

York College Performing Arts Center

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Box Office: 718-262-2840

www.yorkpac.com



About the Performing Arts Center

One of New York City's finest state-of-the-art theatrical facilities, the York College Performing Arts Center is truly a venue of great beauty and superior production value.

The Center features the sprawling 1,400 seat proscenium style Main Stage Theatre, suitable for productions of the largest size and scope; and the intimate and remarkably versatile 152 seat Little Theatre is the perfect venue for one-act plays, forums, recitals, Jazz and Chamber music.

YorkPAC features a wide array of support facilities including four dressing room suites, green room, set shop, Box Office, rehearsal rooms, FREE parking and one of the finest lighting and sound systems to be found in New York.

Now in its seventh season, the York College Performing Arts Series celebrates the rich diversity of our multi-cultural heritage with an eclectic selection of national and international artists.



SPECIAL THANKS

Major funding for this series provided by NYC Councilmembers **Leroy Comrie** (27th-CD) Deputy Majority Leader NY City Council and Chair of Land Use Committee, and **Ruben Wills** (28th-CD), Chair of Substance Abuse Sub-Committee.

The Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center
& York College Theatre

present

Spring
2014

William Shakespeare's

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Choreography by Lisa Hilliard & Mesha Millington

Music by Tom Zlabinger

Directed by Tom Marion

Friday May 2 at 7pm

Saturday May 3 at 7pm

Sunday May 4 at 3pm

Tuesday May 6 at Noon

Friday May 9 at 7pm

Saturday May 10 at 7pm

Sunday May 11 at 3pm

Tickets

General Admission - \$20

Group Sales - \$15

Students/Seniors - \$10

Box Office: 718-262-2840

Tickets available online at
YorkPAC.com

More information at
dreamatnyork.com

YORK College The Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11451

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YORK COLLEGE

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

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YORK COLLEGE SUMMER SESSIONS

FOCUS

Because you'll only take one or two classes at a time, you can master difficult material by focusing your studies.

SMALLER CLASS SIZES

Get personalized instruction and get to know more of your classmates.

EARN CREDITS

Shorten the time to graduation by taking extra courses.

IMPROVE YOUR GPA

Concentrate on a lightened load and earn a grade that will raise your GPA.

START OR FINISH THAT MINOR

Summer is a great time to progress towards your major and minor!

SATISFY PREREQUISITES

Be ready for Fall 2014 by getting a prerequisite done in the summer!

FAVORITE PROFESSOR

Enjoyed a course with a particular professor? Then take their summer course!

STUDY ABROAD

Get international exposure and earn credits during the summer.

FULFILL GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Jumpstart achieving your academic goals by taking introductory courses this summer!

WORK & STUDY

Course offerings throughout the day, evening and online so you can take that summer job and continue to make progress towards graduation.

Session I
June 2 - 25

Session I Extended
June 2 - July 21

Session II
June 30 - July 23

www.york.cuny.edu/summer

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May 2 – May 11, 2014

Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center

Matthew Katz, Director

YORK COLLEGE THEATRE

Department of Performing and Fine Arts

Timothy J. Amrhein, Chair

Present

William Shakespeare's

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

MUSIC COMPOSITION

& CONDUCTOR

Tom Zlabinger

CHOREOGRAPHY

Lisa Hopkins-Hilliard

Mesha Millington

SCENIC DESIGN

David T. Jones

COSTUME DESIGN

Kerry Gibbons

LIGHTING DESIGN

John Eckert

TECHNICAL DIRECTION

Benjamin MacKrell

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

*Jessica Pecharsky

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Kwame Clarke

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Ann Margaret Centeno

ACTOR MOVEMENT & FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY

Jessica Pecharsky

DIRECTOR

Tom Marion

PRODUCER

Matthew Katz

Featuring

Hermilo Bautista Kristalyn Billips Kevin Cauvin
Iyesha Chand Shakeerah Fredericks Adam Rashad Glenn
Jose Grafals Uchenna Ijeaku Sebrena Mason Emmanuel Milfort
Katrina Moise Janelly Nunez Bukola Ogunmola Kodjo Pedanou
Alvaro Rivera Nene Sangare Avery Smith Ronald Soutar
& Phil Williams

with

The Gloria Eve Dance Company

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

The City

Theseus, Duke of Athens

Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons

Philostrate, Master of Revels to Theseus

Egeus, Father to Hermia

Hermia, Daughter to Egeus,
in love with Lysander

Lysander, in love with Hermia

Demetrius, in love with Hermia

Helena, in love with Demetrius

Peter Quince

Snug

Nick Bottom

Francis Flute

Tom Snout

Robin Starveling

} Local workers

Uchenna Ijeaku

Shakeerah Fredericks

Ronald Soutar

Kodjo Pedanou

Bukola Ogunmola

Kevin Cauvin

Adam Rashad Glenn

Nene Sangare

Alvaro Rivera

Janelly Nunez

Phil Williams

Hermilo Bautista

Emmanuel Milfort

Jose Grafals

The Woods

Oberon, King of the Fairies

Titania, Queen of the Fairies

Changeling Boy

Puck, Servant to Oberon

First Fairy

Pease-Blossom

Cobweb

Mustard-Seed

Moth

Other Fairies & Attendants:

Joi Bennett

Abbigayle Bowlin

Mackenzie Elliot

Taylor Gietschier

Amira Graham

Jaleel Green

Leah Hilliard

Jacqueline

Holmes

Breanna Irons

Bernard Johnson

Karima Johnson

Shaina Key

Serraya Milland

Zuri Milliner

Jada O'neal

Jasmine Presti

Guya Rainey

Uchenna Ijeaku

Shakeerah Fredericks

Bernard Johnson

Ronald Soutar

Avery Smith

Sebrena Mason

Katrina Moise

Kristalyn Billips

Iyesha Chand

Kayla Rose

Katlyn Scott

Avery Smith

Paige Sweeting

Aleya Swopes

Skye Taylor

Cierrah Thomas

Nailah Vinson

Joelle Wright

SHANIQUA WEEKES previously worked on *The Tuskegee Airmen Project* and *An Evening of Durang* for York College Theatre. She is acquiring even more skills working backstage this semester and thanks Ben for showing her the ever more complex ropes! She knows all the ingredients for banana bread intimately.

PAIGE WILLIAMS is a Marketing major who is minoring in Theatre Arts. She hopes to become an Events Planner after graduation. She plans on using the skills learned in the backstage course toward future home improvement projects. Paige worked on properties and as deck crew for *An Evening of Durang*.

CARLIN WILLIAMS is an upper senior at York College majoring in Sociology and happy to be involved with Theatre Arts once again. Last semester, she worked on both *The Tuskegee Airmen Project* and *The Bourgeois Gentleman*. She has a passion for fashion and enjoys designing and bringing old clothes to life! After graduating she hopes to get her Masters Degree in Social Work, working with children in the mental health field, and additionally to pursue her dream of becoming a stylist/fashion designer.

Performing and Fine Arts Department COMING EVENTS

MUSIC

TUE 5/6 @ 7 p.m. Student Piano Recital @ PAC
WED 5/21 @ 7 p.m. York College Big Band @ TBA
SAT 5/24 @ 7 p.m. York College Blue Notes @ TBA

BACKSTAGE CREW

LISA BELLONI is a senior at York College and is working in theatre for the first time. She is a Sociology major and Psychology minor, but loves painting and arts-and-crafts projects as some of her spare-time hobbies. She will be graduating in May and plans to pursue her Masters in Social Work. She feels that theatre (whether front- or backstage) is a great place to get in touch with your creative side.

GIOVANN DELACRUZ is a sophomore at York College who is majoring in Theatre. This is his second show working backstage for a York production and he plans to work on many more. Giovanni is interested in the film industry and will continue to study this field of work.

MONEEK JOHNSON is an upper sophomore majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. Moneek is a vocalist, songwriter, music producer and computer technician. She enjoys reading and dancing.

DONNELL JONES is working on his second show for York College Theatre. He was Light Board operator for *An Evening of Durang*. He is pursuing a degree in Marketing at York College.

ISRAEL LEWIS is an upper sophomore at York majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts who loves acting and music. He has appeared in several short film and plays at St. John's University and at York. He is currently in another play off-Broadway. His future plans are to become one of the greatest actors in history and a master of emotions. He lives by the motto: "Why settle for good when you can be great."

VICTORIA MARQUEZ is an upper freshman at York College majoring in Speech Communication/Theatre Arts. In her younger years, Victoria participated in school productions. She loves to read anything from fiction to Greek mythology and enjoys listening to Indie Rock, Classic Rock, Hip-hop, Blues and Jazz. She also loves to work with her hands, building and sculpting. She hopes to become a speech therapist and help soldiers who have acquired speech impediments.

MARIA ISABEL SUERO SANTOS is a lower senior seeking a BA in Spanish. She works for the SEEK program as a Spanish tutor. She loves to dance, play volleyball and laugh. She arrived from the Dominican Republic in 2006 and has a very strong accent! She loves to be happy and make others smile. She was "Tinkerbell" (follow-spot operator) for *An Evening of Durang*.

SCENE

The ancient mystical realm of Athens, and the woods near it.
Any similarity to late 20th Century NYC is purely imaginary.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Understudy: Anthony Castro

The Orchestra

Bayo Fayemi (Music major): guitar

David Morales (Music major): guitar

Dixon Morisseau (Psychology major / music minor): keyboard

Chris Ziemba (NTA): keyboard

Dr. Tom Zlabinger (Assistant Professor): bass

Kevin Austin (Professional): drums



Cellular phones and watch alarms should be turned off or set to non-audible mode. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Materials for the Arts; The Village Light Opera Group; John and Joe, Owners of Hallak Cleaners; The staff, students, and parents of the Gloria Eve School of Dance and Music; George Lam; Margaret Vendryes; Gloria Giraldo; Printing Services; and Buildings & Grounds.



materials for the arts
NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CAST

HERMILO BAUTISTA (*Francis Flute*) Hermilo is a Theater Arts major at York College. He prefers being called Milo by his peers because he believes it's easier to pronounce. Milo has been involved in three productions as a backstage crew member: *The Love Magnet*, *Starving But Making It*, and *Dreamgirls*. Last semester he made his debut at York College Theatre in *The Bourgeois Gentlehomme*. Milo is very excited to be on stage for his second time as part of the cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

KRISTALYN BILLIPS (*Mustard-Seed*) Not very popular with those in her grade but the complete opposite with the high schoolers, Kristalyn has this personality and talent that just stands out. Creative and talented, nothing can stop Kristalyn from getting to her dreams. A naturally talented kid with a mind full of ideas, her voice and moves have made her known by many.

ANTHONY CASTRO (*Understudy*) is a freshman here at York College. Her recently appeared in York's *An Evening of Durang*. Anthony has been in various productions, both scripted and improvised shows all throughout middle and high school.

KEVIN CAUVIN (*Lysander*) Kevin is a Theatre Arts major. Last semester he performed in *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*, and was also assistant stage manager for *Le Bourgeois Gentlehomme (Middle Class Gentlemen)*. He also performed with the York College dance club, Red Shoes. Kevin is very excited to be a part of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He believes it's going to be an amazing experience. "Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprint of your ultimate achievement."-N. Hill

IYESHA CHAND (*Moth*) This is Iyesha's first performance at York College. This is her second semester as a Theater Arts major. She wants to thank everyone who supports her decision to become an actress and singer. Her dream is to be on Broadway, with the role of Princess Jasmine, in *Aladdin*. She is very excited to be a part of *Midsummer Night's Dream*! She can't wait to share her talent with the rest of the world and everyone at York!

ADAM RASHAD GLENN (*Demetrius*) Currently working toward a Degree in Theater and Speech Communications, Adam was seen last semester in York College Theatre's production of *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*. Outside of York, he has played Paul Handleman in *Den of Thieves* by Stephen Adly Gurigis, and Winin' Boy in August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*. He began his acting classes at Repertory Company High School of The Performing Arts and

the legacy of Gloria Jackson Dance Studio where she studied for 13 years and her aunt/opera singer Evelyn Cooper.

TOM MARION (Director) Assistant Prof. of Theatre and Theatre Arts Coordinator, Tom holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts (with Bill Esper), a Certificate of Vocal Coaching from The National Theatre Conservatory (with Tony Church), and an internship with The Royal Shakespeare Company (with Cecily Berry and Andrew Wade.) He is a Designated Teacher of Linklater Voice, a founding member of the Linklater Center for Voice and Language, and an Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework. At York Prof. Marion has directed *Heartbeat*, *Macbeth*, *Fabulation*, *The Exonerated*, *The Tempest*, and was the creator/director of *Istwa!* (which was subsequently performed at the 2011 International Fringe Festival, NYC) and *SPEAK OUT* (which performed at The Bowery Poetry Club in Manhattan and at York as part of Black History Month.) Most recently, he conceived *The Tuskegee Airmen Project* that was presented at York last October.

JESSICA PECHARSKY (Production Stage Manager) is a graduate of Hofstra University in dance and theatre. Once at Hofstra, Jessica moved her focus to stage management. She has been stage managing professionally since 2000. She has held resident stage management positions with Streetlight Productions and The Jekyll and Hyde Club. Other companies she has stage managed for include Classical Theatre of Harlem, Centenary Stage, Ma-Yi Theatre, Chester Theater Company, Boomerang Theater, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Working Theater, Audax Theatre Group, Capacitor, Theatre LILA, Clubbed Thumb, American Globe Theater, Heartists Productions, and Moonwork. Jessica is a professional member of Actors Equity Association (AEA).

TOM ZLABINGER (Music Composition & Orchestra Conductor) is Assistant Professor of Music at York College / CUNY and the director of the York College Big Band and the York College Summer Jazz Program. He is a professional bass player and an ethnomusicologist. He received his PhD from the Graduate Center at the City University of New York, holds a Master's in jazz performance from Queens College / CUNY, and earned a B.A. in Music at Grinnell College. His dissertation is entitled *FREE FROM JAZZ: The Jazz and Improvised Music Scene in Vienna since Ossiach (1971-2011)*. His scholarly interests include the pedagogy of improvisation and the use of music in film, literature, and other media.

DAVID T. JONES (Set Designer) Adjunct Lecturer of Theatre and Drama Club Advisor at York College, David has designed more than 15 of York College Theatre's productions since 2008, including *Anna in the Tropics*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Speak Out*, *Scapin*, *The Tempest*, *Fabulation*, *Fame*, *Rent*, *Dreamgirls*, and last semester's *Le Bourgeoise Gentilehomme*. He is Resident Scenic Designer for The Village Light Opera Group in Manhattan, where he has designed nearly the entire Gilbert & Sullivan canon and countless musicals and operettas, including *Kismet* and *Bells Are Ringing*. Most recently he (re)designed the revival of *Scrooge and Gilbert and Sullivan*. He has also designed various productions in the tri-state area, including *The Merry Widow* at Hartt College as well as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Urinetown*, and *Suessical* for Northern Highlands Regional High School in New Jersey. At York, he teaches Introduction to Theatre and Scenic Painting, among other courses.

BENJAMIN MACKRELL (Technical Director) holds a Bachelors Degree in Theater from Goucher College in Baltimore. As Technical Director for Manoa Valley Theater, Hawaii's premier off-Broadway playhouse, he received the award for "Outstanding Technical Direction" from the Hawaii State Theater Council in 2010, a category created that year. He also received Po'okela Awards for his outstanding set designs for *Little Shop Of Horrors* (2011), *Sleuth* (2010), *Tuesdays with Morrie* (2009) all at Manoa Valley Theater. He was also awarded Broadwayworld.com Outstanding Lighting Design of a Play for *Sight Unseen* at Baltimore's Fells Point Corner Theater in 2006. His passion lies in helping theater artists realize their vision and making it possible for audiences to be emotionally and intellectually transported.

MIESHA MILLINGTON (SAG, AFTRA, AEA, ASCAP) (Choreographer) has been performing professionally since the age of four as a union actress, singer, and dancer while appearing in over 100 commercials, voice-overs and jingles. She has traveled as far as Japan on tour with the musical production of *Harlem Kids Symphony*. Some of her television credits include *Star Search*, *Guiding Light*, *Search for Tomorrow*, *As the World Turns*, and ABC After School Special *Notes for My Daughter Live Performance* on WB Channel 11 *Promesa Salutes Broadway*, *Eddie Murphy's Raw*, Live Aid Concert & Performance at Carnegie Hall. Stage credits include Betsey Brown, Bobos, Sugar Hill, Neffertiti and Harlem Kids Symphony. Mesha has worked with artists, choreographers, and producers such as: Stevie wonder, George Faison (Choreographer), Baikida Carroll(Composer), Daryl Waters(Composer) and Zane Mark(Composer). Thirteen years ago Mesha founded and continues to Co-Artistic Direct The Gloria Eve Performing Arts Foundation and The Gloria Eve School of the Arts. Mesha aims to continue

wishes to continue training in classical theater as well as film. Fascinated by human behavior, Adam is a lover and student of history and psychology. He hopes someday to be working on feature films with great writers such as Terrence Winter.

SHAKEERAH FREDERICKS (*Hippolyta/Titania*) Shakeerah is a Junior at York College majoring in English with a minor in Theater Arts. She made her stage play debut in 2012 in the York College Drama Club production, *subUrbia* by Eric Bogosian. Since then, she has continued to perform in various productions at York. Her previous shows include *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, and *Dreamgirls*. She is thrilled to have her first Shakespearean role in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is happy for this opportunity, and would like to thank everyone who has been supporting her.

JOSE GRAFALS (*Robin Starvling*) Jose is very excited to be a part of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Only his second appearance on stage, he is extremely thankful for having the opportunity to perform at York College under the direction of Tom Marion. Although his skills usually reside behind the lens of a camera, Jose has temporarily switched gears in his learning experience to explore what it means to be an actor. With the support of those closest to him, his ultimate goal is to mold his imperfections as an aspiring filmmaker. He thanks all of his loved ones, friends and family, for standing by and watching him grow.

UCHENNA IJEAKU (*Theseus / Oberon*) A senior at York College, Uchenna is an aspiring artist and performer. You may have seen Uchenna in his performances at the York College Theatre productions including *The Tuskegee Airmen Project*, *La Puce à l'Oreille (A Flea in Her Ear)*, and *Prosody 400- HeartBeat*. Uchenna has found a home in theatre and plans to continue pushing to reach new plateaus in the performing arts. Uchenna also known as (U'che) can be contacted through his is Gmail Uijeaku@gmail.com, his Facebook page U'che LYTE, and instagram @UcheLyte.

SEBRENA MASON (*Pease-Blossom*) Sebrena is a very talented performer in all aspects. This is Sebrena's seventh performance with the York College Theatre. Since the age of two, Sebrena has been a classically trained ballerina and has a love for music and the arts as well as the sciences. She plans to have her own dance school and company in the future and is looking forward to teaching those who share the same love for dance and the arts as she does. Always remember to smile and do what makes you happy.

EMMANUEL MILFORT (*Tom Snout*) "Manny" found his passion for arts in singing and he is currently a member of the praise and worship team and the

assistant choir conductor at his local church. Manny has been a part of numerous Christian-based productions; however his recent credits include *Tuskegee Airmen Project*, *Starving but Making It*, and he made his York College debut in *Dreamgirls*. He is excited about working with this cast and being part of this Shakespeare production. He thanks all his family and friends for all their love and support and Tom Marion for all the work he has done to help better him as an actor.

KATRINA TRISHA MOISE (*Cobweb*) Katrina is a well-versed dancer in the areas of ballet, tap, jazz, modern, African, and ballroom. She has studied at various schools across the globe including Long Island High School for the Arts and Ballet Hispanico. She is a senior at York College double majoring in Anthropology and Sociology. Her passion for dancing has led her to perform on *Dancing with the Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance*. She aspires to be a Movement Science educator and travel the world sharing the knowledge and joy of dancing.

JANNELLY NUNEZ (*Snug*) Jannelly is a sophomore at York College majoring in Theatre Arts. This is her second performance at York. Last semester she played the daughter, Lucile, in the French classic by Moliere, *The Middle Class Gentleman*. She hopes to continue acting in future plays.

BUKOLA OGUNMOLA (*Hermia*) Bukola is a York College graduate with a degree in Marketing and a minor in Theatre Arts. Some of her recent productions were *Monk and the Man* as Annette at the Chelsea Repertory Theater, Little Inez in *Hairspray* with Act On It Productions and *Dreamgirls* and *After* here at York College. She is very happy and excited to be a part of this wonderful cast and would like to thank you all for supporting the arts.

KODJO PEDANOU (*Egeus*) Kodjo is an upper junior at York College. His major is Social Work with a minor in French. It is his first time performing in a play at York College. However he has been part of the Poetry Montage in Creole performed by the York College French/Francophone Student Club at the twenty-fourth annual conference of the Haitian Studies in 2012. Kodjo is excited to be involved in this play.

ALVARO RIVERA (*Peter Quince*) Alvaro is an aspiring artist with many talents such as acting, singing, sketching and writing. He was last seen in York College Theatre productions of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, and *Dreamgirls*, and dreams of one day taking the role of Fiyero in *Wicked* as his own. Two years ago, he starred as Jeff in in The York College Drama Club production of Eric Bogosian's *subUrbia* directed by Phil Williams. He hopes you enjoy all the hard work the cast has done.

PRODUCTION STAFF

ANN MARGARET CENTENO (Assistant Stage Manager) is a graduate of York College who currently works with Actors' Equity Association. Some of her past productions include: *Dreamgirls* (York College), *La Luz de Un Cigarrillo* (Teatro LATEA and York College), *Spring Tides* and *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Boomerang Theater Company) and *What I Meant Was* (Manhattan Theatre Source). Other York College productions: *RENT*, *Macbeth*, *Charlie Victor Romeo* and *FAME The Musical*.

KERRY GIBBONS (Costume Designer) is a full-time freelance costume designer and proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. NY: *Stealin' Home*, *Demonstration 2013*, *Children of Killers* (Castillo), *Darling*, *queerSpawn* (A Collection of Shiny Objects), *Dukus* (Target Margin), *Macbeth* (Red Shark), *Raising Cane: A Family Portrait* (Brick); Regional: *Smoke Lilies & Jade* (Center for New Performance), *Taming of the Shrew* (KY Shakespeare). MFA: California Institute of the Arts. Please visit kgibbonsdesign.com for more info.

JOHN ECKERT (Lighting Designer) Two New Hampshire Theatre Awards (*Measure for Measure*, *Freud's Last Session*), LA Weekly Award (*Iphigenia... A Rave Fable*). Off-Broadway: *From White Plains* (Fault Line Theatre) Other New York: *Mary-Kate Olsen is in Love* (The Flea), *Soulographie*, *How and Why I Robbed My First Cheese Store* (La Mama), *Surrender* (LPAC), *A Crucible*, *Atta Boy* (Perfect Disgrace), *Frogs*, *From The Same Cloth* (Fault Line Theatre), *Wait. She Waits.* (HERE), *If [Or When] the Roof Falls In* (Rescue Agreement). Regional: *A Christmas Carol 2011 & 2012* (Trinity Rep), *This Verse Business* (Merrimack Rep), *From White Plains* (Kitchen Theatre), *What To Wear with Richard Forman* (REDCAT), *Miss Julie* (Sledgehammer Theatre), *Tartuffe* (Boston Court). Over 20 shows with Peterborough Players. MFA from CalArts. www.jeckert.com

LISA HOPKINS-HILLIARD (Choreographer) Lisa's dance training began at the young age of 5. Institutions where she has studied and trained include both legendary studios located in Queens NY: Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center and Gloria Jackson Dance Studio. At the age of 19, Lisa became a dance teacher and also began her professional dance career touring with many artists. Show/Venue Credits include: Grammy Awards, MTV's Street Party, Radio City Music Hall and Jason's Lyric Sound Track Tour. Label credits include Uptown Records, Mercury Records and RCA Records. While on break from touring with artists, Lisa pursued a B.F.A. in dance. She studied and worked with Masters such as Bruce Heath, Kathleen Sumner-Turner, Shirley Black-Brown Carolyn Devore, Diane Harvey and Marshal Romaine, to name a few.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE & PLOT SUMMARY:

Midsummer is about love. But what is *love*? Something stable like a rock, or fluid like the temperature? Catholic Church doctrine teaches that love is a decision. What do *you* say? As skyscraper building humans, we have a mighty opinion of ourselves. But how much is really under our control? This play examines the deceptive spirits of human nature – not all of them, just the innocent loving ones – spirits of perception and imaginative creation, like the wonder of birth and a child's irrepressible energy. The dichotomy between the city and the woods is Shakespeare's way of leading us out of our proud rational selves to a place more internal, scary, unknown, and magical. So when we come back to our "thinking" city selves, maybe our self-perceptions and the true meaning of loving will be more fully apprehended.

For a play set in ancient Athens you may be wondering why we don't have anyone dressed in togas. Firstly, do you really want to see a play with everyone wearing togas? Secondly, Shakespeare wrote and performed this play for a rich man's wedding celebration. And though he uses a lot of Grecian references he also uses plenty of English folklore as well. So, since Shakespeare wasn't being too serious, must we be? Thinking of a world of conformity and ego, why not 1962? Thinking of wild freedom, why not George Clinton? (Go ahead, google him.) Or maybe, it's all a capricious dream.

Theseus, the Duke of Athens, is preparing for his marriage to Hippolyta. Egeus seeks the Duke's help because his daughter, Hermia, will not agree to his choice of Demetrius as a husband. Hermia loves Lysander instead. Both Demetrius and Lysander love Hermia. (Demetrius used to be in love Hermia's friend, Helena – yet Helena is still in love with Demetrius!) The Duke tells Hermia to obey her father and marry Demetrius, or else she must accept a life of a nun, or be put to death. Lysander and Hermia plan to run away from Athens and elope. Demetrius follows them into the woods when Helena, hoping to win him over on the rebound, tells him Hermia's plans.

In the woods, Oberon, King of the fairies, has an argument with his Queen, Titania, over a young boy she adopted. Looking to play a trick on the Queen, Oberon sends his madcap servant, Puck, to find an herb with the power to make people fall in love with the first creature they see. After he overhears Helena pleading for Demetrius' love, he instructs Puck to put some drops on Demetrius' eyes. But Puck gets mixed up and puts the flower juice on the eyes of the sleeping Lysander so that when he is woken by Helena he immediately falls in love with her! Much confusion ensues, but eventually Oberon fixes it so everybody falls in love with their intended.

Some city workers are rehearsing a play about the ancient tragic love story of Pyramus & Thisbe to present to Theseus on his wedding day. Puck overhears their rehearsal and plays a trick on them by turning Nick Bottom's head into the head of an ass. Titania, whom Oberon has charmed with the magic flower, wakes up and falls in love with Bottom. Later, when Oberon removes the magical spell, she is appalled at having loved a donkey! Happily reunited to each other, Lysander with Hermia, Demetrius with Helena, Theseus overbears Egeus' will and invites the two young couples to join in marriage on his wedding day. The workers perform the play of Pyramus and Thisbe before the wedding guests. As the three newlywed couples retire to bed, Puck and the fairies return to bless them all.

NENE SANGARE (*Helena*) always wanted to act. She finally took the plunge with TA211 Basic Acting with Michael Earle during her senior year at York. It made her eager to improve as she realized it takes a lot of dedication, and “it is a skill that is very resourceful. The ability to become a character completely different from one’s self is truly a transforming experience.” She also took Dr. Janice Capuana’s Intro to Theatre course where she was assigned to write review papers on the York plays. “Seeing these plays inspired me to audition in the hopes of being a part of it.” Nene has completed her course work for a BA in Journalism. She has also interned at the Network Journal and Africa Strictly Business, opportunities which “opened a lot of doors for me, and allowed me to become a published author.”

AVERY SMITH (*The Fairy*) Avery has been dancing since the age of three. She studies ballet, tap, jazz, modern, hip-hop, and African dance. She starred in roles for Gloria Eve’s end-year productions. Amongst her favorite roles: Nala in *The Pride*, which was inspired by the *Lion King* and as a Lost Boy in a production of *Peter Pan*. She has been featured in Newsday as a contributing Kidsday reporter for her review of “The Great and Powerful Oz” and her interview of the Nets City Kid Dancers. Avery is thrilled to be cast as a fairy in the York College production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

RONALD SOUTAR (*Puck/Philostrate*) Theatrically trained at York College, Ron has played in a range of productions: from classical, Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, to modern, Lynn Notage’s *Fabulation*. He has also performed small roles in feature films shot in and around the New York area, and plans to write and direct his own films and documentaries in the future. Ron is the drummer for the band MANIC REVOLUTION, in which he also writes and composes.

PHIL WILLIAMS (*Nick Bottom*) Phil is a proud alumnus of York College. He earned his B.A. in Speech Communication & Theatre Arts in 2012, and was honored with the Barbara Nickolich Award for Theatre Excellence. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* marks his tenth production with York College Theatre. Phil has also directed productions for the York College Drama Club, the Cabrini Repertory Theatre, Manhattan Repertory Theatre, and John Chatterton’s Short Play Lab. He is a member of the Harlem Camerata, an organization for artists to read and workshop classic and contemporary plays. Phil thanks York College Theatre for their support, as they continue to prove that they’re one of the very best theatre programs in CUNY, and the one working hardest for their students. “One does not come to know something unless one loves it.”—Goethe.

The Cast



Uchenna Ijeaku



Shakeerah Fredericks



Kevin Cauvin



Adam R. Glenn



Nene Sangare



Bukola Ogunmola



Kodjo Pedanou



Ronald Soutar



Anthony Castro
(Understudy)



Iyesha Chand



Sebrena Mason



Avery Smith



Kristalyn Billips



Katrina Moise



Hermilo Bautista



Jose Grafals



Janelly Nunez



Emmanuel Milfort



Alvaro Rivera



Phil Williams



The Gloria Eve Dance Company
The Gloria Eve School of Dance, Hempstead NY