



20+21 season

March 2021

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare
directed by Patricia McGregor

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CAST

Bottom	Cody Sloan
Demetrius	Noah Israel
Egeus	Jordan Smith
First Fairy	Roger Cordova
Flute/Cobweb	Sashank Kanchustambam
Helena	Rebecca Futerman
Hermia	Savanna Padilla
Hippolyta	Jada Owens
Lysander	Noah Keyishian
Oberon	Junior Nyong'o
Puck	Noah Keeling
Peter Quince	Grayson Heyl
Snout/Peaseblossom	Adriana Lopez
Snug/Mustardseed	Eduardo Rios
Starveling/Moth	Kara Coughenour
Theseus	Henry Greenberg
Titania	India Gurley

CREATIVE TEAM

Scenic Designer	Miranda Friel
Costume Designer	Junior Bergman
Lighting Designer	Lindsay Stevens
Sound Designer	Andrew Lynch
Video Designer	Jon Fredette
Assistant Scenic Designer	Tess Jordahl
Assistant Lighing Designer	Licheng Zhang
Production Stage Manager	Andrew Gutierrez
Assistant Stage Manager	Topaz Cooks
Assistant Stage Manager	Sabina Fitz
Assistant Stage Manager	Joseff Paz

THE DIRECTOR

Patricia McGregor has twice been profiled by The New York Times for her direction of world premieres. Her recent credits include co-author and director of the world premier of *Lights Out*, *Nat King Cole* (Peoples Light) *Skeleton Crew* (Geffen Theater) *Grief* (Center Theater Group) *Parchman Hour* (Guthrie Theater), *Hamlet* (The Public Theater), *Ugly Lies the Bone* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *brownsville song (b-side for tray)* (Lincoln Center Theater), the world premiere of *Stagger Lee* (Dallas Theater Center), and the world premiere of *Hurt Village* (Signature Theatre Company). Her other credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Winter's Tale*, *Spunk*, *Adoration of the Old Woman*, *Blood Dazzler*, *Holding It Down*, *Four Electric Ghosts*, *Nothing Personal*, and *The House That Will Not Stand*. She served as tour consultant on J. Cole World Tour and will premier a new piece at BAM by composer Ted Hearne and poet Saul Williams. For several years she has directed the *24 Hour Plays* on Broadway. She is a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop, a co-founder of Angela's Pulse with her sister choreographer and organizer Paloma McGregor and was a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow at Yale School of Drama, where she also served as Artistic Director of the Yale Cabaret.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

How do we enliven a love letter to stage theatricality within the confines of a socially distanced digital Zoom world? This question was at the heart of the initial investigation of our production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We decided to embrace the restrictions and imagine a world where screen images rein: Hollywood. In our production, we have created The Royals as LA studio heads, The Lovers and Fairies as feuding stars on the latest hit shows and The Mechanicals as a Reality TV Writer's Room caught in Zoom hell. Thank you to all my brilliant and brave collaborators for finding the invention and joy despite the difficulties of distance. The themes of courage and integrity and the spirit of love and play embedded in the text were brought to life in vivid colors thru your commitment everyday. It has been an honor and a Dream to create with you. Happy opening!

THE CAST

Roger Cordova (First Fairy) is a senior undergraduate theatre major and business minor who is grateful to be part of a production again! UC San Diego credits: Company 157's *Homesick* (Andrew) and Fair Play's *Tartuffe* (Orgon).

Kara Coughenour (Starveling/Moth) is a senior undergraduate theatre major. She transferred to UCSD last year after receiving her AA in Theatre Arts from Bakersfield College. UC San Diego credits: Scratchy (*Mr. Burns*), Woman 1 (*Songs for a New World*, Muir Musical).

THE CAST CONT.

Rebecca Futterman (Helena) is a third-year MFA candidate. She was born and raised in the suburbs outside New York City and holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Ithaca College. UC San Diego credits: *Heap, Ironbound, Man in Love, Monster* (WNPF '19), *The Misanthrope*. IC credits: *Chicago, Coram Boy, Top Girls, The Full Monty*. Regional credits: *Taking Steps, Children of Eden* (HSRT); *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter); *The Drowsy Chaperrone* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina). National tour: *Seussical*.

Henry Greenberg (Theseus) is a second-year MFA student. Henry originally hails from Nashville, TN, got his undergraduate degree in theatre performance at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and has spent the past four years working in Chicago and Dallas Ft./Worth as an actor, while also serving as the literary manager for A Red Orchid Theatre. UC San Diego credits: *Heap, Ironbound*. Professional credits: *The Undeniable Sound of Right Now* (Raven Theatre) *Masque Macabre* (Strawdog Theatre), *Buried Child* (Writers Theatre), *Cyrano* (BoHo Theatre) *Ideation* (Jackalope Theatre, Jeff Nomination for Best Ensemble), *The Feast* (Red Theater), *Wastwater* (Steep Theatre), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Metropolis Arts), *Lord of the Flies, The Spark* (WaterTower Theatre) and *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (Stage West).

India Gurley (Titania) is a third-year MFA candidate originally from Troy, Michigan. She holds a BFA from University of Minnesota/ Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program. She has studied at Tisch School of the Arts, London International School of Performing Arts and Shakespeare's Globe. UC San Diego credits: *Heap, Elektra, Duchess! Duchess! and The Gradient* (WNPF '19), *Everybody Black*. Other select credits: *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *BLKS* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), *Abe Lincoln and Uncle Tom* (Guthrie Theater), *The Color Purple* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare).

Grayson Heyl (Peter Quince) is a second year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: *HEAP* (Yoga Mom/Roller Girl), *Orestes 2.0*. (Nurse 1). Chicago selected credits: *Suddenly Last Summer* (Catherine - Raven Theatre), the actor in the one-woman show *The Amish Project* (Jedlicka PAC), *Last Train to Nibroc* (May - Provision Theater), *The Tempest* (Miranda) and *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Capulet - Door County Shakespeare). Understudy credits include work with The Marriott, Chicago Shakespeare, Northlight, and The Hypocrites. BM double major in Music Theater and Vocal Performance: Oklahoma City University. Thank you to Patricia, Andrew, Topaz, their stage management team, and all the amazing designers!

Noah Israel (Demetrius) is a second-year MFA student originally from outside of Baltimore, MD. He holds a BA Theatre and a BS in Neurobiology/Physiology from the University of Maryland: College Park. UC San Diego credits: *HEAP, Orestes 2.0*. Other selected credits: *The 39 Steps, Sweeney Todd* (Rep Stage), *Legally Blonde* (Keegan Theatre), *Aquarium* (Imagination Stage), *Big River* (Adventure Theatre/Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma), *Hairspray, Beauty and the Beast, Oklahoma!* (Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre).

Sashank Kanchustambam (Flute, Cobweb) is a second year undergrad theatre major. UC San Diego Credits: *Man In Love* (ensemble), *AHC* (Lab project choreographer). Short film Credits: *Nadartine* (Actor-Director-Writer), *Choice Creates* (Actor), *Re-Exam* (Actor).

THE CAST CONT.

Noah Keeling (Puck) is a second-year MFA student. Born and raised in Las Vegas, he received his BA in Stage and Screen Acting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. UC San Diego credits: *Heap* (Car Wash Kid 3/Missionary 1), *Orestes 2.0* (Tyndareus). He is a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. #eatmoreartvegas

Noah Keyishian (Lysander) is a first-year MFA student from Bloomfield, New Jersey. Theater credits: *Are You There?* (Humana Festival of New American Plays); *Tell the Truth*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Dracula*; *The Brief History of Francois Le Chou Chou* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); and *Favors* (Manhattan Repertory Theater). Film credits: *Happy Yummy Chicken*; *That Thing I Had That One Time*; *Status-Driven*; *Sasquatch*; *Separation Celebration*; *Wax Lover's Playlist*.

Adriana Lopez (Snout, Peaseblossom) is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing her BA in theater. Adriana is from Los Angeles and studied theater at El Camino College before transferring to UCSD. UC San Diego Credits: *Elektra* ECC Credits: *Our Town* (Lady in Box/Woman in Graveyard); *In The Heights* (Ensemble); *The Tempest* (Iris).

Junior Nyong'o (Oberon) is a first-year MFA student. He was born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya and holds a BA in Theatre and Digital Arts from Stetson University. Regional credits: *Hamlet*, *Gertrude and Claudius*, *12th Night*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Man of La Mancha* (Orlando Shakes)

Jada Owens (Hippolyta) is a second-year MFA student. She was born and raised in the city of rhythm and blues, New Orleans, Louisiana. She received her BFA in Acting from Texas State University. UC San Diego credits: *Letters From Cuba*, *Orestes 2.0*. Texas State credits: *Intimate Apparel*, *We are Proud to Present*, *Mr. Burns*, *The Lyon's Den*, *Ajax In Iraq*, *Ragtime*, and *Tibetan Book of The Dead*.

Savanna Padilla (Hermia) is a third-year MFA candidate from Humboldt County, California. She holds a BFA in Theatre from Southern Oregon University. UC San Diego credits: *Heap*, *Orestes 2.0*, *Elektra*, *Shame Spiral* (WNPF '19), *Life is a Dream*. Other select credits: *Shakespeare in Love*, *Mojada: A Medea in Los Angeles*, *Off the Rails* (U/S, Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The Refugee Hotel* (Latinx Play Project); *The Madres*, *The Return of Tartuffe* (Ashland New Plays Festival); *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Oregon Fringe Festival); *Over the Garden Wall* (A Muse Zoo). SOU credits: *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Crucible*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Caliban's Dreams*, and *Horse Girls*.

Eduardo Rios (Snug, Mustardseed) is a third year transfer theatre undergrad from Los Angeles, CA. He received his Associate's Degree from Los Angeles Pierce College. His inspirations include actress America Ferrera, actress Laverne Cox, and playwright Tony Kushner.

THE CAST CONT.

Cody Sloan (Bottom) is a third-year MFA candidate. UC San Diego credits: *Letters from Cuba*, *Orestes 2.0*, *Man in Love*, *Incendiary* (staged reading), *Shame Spiral* (WNPF '19), and *The Misanthrope*. Other select credits: Boston premiere of *Men On Boats* (SpeakEasy Stage Company), *Nurse Play* (IRNE Award Nomination - Best Actor, Exiled Theatre), *Mozart in Amadeus* (Moonbox Productions), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Zeitgeist Stage), *The Extraordinary Fall of the Four-Legged Woman* (NY Fringe Festival). Film credits: *Selah and the Spades* (Dir. Tayarisha Poe), *Brad's Status* (Dir. Mike White). He is the proud recipient of The San Diego Fellowship.

Jordan C. Smith (Egeus) is a second-year MFA student. Jordan is from Philadelphia, PA and he holds a BA in Theatre from Temple University. UC San Diego Credits: *Letters from Cuba*, *Orestes 2.0*. Selected credits: *Fabulation, Or the Re-Education of Undine* (Temple University), *Harry and the Thief* (The Iron Factory), *Marat/Sade* (Temple University). In 2018 and 2019 Jordan was awarded the Kunal Nayyar and Neha Kapur Scholarship.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Eva Barnes (Voice/Text Coach) teaches Speech, Voice and Dialects. She has taught at Circle in the Square Theatre School, The New Actors Workshop, City College of New York, The Juilliard School, and the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Ms. Barnes has professional coaching credits in film, on Broadway, at the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theater, the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., the La Jolla Playhouse, the San Diego Repertory Theatre, The McCarter Theatre, The Acting Company, and the Los Angeles Shakespeare Festival. She has performed as an actor with the Mark Taper Forum, The South Coast Repertory Theatre, and the Missouri and Milwaukee Repertory Theatres. She was trained and certified in voice by Kristin Linklater.

Junior Bergman (Costume Designer) is a class of '18 MFA costume design alum. UC San Diego credits include: *53% Of* (WNPF '18) *Othello*, *The American Dream* *The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden*, *What Of The Night?*, *Birds of North America*, *Streamers*, *Vieux Carre*.

Lauren Choo (Assistant Director) is an undergraduate theatre major. UC San Diego credits: *Mr. Burns* (Jenny).

Topaz Cooks (Stage Manager) is a third-year MFA candidate from Minneapolis, MN. UC San Diego credits: *Heap*, *Elektra*, *Monster* (WNPF '19), *winterWorks '19*, *Life is a Dream* (ASM), *Mother Courage and her Children* (ASM). Other select credits: *Legally Blonde* (ASM) with Artistry Theatre; *Equivocation* (PSM) with Walking Shadow Theatre Company; and the 2016-2018 seasons (PSM) with The Duluth Playhouse. Other credits include: The Children's Theatre Company; Theatre Latté Da; Lyric Opera of the North; and The Public Theatre of Minnesota. She has her BFA in Theatre from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Jon Fredette (Video/Sound Editor/VFX) is an editor, composer, sound designer, and podcaster based out of La Jolla, CA. MFA Sound Design from UNCSCA - School of the Arts (2014). www.jonfredette.com

THE CREATIVE TEAM cont.

Miranda Friel (Scenic Designer) is a third-year MFA candidate from Sacramento, CA. She holds a BA in theatre from Brown University and has a background in scenic art and properties fabrication — working most recently as a scenic artist at The Old Globe. UC San Diego credits: *Heap*, *Letters from Cuba* (animation), *Do the Stars Gaze Back?* (animation), *Orestes 2.0*, *The Underground*, *The Gradient* (WNPF '19), *winterWORKS '19*, *An Iliad* (co-design), *The Misanthrope* (ASD), *Mother Courage and her Children* (ASD). Professional design credits: *Loch Ness* (ASD) at Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, *Calafia* at Liberty at La Jolla Playhouse's WoW festival, *Mother Russia* (ASD - 2021 anticipated) at La Jolla Playhouse. Check out her work at mirandafriel.com

Sabina Fritz (Assistant Stage Manager) is a second-year undergraduate theater and dance double major. UC San Diego credits: *As You Like It*, *Balm in Gilead*.

Andrew Gutierrez (Production Stage Manager) is a third-year MFA candidate born and raised in San Antonio, Texas and holds a BFA in Theatre from Texas State University. UC San Diego credits: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Man in Love* (ASM), *The Gradient* (WNPF '19), *Everybody Black* (ASM), *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes* (ASM). Other select credits: *All Shook Up* (PSM), *Hamlet* (PSM), *Zu's Earth* (PM/SM), *Tartuffe* (PSM), *Evita* (ASM), *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (Lighting/Scenic Designer), Greater Austin High School Musical Theatre Awards (PA), *Las Quatros Estaciones* (PSM), Merge: *Irretrievable* (Takeover SM), and *The Countdown* (PSM). He was awarded a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Apprenticeship for his work on TXST's production of *Hamlet* and co-authored Texas State Department of Theatre and Dance Production Handbook. Andrew-Gutierrez.com

Tess Jordahl (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a second-year undergraduate speculative design major. UC San Diego credits: *The Trojan Women* (SD - spring '21), *The Nether* (ASD).

Nicole Kim (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fourth-year theatre major with a minor in dance and accounting. UC San Diego credits: *As You Like It* (ASM), *The Gathering* (ASM, LAB SP'20), *winterWORKS '20* (ASM), *An Object, Screaming* (PA), *The Underground* (PA), *Monster* (PA, WNPF '19), *53% Of* (PA, WNPF '18).

Andrew Lynch (Composer) is a third-year MFA candidate and composer previously based in Brooklyn, NY. UC San Diego credits: *Letters from Cuba*, *An Object, Screaming* (MFA Dance), *Elektra*, *Duchess! Duchess! Duchess!* (WNPF '19), *The Misanthrope* (ASD), *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes* (ASD). Other select credits: *Calafia at Liberty* with the Wetsuit Collective (LJP's WOW Festival); *Leap and the Net Will Appear* presented by New Georges (Flea Theatre) in the summer of 2019. He is a co-founder of the Brooklyn arts space Cloud City, and co-artistic director of the physical theatre company 3 Sticks.

THE CREATIVE TEAM cont.

Ursula Meyer (Voice/Text Coach) has had the privilege of studying voice with Cicily Berry, Patsy Rodenburg, Andrew Wade, Arthur Lessac and is a designated Linklater teacher. She also graduated with distinction from the Advanced Voice Studies Program at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London under David Carey. Before coming to UCSD, she taught Voice/Speech/Accents and Text at U.C. Santa Barbara, U.C. Santa Cruz, University of Washington, and four years as the primary voice teacher at the Yale School of Drama. As a professional Voice/Text and Accent Coach, Meyer has worked at numerous regional theatres including the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, the La Jolla Playhouse, the Old Globe in San Diego, the Shakespeare Theatre Company in DC, and the Idaho, Santa Cruz, Utah, and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals where she has been working off and on since 1985. As a professional actress, she has worked extensively in regional theatre, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, A.C.T. Seattle, the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and the La Jolla Playhouse. Ursula Meyer is a member of the Voice and Speech Trainer's Association where she was recently a board member and is currently sponsoring its new Mentorship Initiative. In 2007, she was a recipient of UCSD's Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

Joseff Paz (Assistant Stage Manager) is a second-year undergraduate student majoring in theatre & STEM. UC San Diego credits: *Balm in Gilead*, *The Gradient* and *The Jefferson Middle School Monthly* (Crew, WNPF '19), *Everybody Black* (Costume Crew).

Lindsay Stevens (Lighting Designer) is a third-year MFA candidate. She was born and raised in Delaware and holds a BFA with High Honors in Writing, Theater, and Photography from Marlboro College. UC San Diego credits: *Heap*, *An Object*, *Screaming*, *Man in Love*, *Shame Spiral* (WNPF '19), *Life is a Dream* (ALD), *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes* (ALD). MC design credits: *Eurydice*, *The Things I Never Said*, and *Vox Pop* (2016, revived 2017 for KCACTF). Regional design credits: *Evil Dead the Musical* and *Next to Normal* (Bootless Stageworks); *Ready, Steady, Yeti*, *Go* (Azuka Theatre), and *The Johnny Shortcake Show* (Kimmel Center).

Licheng Zhang (Assistant Lighting Designer) is an undergraduate student. UC San Diego Credits: *Balm in Gilead* (Board Op).

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