

THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

A Midsummer NIGHT'S DREAM

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Director KEN HANN

HAMPTWORTH LODGE
LANDFORD



Wed 11 JULY - Sat 21 JULY 2012 at 7.30pm
Matinees - Sat 14 and Sun 15 July at 4pm

Garden planting sponsored by
Brambridge Park Garden Centre
Eastleigh



The Maskers at Hamptworth Lodge

Welcome to the Maskers Theatre Company's open air production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

This is our fifth year at this beautiful location and we think you'll agree that the Archery Lawn and its terraces are the perfect place in which to perform. We are grateful to the Hamptworth Estate and the Anderson family for allowing us to perform here and for all their help in putting this year's play together.



The Maskers Theatre is now in its 44th year and aims to continue to bring award winning quality theatre to its audiences at the Nuffield Theatre, the Maskers Studio in Shirley, Southampton and at Hamptworth Lodge for many, many years to come. We hope you enjoy the performance and your visit to this lovely house, gardens and grounds.

We respectfully request that you take all your picnic leftovers and empties home. You may remain to finish your picnics at the end of the play but we ask that you vacate the grounds by 11pm. Thank you!!

We look forward to seeing you again next year when we will bring another theatrical delight to Hamptworth Lodge.

Details of other Maskers production are in the programme – why not come and see us at The Nuffield Theatre or at our very own cosy Studio in Shirley, Southampton.

Provision for smoking has been made in the parkland below the Archery Lawn.
We ask that you don't smoke in the grounds of the house – thank you

COME BACK TO – THE HAMPTWORTH COUNTRY FAYRE Sunday 19th August 2012

**A fabulous day out for all the family – a celebration of
country ways, rural lifestyles and country sports.**

**New for 2012 – Pig Racing – come and watch this hysterical spectacle as the pigs
throw themselves over the hurdles in their rush to be the first to the food bucket !**

Gates open at 10.00am and close at 5.00pm

Adults £6.00 , Concessions £4.00, Children Under 5 – free

Family tickets £15.00 (2 adults / 2 children 6 – 13 years)

Ramblings from the Director

I remember when I first visited Hamptworth Lodge five years ago (can it really be that long?) being impressed by the beautiful setting in which we were to perform. The archery lawn makes an ideal "theatre." I thought at the time that the side terrace with its backdrop of statues, shrubs and gates with woodland beyond, would be the ideal setting for one of Shakespeare's best loved plays, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Everybody knows *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - or thinks that they do. It is often the first experience of Shakespeare we had as children, being considered easy to understand, pretty and about fairies. In fact it is quite a complicated story of ancient Greeks who are set on political and advantageous marriages, fairies from a rather English background who have their own love and dominance issues, whilst making life as difficult as possible for humans, and a group of would be actors drawn from the ranks of tradespeople including, of course, Bottom the weaver. Add to that magic love potions and people turned into donkeys, all within the space of a midsummer's night, and you have a recipe for chaos.

Shakespeare was such a wonderful dramatist that his plays fit into any age, which is just as well as I have placed the action in the 1930's - a time of great hardship for many, political uncertainty, the continuing dominance of men (albeit beginning to be undermined by women getting the vote and questioning their place in society), and of romance, as can be seen from the great explosion in dance music and love ballads. The production features songs from Ambrose, Lew Stone, Al Bowly and many more that I hope you will find enjoyable and amusing. There is also a nod to the wonderfully evocative paintings of Jack Vettriano. See if you can spot it.

The fairies seem to take delight in bringing confusion into the lives of the poor, unsuspecting humans and so I wanted to find something other than the gossamer winged fairies of earlier times. I looked into the world of the circus and thus our fairies become clowns, intent on chaos and mayhem.

This has been a very collaborative, ensemble production. The clowns have produced their own costumes and make-up. We have sought help and advice from dance teachers, make-up/hair artists as well as using our own expertise in theatrical disciplines. The cast have had to learn to dance, act as clowns and mime to records. It has been a voyage of discovery for everyone, not least for me as it all seemed rather simple when I thought of it!

We hope you will enjoy our production and, as Puck, our master of ceremonies and chief string puller, says:-

"If we shadows have offended
Think but this, and all is mended,
Gentles, do not reprehend
If you pardon, we will mend.
Give me your hands if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends."

Ken Hann



Ken Hann looking suitably "posey", as Bogey in "Play it Again Sam"

Photo by Alex Fyfe

We hope you enjoy the 1930's music

The play is peppered with musical gems!

First Half

How's Chances	Henry Hall & BBC dance Orchestra
Speed Juggler	L. Cottle
Oh You Nasty Man	Ray Noble & His Orchestra
Serenade in the Night	Primo Scala's Accordion Band
I Only Have Eyes for You	Eddy Duchin & His Orchestra
Falling in Love Again	Marlene Dietrich
The Moon Got in My Eyes	Carroll Gibbons & The Savoy Hotel Orpheans

Second Half

You've Got Me Crying Again	Ambrose & His Orchestra
Indian Love Call	Maurice Winnick and His Orchestra
It's Just the Time for Dancing	Henry Hall & the BBC Dance Band
Here's to the Next Time	Henry Hall & the BBC Dance Band
You're the Cream in my Coffee	Jack Hylton & his Orchestra

Acknowledgements

The Anderson Family, Hamptworth Lodge
Staff of The Hamptworth Estate
Bristol Costume Services
Sandown Costume Workshop.
Brambridge Garden Centre
Vintage Hair Lounge
Rob Praine
Marcus Bailey, Magic Adviser
Mr Smales of Lyburn Farm
W Wallis of Down Farm
The Gregg School, Southampton
Larry Bartel, St Edward's School, Sherfield English
University of Southampton
Brock Ice
Printline

Everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of this production

A Midsummer Night's Dream

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is thought to have been written between 1595 and 1596 during a particularly productive period from 1594 to 1597 which generated other great lyrical plays of Richard the Second, Romeo and Juliet and The Merchant of Venice. It is often said that it was written for a private performance at a wedding, although there is no evidence to support this. It was published in 1600 and noted after the title that it had "been sundry times publicly acted." Samuel Pepys saw it in 1662 and wrote, "It is the most insipid, ridiculous play that I ever saw in my life."



It probably was written after Romeo and Juliet and revisits the topic of arranged marriages versus marriage for love. In Romeo and Juliet that ends in tragedy whilst in A Midsummer Night's Dream there is a positive ending for Hermia and Lysander. The tragedy is confined to "The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe", echoing the story of Romeo and Juliet, which the "rude mechanicals" perform very badly before the Duke, Theseus, and his new bride, Hippolyta. It should be remembered that Hippolyta was forced to marry Theseus after he defeated her in battle. It could be said that the "dream" is Hippolyta's, where she addresses her situation and accepts it by the end of the play.

The fairy king and queen, Oberon and Titania, seem to be having matrimonial problems of their own giving an opportunity for the characters to double with Theseus and Hippolyta. We have chosen not to go down that route but we do make a clear connection between the two queens.

For centuries the play became a vehicle for opera and ballet with much of the original script cut away. It was not until 1912 that Granville Barker produced the first full version for many years. There were still many productions with a lot of gossamer winged fairies dancing their way around the stage until Peter Brook's ground breaking version in 1970 with trapezes, a simple white cube set and very physical fairies.

Our production, set in 1930's, uses popular songs of the period and clown fairies to re-enforce a chaotic element. A woman plays Bottom, one of the great comic characters of Shakespeare. As he was not averse to men playing women and cross dressing in his plays we are sure he wouldn't mind this interpretation.





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The Maskers Theatre Company would like to thank
 Brambridge Garden Centre for providing plants
 on stage for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

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THE CAST

The Athenians

Theseus, Duke of Athens
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus
Egeus, An Athenian courtier, father of Hermia
Lysander, in love with Hermia
Hermia, in love with Lysander but ordered to marry Demetrius
Demetrius, Egeus' favoured suitor for Hermia
Helena, in love with Demetrius
Philostrate, Butler to Theseus
A Maid, of the court of Theseus

Alan Watson
Ruth Kibble
Philip de Grouchy
William Baggs
Kate Grundy

Carl Browning
Susannah Lawther
Albie Minns
Joanna Iacovou

The Mechanicals

Bottom, a weaver. Pyramus in the play
Quince, a carpenter. Writer of the play and speaker of its prologue
Starveling, a tailor. Moonshine in the play.
Snout, a tinker. Wall in the play
Snug, a joiner. Lion in the play.
Flute, bellows mender. Thisbe in the play

Jenni Watson
John Souter

Paul Baker
Marcus Kinsella
Meri Mackney
Adam Taussik

The Fairies

Oberon, King of the Fairies
Titania, Queen of the fairies
Robyn Goodfellow(Puck) a sprite in the service of Oberon
A Fairy in the service of Titania
Peaseblossom, a fairy
Cobweb, a fairy
Moth, a fairy
Mustardseed, a fairy
Attendant fairies, in the service of Titania and Oberon

Ruben Sanchez-Garcia
Rachael Courage
Suze Avery

Hazel Burrows
Angela Stansbridge
Marie McDade
Joanna Iacovou
Albie Minns
Bob Gibson, Clare Minns,
Mike Matkowski, Janet Scott
Philip de Grouchy

The action of the play takes place in Athens and the surrounding forest.

***There will be an interval of 20 minutes
Refreshments may be ordered in advance***

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Ken Hann
Assistant Director	Graham Buchanan
Production Manager	Brian Stansbridge
Assistant to the Directors	Avril Woodward
Stage Manager	Angela Barks
Production Design Concept	Ken Hann
Set Dressing Design, Construction & Painting	John Hamon, Roger Lockett, Graham Buchanan, Geoff Cook, Ken Spencer
Stage Crew/ASMs	Kath and Phil Moody
Lighting Team	Clive Weeks, Nathan Weeks, David Fancett, Brian Stansbridge
Sound Design	Jamie McCarthy
Sound Operator	Steve Clark
Pyrotechnics	David Fancett
Technical support	Geoff Grandy, Lawrie Gee, Brian Stansbridge, Tom Smith, David Fancett
Costume Co-ordinator	Serena Brown
Wardrobe and Seamstresses	Serena Brown, Helen Officer, Susan Wilson, Kay Hann, Christine Baker, Janet Scott, Alegra Carlton, Agniewka Dudzik, Meri Mackney Hazel Burrows & The Fairies
Fairy Costume design and Creation	
Hair & Make-up	Sharon & Gloria Holloway of Vintage Hair Lounge
Properties	Ella Lockett, Gill Buchanan, Alison Tebbutt
Choreography	Louise Hodson
Fight Arranger	Paul Benzing
Publicity Design	John Hamon
Publicity and Marketing Programme	Angela Stansbridge and Team Brian and Angela Stansbridge
Photography	Clive Weeks
Front of House	Geoff and Pam Cook and Maskers
Box Office	Christine Baker and Maskers
Front of House Display	Sarah Russell
Refreshments	Jacqueline Oxford, Christine Baker

Toilet facilities are located in the parkland below the Archery Lawn

Provision for smoking has been made in the parkland below the Archery Lawn – please use the sand buckets provided. We ask that you don't smoke in the grounds of the house – thank you!

Evening performances will finish at approximately 10pm
Matinee performances at 6.30pm



HAMPTWORTH
ESTATE

Summer Events

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Friday 10th August 2012

Opera Brava present

'Madam Butterfly'

Saturday 11th August 2012

Opera Brava present

'The Barber of Seville'

Sunday 19th August

The Hamptworth Country Fayre

01794 390700 • enquiries@hamptwortheestate.co.uk

Full details available by visiting our website

www.hamptwortheestate.co.uk

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Autumn Production At The Maskers Studio

Off Emsworth Road, Shirley High Street, Southampton SE15 3LX

Check out www.maskers.org.uk for details

Christmas With The Maskers



6th – 9th December and
11th – 13th December 2012

The Maskers Studio

Emsworth Road, Shirley, Southampton SO15 3LX

Box Office : 023 8055 1489

And at Hamptworth Lodge – 14th and 15th December 2012

(see www.hamptworthestate.co.uk for details)

CRIMES OF THE HEART

by Beth Henley

By Beth Henley

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

Tues 26th Feb – Sat 2nd March 2013

Box Office : 023 8067 1771

**We look forward to seeing you all again next year
on the Archery Lawn at Hamptworth Lodge
Wed 17th – Sat 27th July 2013**

Why Not Join The Maskers ?



The Maskers are keen to welcome new members with an interest in any aspect of theatre – all things technical, directing, costumes, props, set design and construction, helping front of house, marketing or acting, of course!!

Enjoy the challenge of 'making theatre happen'

Contact the Membership Development officer David Collis
023 8973 2150 Email – iteru1@ntlworld.com

To find out more about The Maskers Theatre Company go to
www.maskers.org.uk

To receive details of future productions just fill in the slip below and post it in the box on the bar or give it to a member of the Maskers Front of House team or you can sign up online at www.maskers.org.uk



WIN 2 TICKETS FOR 'CRIMES OF THE HEART'

Please add my details to the database of The Maskers Theatre Company and send me details of forthcoming shows. If you supply an email we will send you e newsletters with full details of our productions.

**Your name will be entered in the Draw to win 2 tickets for
'Crimes of the Heart'**

**Tues 26th February – Sat 2nd March 2013 at
The Nuffield Theatre, Southampton, SO17 1TR**

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

NB your details will not be shared with other organisations

You can also return to :- Maskers Theatre c/o 29 Lime Gardens, West End, Southampton, SO30 3RG

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM IN REHEARSAL



We are pleased to be part of the RSC Open Stages Project and will be performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the same time as they are holding the Open stages Festival in Stratford-Upon-Avon

