



**Tracy Krauss**

*A modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream**

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*A Midterm Eve's Phantasm*

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*A Midterm Eve's Phantasm* was first performed by TRSS KodiActs in March 2011: Tracy Krauss, director; Evan Treit, stage manager; Eddie Yau and Sierra Hammond, assistants; and Skylar McArthur, Keana Trudel, Brody Krasey, techs.

**PRINCIPAL THEO:** Symone O'Neill

**MISS HIPPY:** Karien Scheepers

**DENNY TRIUS:** Cody Hansen

**LYLE SANDERS:** Keenan Render

**MRS. PHILLIPS:** Sydney Blunden

**MIA FAIR:** Kelsey Steeves

**HELEN BOLT:** Anastasia Delpierre

**MR. FAIR:** Michael Rousseau

**PETRA QUINCE:** Taylor Osbourne

**NICK BOTTOM:** Duncan Render

**BENJAMIN FLUTE:** Dalton Janzen

**TOM SNOOT:** Elliott Reid

**TIMOTHY SNUG:** Colton Stribbell

**ROBIN STARVELING:** Kailes Thibodeau

**TIFFANY:** Anri Scheepers

**BRITTANY:** Jennifer Skyrpan

**TONI:** Danielle Lively

**OBERON:** Myles Wagner

**TITANIA:** Kersten Spinney

**PUCK:** Georgia LaPrairie-McManus

**PEASEBLOSSOM:** Kyla Guske

**COBWEB:** Justus Irving

**MOTH:** Rebecca Hansen

**MUSTARDSEED:** Sarah Jeffrey

**FAIRIES:** Nichelle Farmer, Reanna Lenart

**OBERON'S ELVES:** Lesa Madsen, Danielle Lively, Anri Scheepers, Jennifer Skyrpan, Kara Trim

## *A Midterm Eve's Phantasm*

**COMEDY.** Audiences will love this madcap, modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Denny, the captain of the football team, has his sights set on taking Mia to Stratford High School's spring dance, but Mia has fallen head over heels in love with Lyle, a new student with a shady reputation. Determined to break up the couple, Mia's father makes plans to send Mia away to live with her aunt. Not wanting to be separated, Mia and Lyle decide to meet that night at a park and run away together. However, the unsuspecting couple encounter a band of troublemaking fairies who have congregated at the park and are eager to create a bit of mischief. Chaos ensues when Puck, an impish sprite, casts a spell causing the fairy queen to fall in love with a student actor who has been transformed into a donkey. And to make matters worse, Puck casts a spell that makes both Denny and Lyle fall madly in love with Mia's best friend. After all, "The course of true love never did run smooth"!

**Performance Time:** Approximately 60 minutes.



*Study for The Quarrel of Oberon and Titania (1849) by Sir Joseph Noel Paton (left) and the title page of Robin Goodfellow: His Mad Pranks and Merry Jests, 1629.*

## *About the Story*

Thought to be written between 1590 and 1596, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of Shakespeare's most popular works and also one of his most unusual works in that it isn't based primarily on one single source. Instead, the story references Greek mythology in the character of Theseus, who is loosely based on the Greek hero of the same name. The Celtic fairies and the character of Puck (aka Robin Goodfellow), a mischievous woodland sprite, were derived from English folklore, and the character of Titania and the story of "Pyramus and Thisbe" come from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Described as romantic, dreamlike, farcical, and fantastic, the play also parodies conventions of English Renaissance theatre such as the tradition of men playing the roles of female characters.

## *Characters*

(9 M, 13 F, 2 flexible)

(Doubling possible.)

**LYLE SANDERS:** New student at Stratford High who is a former school dropout; male.

**MIA FAIR:** Student in love with Lyle; female.

**MR. FAIR:** Mia's father who thinks Lyle is a bad influence on her and is determined to break up the couple; male.

**DENNY TRIUS:** Captain of the football team who wants to take Mia to the dance; male.

**HELEN BOLT:** Mia's friend who is desperately in love with Denny; female.

**PETRA QUINCE:** Student director of Stratford High's spring festival production "The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe"; female.

**NICK BOTTOM:** Overconfident student actor who plays the role of Pyramus; male.

**BENJAMIN FLUTE:** Shy student who plays the female role of Thisbe; male.

**TIMOTHY SNUG:** Shy student who plays the role of the lion; male.

**ROBIN STARVELING:** Student who plays a "wall"; male.

**TOM SNOUT:** Outspoken student who serves as the props manager; male.

**OBERON:** King of the fairies who is married to Titania; male.

**PUCK:** Mischievous, magical woodland sprite who serves Oberon; fun-loving and delights in playing pranks on humans; looks like a hobgoblin more than a fairy; flexible.

**TITANIA:** Oberon's wife and queen of the fairies; female.

**PEASEBLOSSOM:** Titania's fairy servant; female.

**COBWEB:** Titania's fairy servant; female.

**MOTH:** Titania's fairy servant; female.

**MUSTARDSEED:** Titania's fairy servant; female.

**TIFFANY:** Gossipy Stratford High student; female.

**BRITTANY:** Gossipy Stratford High student; female.

**TONI:** Gossipy Stratford High student; female.

**PRINCIPAL THEO:** No-nonsense principal of Stratford High;  
flexible.

**MISS HIPPY:** Eccentric, flamboyant drama teacher; female.

**MRS. PHILLIPS:** Secretary at Stratford High; female.

**EXTRAS (opt.):** As Students and Fairies.

## *Set*

There are many set possibilities for this play. The original set incorporated three entrances: SL, CS, and SR. A platform SR doubled as the principal's office and Titania's bower. Simple blocks served as stools in the office and doubled as Titania's bed. The addition of a small desk and chair for the principal's office rounded out the office space. This riser was also utilized as the stage for the final play within a play. A park bench, lamppost and some trees were placed SL. Lighting was utilized to differentiate spaces.

## *Synopsis of Scenes*

**Scene 1:** Stratford High School hallway.

**Scene 2:** Principal Theo's office. There is a desk and three chairs and optional office equipment (telephone, computer, etc.)

**Scene 3:** Ms. Hippy's classroom. There are student desks and a teacher's desk.

**Scene 4:** Principal Theo's office.

**Scene 5:** Stratford High School hallway.

**Scene 6:** In a park. Lighting should be atmospheric. There is a park bench SL. Titania's bower is SR, preferably on a riser.

**Scene 7:** In a park, a short time later.

### **Intermission, opt.**

**Scene 8:** In a park, a short time later.

**Scene 9:** In a park, a short time later.

**Scene 10:** School auditorium. Several chairs are lined up on one side of the stage for the "audience."



## *Props*

5 Scripts

File

Purple flower

Donkey's head, for Nick

Watch, for Helen

Chairs for "audience"

Lion costume, for Timothy

Cardboard moon

Dress, for Benjamin's Thisbe

Women's scarf

Cardboard wall costume,  
for Robin

Pyramus costume, for Nick

Sword

*"The course of true love  
never did run smooth."*

*—Shakespeare*

*Scene 1*

(AT RISE: Stratford High School hallway. Enter Tiffany, Brittany and Toni.)

TIFFANY: Did you hear about Mia and Denny?

BRITTANY: No! What?

TIFFANY: Apparently, Denny asked Mia out to the Spring Dance and she said no!

TONI: Really? But he's so hot!

TIFFANY: Wait...it gets even better...

BRITTANY: Oooh! Tell us everything!

TIFFANY: Well, I heard she's going out with that new guy...you know, Lyle Sanders.

TONI: Really? O-M-G! I heard he's got a record!

TIFFANY: I know! Her dad will kill her if he finds out!

BRITTANY: Who cares? Now Denny is fair game. I call dibs!

(Tiffany, Brittany, and Toni giggle. Mia and Helen enter opposite.)

TONI: (Indicating Mia.) There she is!

TIFFANY: (Catty.) Hi, Mia.

MIA: Oh. Hi. (Turns to Helen.) Anyway, like I was saying, I'm so stressed about our midterms. I mean, my dad is so anal about me getting straight A's, you know?

HELEN: What's the big deal? You're smart enough.

MIA: Easy for you to say. You could get A's in your sleep. I have to work my butt off to get good grades.

HELEN: So I'll help you study. You'll be fine.

MIA: I guess...

(Denny Truis and his friends Nick and Tom enter. They gather beside Tiffany, Toni, and Brittany and have a silent but animated and obviously flirtatious conversation during the following exchange between Mia and Helen.)

HELEN: *(To Mia.)* Oh, look! It's Denny Truis!

MIA: Ew. Let's go.

HELEN: Are you kidding? He's the captain of the football team!

MIA: *(Frowns.)* Yeah, seriously, let's go.

HELEN: No way. What if he notices me?

MIA: You and your crush! You're too good for him.

HELEN: *(Excited.)* Oh, I think he just looked this way! Do I look all right? Here he comes!

*(Denny approaches Mia and Helen. Others continue flirting.)*

DENNY: Hi, Mia.

MIA: *(Embarrassed.)* Uh, hi.

HELEN: Hi, Denny.

DENNY: *(Dismissively.)* Oh. Hi. *(To Mia.)* Sure you won't reconsider? The Spring Dance is next weekend, and I'm still available.

MIA: Look, Denny, I already told you...no.

DENNY: But I don't get it. All the girls want to go out with me. You should be flattered I asked you.

MIA: *(Sarcastic.)* Gee, thanks.

HELEN: *(Hinting.)* I'm free, Denny...

DENNY: What? You? *(Laughs.)* You've got to be kidding, right? I am *the* Denny Truis.

MIA: Exactly why I don't want to go out with you. You're a pompous pig.

DENNY: *(Shocked.)* What did you just call me?

MIA: A pompous pig. Besides, I already have a boyfriend.

HELEN: *(Surprised.)* You do?

MIA: Yeah. *(To Denny.)* So lay off, mister, or I'll send him after you.

DENNY: *(Sarcastic.)* I'm so scared.

MIA: You should be. Lyle could take you any day.

HELEN: *(Realizes.)* Lyle? Lyle Sanders?

DENNY: *(To Mia, disgusted.)* You've got to be kidding. You'd pass up *this...* *(Gestures to himself.)* ...for some juvenile delinquent?

MIA: Well, at least he's not pretending to be something he's not. Now get lost.

DENNY: You'll be sorry, Mia. Nobody insults Denny Trius.

*(Denny turns on his heel to exit. He snaps his fingers and his friends and the other girls follow him off. Mia and Helen watch as they exit.)*

HELEN: *(Whining.)* Ah! Now my chances with Denny are, like, zero!

MIA: Forget him, Helen. He's a loser.

HELEN: Maybe to you, but not to me. Which reminds me, you didn't even tell me he'd asked you out! How could you?! You know I've had a crush on him forever. I thought you were my friend!

MIA: Which is why I didn't tell you. No point in hurting your feelings. Besides, you make it sound like I wanted him to ask me out, which I didn't.

HELEN: Because you're going out with Lyle Sanders. *(Pause. Frowns.)* Is that true? Are you going out with Lyle Sanders?

**[END OF FREEVIEW]**