

Highacres' Production of Shakespeare's "A Night Dream" Delights Capacity

Reviewed By PROFESSOR ANDREW KAFKA

The realm of drama can be as diverse as life itself. On April 28, 29, and 30, a large talented company of Highacres students and faculty presented one of William Shakespeare's most enchantingly diversified comedies "A Midsummer's Night Dream" in the upper level of the Highacres Commons. It was a triumphant evening of theatre.

Dr. Laura Dill, of our English Department here, directed the play. Jay Breckenridge was Producer, and Jim White, assistant Producer. They were aided by these Technical Producers: Carl Frankel for sets and costumes; Dave Orbin for the lighting; Norma Moyer for the May Dance (and Reception) and Joseph Juneter for the Madrigal Singers entertainment.

While stage properties, lighting, and sound, the achievement of each individual actor, the make-up, etc. are significant in a play, as Joseph Baldwin of the University of Nebraska Theatre Department once said: "Like a person, a play is more than the sum of its parts; it has an intangible feature called "spirit." A "spirit" can shine through a homely face and make it beautiful; a beautiful face---that is, a face formed of beautiful parts-- with no "spirit"

looking through, is only a lifeless doll. So it is with a play."

Professor Laura Dill has directed this play, not only with a seasoned eye for fastidious detail, authenticity of the play's Shakespearian contents and language (she selected the famous and preferred First Quarto version of this play---the play was written in 1594-95), and the splendid acting interpretation from her cast of twenty-one players, but she has been successful in creating and communicating this "spirit" with all its delightful lighthearted dimensions and fantasy as well as the quintessence of the romantic struggles of the four young lovers. (Brava, Laura Dill!)

What goes on in this five-act play that takes place in Athens, Greece, can be revealed through three interrelated developments: first, the loves of four young people-LYSANDER and HERMIA who love each other, but whose love is being thwarted by the objections of Hermia's father EGEUS; DEMETRIUS who loves HERMIA, but she loves LYSANDER; and HELENA who loves DEMETRIUS, but he loves her not. Second, the story line concerning the quarrel of King OBERON and his wife Queen TITANIA of the

never-never realm of fairyland. They and their company of fairies have come from India to bless the wedding of the ruling Duke of Athens, THESEUS to HIPPOLYTA, Queen of the Amazons. The third aspect of plot concerns the efforts of a group of lower class crude Athenian craftsmen who want to produce and act out a home-spun tragedy which they have entitled "The most lamentable comedy and most cruel death of PYRAMUS and THISBY." This play these craftsmen wish to present as part of the entertainment at the Duke's wedding.

HERMIA, played by Sadie Richie; LYSANDER, played by Ron Reinmiller; HELENA, played by Sandy Randis; and DEMETRIUS, played by Steve Schreuder, are splendidly cast as the four troubled lovers, acting out their trials and tribulations as they wander through the woods outside of Athens. They give winning performances. How perceptibly Shakespeare explains the plight of the lovers. LYSANDER philosophizes about the course of true love to HERMIA. As LYSANDER, Ron Reinmiller spoke these lines with superb romantic fervor. Here these lines are quoted: (the words in brackets are present-day meanings)

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