers
Eliza Bryson '26, Jerry Persaud '26

Costume Shop Manager
Robin Mazzola, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theater

Costume Shop Assistant
Bailee Gull '24

Sound Board Operator
Wilson Boutwell '27

Light Board Operator / Run Crew
Luciel Sanchez '24

Run Crew Lead
Jerry Persaud '26

Run Crew
Oliva Hoffman-Paul '26, Chloe Naudet '27, Joel Pau '27

Wardrobe Lead
Max Grossman '26

Wardrobe Crew
Mo Andres '24,
Sara Bateman '24,
Melanie Glatter '27,
Luna Kwon '27,
Paige Merril '25,
Cecilio Munoz '25

Thea105 Production Lab students

Wilson Boutwell '27, Eliza Bryson '26, Truman Burden '27, Skye Figueroa '26, Melanie Glatter '27, Campbell Greenberg '27, Lily Guerrette '27, Wenqi He '27, Ella Kramer '26, Luna Kwon '27, Serenity Lachance '26, Lamonte Lyons '25, Cheyenne McLaskey '26, Paige Merril '26, Cecilio Munoz '25, Joel Pau '27, Jordan Schwarz '26, Live Shpitalnik '27, Terrion Thirsty '25, Ting Tsai '27, Ryan Villano '27, Lening Zhou '27



In addition to the individuals below, we thank the play selection committee of Fall 2022-Spring 2023 for their work, which resulted in this play as a finalist suggestion for the Theater Department Mainstage Production:

Prof. Courtney Gaston, Prof. Robin Mazzola, Prof. Lauren Yeoman, Prof. Mary Paul, Senica Slaton '26, Evan Sullivan '23 and Cecilio Munoz '25.

Special thanks to:

Justice Dance Performance Project (JDPP) for the rope donation
Rory Gaston-Norton, support crew

Emi Kirby, prop lending

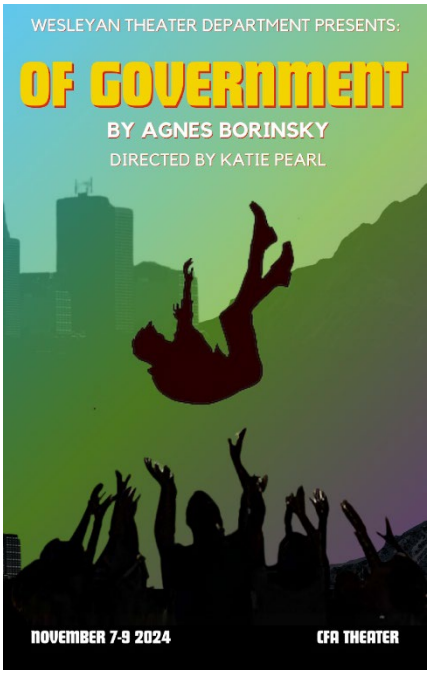
Bailee Gull, for wearing neon orange and her design eye!

Maya Lozea, for loaning their puppet making expertise and skill

Robin Mazzola, for pleating and hand stitching hems on organza

Zimoun, Laurie Spiegel, and Daphne Oram, for their incredible music

UPCOMING THEATER DEPARTMENT PRODUCTIONS



Of Government

by Agnes Borinsky

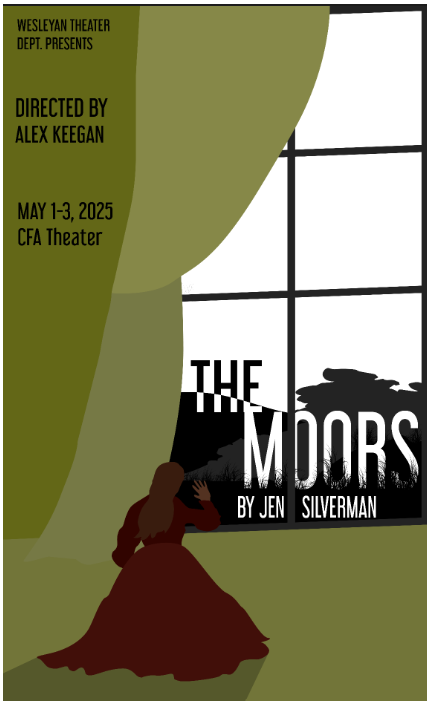
Directed by Katie Pearl

Assistant Professor of Theater

The adventures of Barb the Teacher, Deb the Seeker, Heidi the Helper, Tawny the Addict, and a host of others. With songs! Presented by Miss Marjorie Blain, her students, and members of the community. Light refreshments will be provided.

CFA Theater

November 7 - 9, 2024



The Moors

by Jen Silverman

Directed by Alex Keegan

Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater

Season selection play result

Two Step sisters and a dog live out their lives on the bleak English moors, dreaming of love and power. The arrival of a hapless governess and a moor-hen set all three on a strange and dangerous path. The Moors is a dark comedy about love, desperation, and visibility.

CFA Theater

Spring 2025



Marcela Oteíza
Department Chair,
Associate Professor of Theater

Dawn Alger
Administrative Assistant

Robert Baumgartner
Visiting Artist in Residence

Katherine Brewer Ball
Assistant Professor of Theater

Tesia Childs
Visiting Instructor in Theater

Nathan Dame
Visiting Artist in Residence

Courtney Gaston
Assistant Professor of the Practice

April Hickman
Assistant Professor of the Practice

Ronald S. Jenkins
Professor of Theater

Alex Keegan
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater

Robin Mazzola
Adjunct Assistant Professor,
Costume Shop Manager

Rashida Shaw McMahon
Associate Professor of English,
Affiliated Faculty

Maria-Christina Oliveras
Assistant Professor of Theater

Mary Paul
Assistant Professor of the Practice

Katie Pearl
Assistant Professor of Theater

Edwin Sanchez
Assistant Professor of the Practice

Edward Torres
Assistant Professor of the Practice

Lauren Yeoman
Assistant Professor of Theater

Emeritus Professors

John F. Carr
Professor of Theater, Emeritus

Gay Smith
Professor of Theater, Emerita

Leslie A. Weinberg
Retired Artist in Residence, Theater

Office Staff

Mo Andres '24, By Martinez-Castañeda '24, Jerry Persaud '26

Costume Shop Staff

Greta Armbrust '25, Victoria Cornejo '25, Sadie Goldstein '24, Bailee Gull '24, Chance Lockard '24, Chiara Mapp '26, By Martinez-Castañeda '24, Norman Slate '25, Siggy Soriano '25, Oleksandra Volakova '27

Technical Staff

Sage Altman '26, Tommy Atkinson '25, Charlotte Dachs '26, Sasha Estime '27, Sofia Flynn '25, Dana Hennings '27, Olivia Hoffman-Paul '26, Avivi Li '26, Dash Merrill '26, Sanaa Mia '26, Henry Owens '25, Georgia Reed-Stamm '25, Luciel Sanchez '24, Alexandra Segal '25, Skylar Sweidan '26, Parker Tey '26, Tanahiri Torres González '27, Drew Weddig '24, Alexander White '26, Simon Whitus '25, Owen Wiley '25, Mae Wrigley '26



Arts Production Team

Producing Director for the Arts
Drew Gray

Assistant Director
Alexandra Fischbein

Technical Director, CFA Theater Manager
Suzanne Sadler

Assistant Technical Director,
Sound & Video Specialist
Robert Treloar

Assistant Technical Director
Tony Hernandez

Assistant Technical Director,
Lighting and Production
Alary Sutherland

Temporary Assistant Technical Director,
Scenery Specialist
Cat Edwards

Temporary Arts Production Team Support
Angelina Savelli

'92 Theater Manager
Joseph Fonseca

Accounting Specialist
Lynette Vandlik

Auxiliary Operations and Campus Services

Associate Director,
Auxiliary Services Operations
Kyle Beaudette

Associate Director,
Reservations and Conferences
Heather Fox

Temporary Assistant Director,
Auxiliary Events Operations
Ariana Molokwu

Director, Auxiliary Services
Michelle Myers-Brown

Center for the Arts

Director
Joshua Lubin-Levy

Associate Director,
Programming & Performing Arts
Fiona Coffey

Associate Director, Visual Arts
Benjamin Chaffee

Art Director
John Elmore

Director, Arts Communication
Andrew Chatfield

Accounting Specialist
Lynette J. Vandlik

Exhibitions Manager
Rosemary Lennox

Campus & Community
Engagement Manager
Rani Arbo

Art Preparer
Paul Theriault