

BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE

2022

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

ADAPTED FROM THE CLASSIC PLAY BY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY VICTORIA GARTNER
& JOEL HALL



THE
HOLROYD
COMMUNITY
THEATRE

27 - 28
AUG

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2022 Summer Season created by British Youth Music Theatre. We have eight new shows happening across the UK and, at their heart, they each have brilliant young people and dedicated professionals collaborating to find ways to tell new stories through music theatre. Our starting point in rehearsal is an understanding that we are 'Making Theatre Together, For Everyone'.

Thank you for coming to see this new version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We are delighted to have a director who is an expert in creating Shakespeare productions with and for young people and a composer who works with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Together with the team and our wonderful young performers they have woven together a magical telling of this tale and found its contemporary relevance, whilst having a lot of creative fun along the way, including encouraging the young people to write lyrics for the songs. As a first for BYMT, this incredible company have also created content for our first Virtual World, inspired by Joel Hall's experience as a Digital Producer, and we hope you will explore this and join us for the online performance on Saturday 3rd September.

It's complex to create new musicals and your feedback helps us to develop and grow our work. You can tell us what you think about the show at mail@bymt.org and, if you can, please support more young people to access our life changing, creative opportunities at britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us

Emily Gray Creative Director

A NOTE FROM VICTORIA GARTNER

A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of the world's most famous plays. The legend says that at any given moment, this Shakespearean classic about a love square, the rulers of Fairyland and an ass is being performed somewhere in the world. Right now, it is about to be brought to life through song, dance and verse by an incredibly talented cast of passionate young people in front of your very eyes. Let them enchant you with this story about our very world and our troubled times. Our interpretation focuses on a society that desperately needs to hear the call of nature, and to heal its disruption through a deep re-wilding. Nestled in the heart of the Celtic natural world, at the boundary between Shropshire and Wales, between the human world and the Otherworld, is the waterfall of Pistyll Rhaeadr. It sang to us songs of legends, mischief and love, it whispered to us of its sprites and queens, and led us through its fairy bridge to a place where magic reigns supreme. And now, we cannot wait to share this dreamy journey with you. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* invites you to be the lunatic, the lover and the poet and to follow our rude mechanicals through an ancient woodland where we will all dance, sing and rejoice together. Do not worry – once the revelry is over, we will bring you back to Oswestry. But not before we sneak a few crumpled purple flowers in your pocket. Ay, me! What a dream is here!

ABOUT BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT) is a national performing arts company that specialises in creating brand new music theatre. As an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, BYMT is a youth theatre like no other, putting young people at the centre of the creative process to produce vibrant, innovative and original works in some of the UK's top venues and festivals. Our aim is to offer unique opportunities and high-quality training to young singers, actors, dancers and musicians as well as emerging artists and stage technicians.

For more information, visit us at britishyouthmusictheatre.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

PUBLIC GRANTS



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TRUST & FOUNDATIONS

Backstage Trust - Supporting our Bursaries Scheme

FRIENDS

Alan Cranston
Alastair Roberts
Emma Shaw
Fern Stoner
Jayne Griffiths
Rebecca Nice
S Chaytow
Sarah Double
Sian Flynn
Tim Sawers
Barry Anns
Helen Dayananda
F. Howard

BOARD

Jimmy Jewell
Alastair Roberts
Anieli Shuckburgh
Phillip Siddle
Francesca Unsworth
Roger Jones
Simon Millson (Chair)

ADVISORS TO THE TRUSTEES

Addy Loudiadis (Fundraising)
Bridget Kalloushi (Finance)
Rachel Victor-Sampson (Inclusivity)

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to our work:

The Staff at Holroyd Theatre
Flavia Fraser-Cannon at Mobius Industries
Jess Jenkins
ArtTouchesArt
Photographer Guy Clarke
Our Creative Trainees: Edward Atkin, Alexandra Kay and Iz Brett

Find out more at: britishyouthmusictheatre.org/bymt-courses/creative-trainee-scheme

The production will be streamed at 7pm on Saturday 3rd September in the virtual world

britishyouthmusictheatre-dream.org/



ENJOYED THE SHOW? BECOME A FRIEND OF BYMT

For just £25 per month, your contribution will help support talented young performers and musicians through our bursary scheme, the commissioning of new music theatre and the training of emerging theatre artists. Plus, all our FRIENDS receive free admission* to one of our shows every year! To sign up please scan the QR code provided on the right or visit our website for more information: britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us



**free admission for up to 4 people*

CREATIVES

VICTORIA GARTNER - WRITER & DIRECTOR

Victoria Gartner is an award-nominated writer, director and teacher. Over the last ten years, she has written and directed work produced in the UK, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. She is the Artistic Director of Will & Co, which she founded in 2015. Her most recent project, *Bard in the Yard*, was developed in the first Covid-induced lockdown of May 2020. These two solo plays about Shakespeare experiencing writer's block during the Elizabethan plague have been performed in private gardens, schools, care homes and festivals by many actors all over the UK to great public and critical acclaim (The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Independent). Dame Helen Mirren is the Godmother of the project. Other work by Victoria includes *Will or Eight Lost Years of William Shakespeare's Life*, which has toured Europe in both French and English, *Verona* (Theatre tri-bühne, Stuttgart) and *Judith & Hamnet* (Lausanne Shakespeare Festival). Victoria has been teaching Shakespeare for many years, giving workshops in schools and universities, including at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and East15 Acting School, where she is currently teaching acting and directing Shakespeare. She is passionate about giving everyone access to words in a fresh and vibrant way, using the body as well as the mind to unlock the verse. She started her directing career as Assistant Director for opera company NOF on works such as *Acis & Galatea* and *Blanche Neige*. Victoria was born in Ukraine and grew up in the French-speaking part of Switzerland before moving to the UK. She has an MA in English literature with a specialisation in Shakespearean studies as well as a degree in Dramaturgy and Directing, and is part of the Authentic Artist Collective.

JOEL HALL - COMPOSER, MUSICAL DIRECTOR & DIGITAL PRODUCER

Joel Hall is a Composer, Musical Director and Digital Producer who trained at the University of Nottingham and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. He is a Digital Producer at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Director of StreamPark, an award-winning interactive digital events

platform partnered with the Mixed Reality Lab at the University of Nottingham, Live Cinema UK and Oxfam GB, funded by Horizon Digital Economy Research and hosting immersive events for national organisations, theatres and communities. Joel is also working as a Digital Producer for Watford Palace Theatre's upcoming production of *The Merchant of Venice* starring Tracy-Ann Oberman. Joel's musical *The Terrific Trevels* with book and lyrics by Tom Ling premiered at the Watford Palace Theatre as the UK's first interactive 'Musical in a Book'. Performed by West End and touring actors and introduced by award-winning radio and TV presenter Clive Anderson, the show was created with the Woodland Trust to inspire and educate young people about the beauty and importance of woodlands. Joel has also scored and musically directed *Robin Hood* with associate director Jonny McClean for the Lichfield Garrick Theatre; *Baba Yaga* with director Victoria Gartner for British Youth Music Theatre; *The Big Red Rock - A Little Musical* for Child's Play Ltd and Inspire Culture Learning and Libraries; *Judgement Day* under the direction of John Adams at the Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome; *The Flying Frog* at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall online; *Grandma Claus* at Aylesbury Theatre; and many other productions. Joel is writing songs for *The Last Vampire*, having undertaken a R&D workshop at Coventry Belgrade Theatre, led by the Belgrade's creative director Corey Campbell, musical director Steve Edis and writer Chris Monks. The musical is based on a series of popular books by Joel's grandfather, playwright Willis Hall. Joel has also written music for Paramount Theatre's *Connection Concert Series* directed by New Works Development Director Amber Mak and he has performed for *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure* at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre online. Joel occasionally works as a pianist for the Nottingham Playhouse having accompanied Olivier award-winner Jenna Russell as Edith Piaf and multi award-winning duo George Stiles and Anthony Drewe's *Identical* directed by Sir Trevor Nunn.

KATHERINE MORAN - CHOREOGRAPHER

Katherine works as an actor, choreographer, movement director and voiceover artist. She attended her first local dance class in Pinner aged four and went on to train as an actor at the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama. She has since combined her dance technique and acting experience to work on productions including *Lysistrata* (The Cockpit), *Two the Power of Three* (Theatre Handmade) and *Mortal* (Excitus Productions). Katherine is also a Movement & Dance Lecturer at the London College of Music, and choreographs her own work. In acting, Katherine's credits include *Call The Midwife* (BBC), *A Christmas Gift From Bob* (Lionsgate), and *News Revue* (BBC/Canal Cafe Theatre). She is currently writing her first play, *Ruthless*, which tells the true story of Ruth Ellis from Ruth's perspective. When she's not running around a rehearsal room, Katherine is probably chatting into a microphone for her voiceover business, voicing for recent projects for Groupon UK, Vrbo, Raw Fury Games and Yves Saint Laurent.

MITCH BROOMHEAD - LIGHTING DESIGN & PRODUCTION MANAGER

Mitch has been working in technical theatre, stage and production management for over 25 years. She trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama and graduated with a Diploma in Technical Theatre Arts in 1993 having specialised in Lighting and Lighting Design. Since 2014 she has been working mainly in technical, stage and production management roles for touring theatre productions and music festivals, as well as being the current resident lighting designer for Regent Opera Company, with whom she has just lit and toured *Carmen*. This is her fourth production with BYMT and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is her favourite Shakespeare play so she is really pleased to be able to design the lighting for it.

EDWARD ATKIN - ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Edward Atkin is an award-winning composer and performer who is currently studying at Guildhall School of Music and

Drama where he has lessons with Julian Phillips. His music has been performed by world class ensembles such as the ORA Singers and the BBC Concert Orchestra. He holds a professional scholarship position with the London Oriana Choir and was previously a scholar at Sheffield Cathedral. He is thrilled to be taking on this role with British Youth Music Theatre, in his first musical theatre engagement since the beginning of the pandemic.

ALEXANDRA KAY - ASSOCIATE DESIGNER

Alexandra is a Costume, Set and Puppetry Designer Maker who is a current final year Design for Performance student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Her previous credits include work as a scenic and costume assistant on RWCMD (Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama) productions of *Shook*, *Dream*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Mary Stuart* to name but a few. She has worked extensively as a design assistant and previously designed a production of 'The Pillowman' before starting her training. She is thrilled to be associate designing this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with British Youth Music Theatre as part of the Creative Trainee Scheme. When not covered in paint in a design studio or running around a theatre, she can be found working as an illustrator and animator in her spare time.

IZ BRETT - DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER

Iz Brett is an aspiring Stage Manager who is about to enter their 2nd Year at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. They have been involved with the technical aspects of theatre since Year 7 and fell in love with Stage Management during Year 10 with their school's production of *Little Shop Of Horrors*. Since then, they've Stage Managed many school productions and are currently working towards graduating with a BA in Production Technology and Management. They aim to work on as many shows as possible while training and are very grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Creative Trainee Scheme. When not in the theatre, Iz can be found reading, singing along to Taylor Swift, baking or building Lego.



CAST

THESEUS / Fairy	Daisy Blatch
THESEUS 2 / Fairy	Emma Lockyer
HIPPOLYTA / Fairy	Katie Newman
EGEUS / Fairy	Olivia Clark
EGEUS 2 / Fairy	Lauren Taylor
LYSANDER	Isabelle Tarran
LYSANDER 2 / MUSTARD SEED	Jemima Carter
LYSANDER 3	Jeanne Desfontaines
DEMETRIUS	Barney Venables
DEMETRIUS 2	Emilio Escanero Dingley
DEMETRIUS 3	Meg Barnett
HERMIA / MUSTARD SEED	Anna Gold
HERMIA 2	Milly Cooney
HERMIA 3	Rumer Evans
HELENA	Tegan Prior
HELENA 2	Lucie Whiteoak
HELENA 3	Millie Whale
QUINCE	Esme Tennant
QUINCE 2	Mary van der Beugel
SNUG	Gwen Oswald
BOTTOM	Tait Brennan
BOTTOM 2	Darcy Cowie
FLUTE	Nora-Kate Mercier
SNOUT	Caitlin Hope
STARVELING	Gaby Jones
OBERON	Rohan Sabharwal
OBERON 2	Frank Thorpe
TITANIA	Isabelle Anns
TITANIA 2	Poppy Harvey Wood
PUCK	Jojo Zeng
PUCK 2	Issy Taylor
PUCK 3	Orlaith Deasy
PUCK 4	Holly Harmon
PEASE-BLOSSOM	Imogen Fenton
COBWEB	Lauren Taylor
PURPLE LOVE-FLOWER	Mollie Jones
FLEUR	Fleur Golding-Williams
DEW DROP	Tessy Hawkesford

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Director	Victoria Gartner
Composer, Musical Director & Digital Producer	Joel Hall
Choreographer	Katherine Moran
Lighting Design & Production Manager	Mitch Broomhead
Sound Designer	Ted Course
Stage Manager	Annette Evans
Assistant Musical Director	Edward Atkin
Associate Designer	Alexandra Kay
Deputy Stage Manager	Iz Brett

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastoral Head	Georgina Cambridge
Pastoral Team Member	Jennifer Oruamen
Pastoral Team Member	Aidan Mccusker
Pastoral Team Member	Melissa Agassi

OFFICE STAFF

Creative Director	Emily Gray
Head of Development	Alex Mastihi
Associate Producer	Milly Summer
Production Assistant	Emma-Alys Bower
Finance Manager	Clare Russell
Welfare Manager	Alison Birchall
Admissions Manager	Cerys Jones
Marketing Intern	Rhiannon Dunn
Office Assistant	Hannah Stone

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Hannah Eden	FLUTE & PICCOLO
Beatrice Toogood	FLUTE
Miriam Kitchener	DRUMS
Curt Parr	BASS GUITAR

PATRONS

James Bourne, Jean Diamond, Peter Duncan, Ed Sheeran MBE, Zoë Wanamaker CBE, John Whittingdale OBE



BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

2023 SEASON AUDITIONS

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