THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE

# PRESENTS



# 1885

Minnehaha National Bank is founded, now known as The First National Bank in Sioux Falls

# 1976

First National Bank moves to 100 S Phillips Ave

# 2021

The Sioux Falls Community
Theatre rebrands to The
Premiere Playhouse

# 1954

The Sioux Falls Community
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# 2003

The Sioux Empire
Community Theatre is
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# 2025

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Presents

### William Shakespeare's

#### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Composer/Music Director

Janice Gilbert

Stage Director **Jeff Larsen** 

Choreographer Leigh Spencer

Stage Manager Michelle Smith

Costume, Hair & Makeup Designer **Brittney Lewis** 

Scenic Designer

Jill Clark

Properties Coordinator **Abby Kustak** 

Lighting & Sound Designer

Alex Pikiben

#### **WARNINGS**

Please be aware that this production contains the use of light atomspherics for those who are sensitive to those effects.

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

#### A Note From The Managing Artistic Director



Welcome to The Premiere Playhouse's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! We are thrilled to share this beloved Shakespearean comedy with you, reimagined through the artistry of our vibrant local theatre community. This production is a testament to the power of collaboration — an adaptation infused with original music and dynamic movement, all crafted by talented artists who call this community home.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a story of transformation, love, and the magic that unfolds when worlds collide in unexpected ways. It is a celebration of the whimsical and the profound, the humorous and the heartfelt. We have embraced this spirit in our production, breathing new life into Shakespeare's timeless text with a uniquely contemporary perspective.

This performance would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of our performers, musicians and production team. Their creativity, passion, and commitment — both on and off stage — have brought this vision to life in a way that is truly special. To each of them, I extend my deepest gratitude.

We are deeply grateful to our generous sponsors, whose support allows us to continue creating opportunities for artists and audiences to engage with live theatre. A heartfelt thank you to First Premier Bank & Premier Bankcard, the South Dakota Arts Council, Randy & Ann Cowan, Sanford Health, Culver's, and Results Townsquare Media. Your belief in the local arts strengthens our ability to enrich the cultural fabric of our community.

And finally, to you, our audience — thank you for being here. Your steadfast support of local performing arts is what makes productions like this possible. Theatre is a shared experience, and your presence completes the magic. We hope that tonight's performance brings you joy, sparks your imagination, and reminds you of the wonder that can be found in the stories we tell together.

Enjoy the show,

## **Oliver Mayes**

Managing Artistic Director



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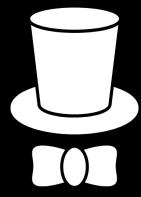
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By David Lindsay-Abaire Feb 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, March 1, 2, 6, 7, May 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23



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# **Director's Note**



I am truly delighted that my first opportunity to direct a production with The Premiere Playhouse is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It is at once heartfelt, witty, complex, brilliant, stupid, and all of the beautiful things in between. One of William Shakespeare's most popular and frequently produced plays, it was thought to have been commissioned for an aristocratic wedding. This makes sense because it is perhaps the ultimate romantic comedy for all times. The characters in this show fall in and out of love, thanks to some mischievous fairies. The play walks a tightrope of hilarity and tragedy when navigating these wild swings in characters' feelings and fortunes. When Lysander says, "The course of true love never did run smooth", it is a good reminder that love is not easy, but it is so worth it. True love will always win out.

The works of William Shakespeare have been a crucial and integral part of my artistic, academic, and personal life. The first time I was ever involved with a Shakespeare play was in my sophomore year of college when we performed, you guessed it, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I had seen Shakespeare performances, on stage and screen, and read his works before, but was so tremendously transported by my first-hand experience that I knew I would never look back. I have had the great fortune of acting in over a dozen Shakespeare plays (thanks in large part to my great relationship with the fabulous people at Bare Bodkins Theatre Company), as well as directing his works a handful of times. I directed As You Like It for my M.F.A. thesis project, which was a thrill in itself. Every time I work on a Shakespeare production, I find new things that continually inspire and enrich me in ways imperceptible before I started the process. The same is true with this production.

One of my great joys is being able to share my passion for theatre and Shakespeare with so many excellent people over so many years. This stupendous cast and crew have been absolutely electric to work with. Setting aside the immense talent each member of the cast, crew, and production team has to offer, they are also all incredible human beings. They have shared such kindness and warmth throughout the process at every turn, truly creating and fostering a supportive, welcoming atmosphere for all to be themselves and be accepted. A question that has been debated for centuries is whether Shakespeare's plays are considered to be of his time or for all time. Are they relics of the past that are antiquated, or are they alive and ever-changing? I am of the opinion that we can settle this debate by proclaiming that Shakespeare's work is for all time. When we perform Shakespeare, the words feel as new today as they felt 430 years ago. The text comes alive, and vibrantly dances through space. His work does not exclude. but rather it welcomes. His works are for all times. For all audiences. His themes are universal, his characters indelible, his words undeniable. It is the ability to transpose his plays into time periods and locations outside of the original settings that make them so easily adaptable and shareable. To that end, it has been an honor to work on this production so as to help share it with you. I hope you enjoy the show!

#### **Jeff Larsen** Stage Director

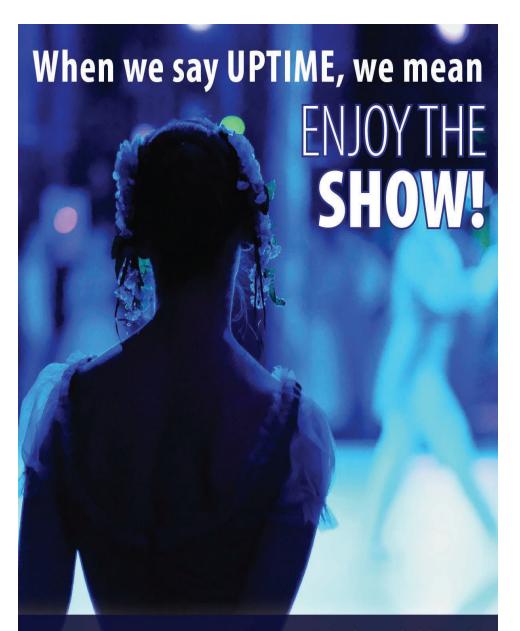
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## Cast

### **The Athenians**

Theseus Woodlin Smith

Hippolyta Morgan Holien

Hermia Alex Newcomb Weiland

Helena Ceil Stoll

Lysander Ian Ward

**Demetrius** Joshua Werre

**Egeus** Erica Stahl

Philostrate Kjersti Olson

#### The Mechanicals

Peter Quince Leigh Spencer

Nick Bottom Devin Basart

Francis Flute Mike Richards

**Snug** Ryan Harrison

Tom Snout Grace Kjelden

**Robin Starveling** Jordan Doss

## Cast



#### The Fairies

**Oberon** Tom Roberts

**Titania** Nancy Tapken

Puck Kale Hellman

**The Fairy** Ebony Shanklin

Peaseblossom Mal Lukomski

Cobweb Luke Humke

Moth Charlie Ellingson

Mustardseed Laurel Holcomb

**Fairies** Melissa Prostrollo Allegra Sekely

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> **Production Manager** Alex Newcomb Weiland

**Sound & Lighting Designer** Alex Pikiben

Costume, Hair & Makeup Brittney Lewis Designer

> Electrician Chelsea Chapman

**Production Coordinator** Jamie Bowden

**Composer & Music Director** Janice Gilbert

> Jeff Larsen **Stage Director**

Scenic Designer Jill Clark

**Assistant Director & Assistant** Joseph Karnof Stage Manager

> Choreographer Leigh Spencer

> Stage Manager Michelle Smith

**Producer & Casting Director** Oliver Mayes

> **Head Carpenter** Pierce Humke



**Deck Crew** 

Elizabeth Wintering Jamie Bowden Jimmy McLain Nick Blau

**Mic Wrangler & Deck Crew Bob Nelson** 

**Sound Board Operator Audrey Simmons** 

> Wardrobe Crew Anna Crawford

**Light Board Operator** Jessica Johannsen





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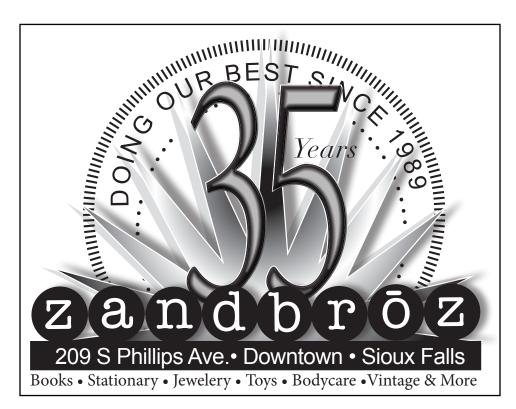
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# **About The Show**

This production will play in two acts, both running approximately 1 hour, with a 15 minute intermissio between each act.

#### **SYNOPSIS**

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a play written by the infamous English playwright, William Shakespeare. The play is a comedy and has three main plot lines: the confused relationships among four lovers, a conflict between a fairy king and queen, and a group of amateur actors rehearsing a play. The story follows the lovers Hermia and Lysander as they attempt to elope but are dogged by Demetrius, in love with Hermia, and Helena, in love with Demetrius. The play explores the capricious, dreamlike, and sometimes ridiculous nature of love.

#### **COURTESY POLICY**

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  posted warnings. If you do not adhere to the posted warnings, your car may
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- Enjoy the show and please help spread the news about this production. Share with others on Facebook and Instagram and be sure to tag The Premiere Playhouse!

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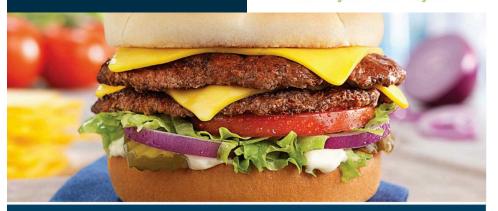




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#### **Alex Newcomb Weiland** / Hermia

Alex (she/her) is excited to be back onstage and in one of her favorite shows! Alex has been onstage recently in MLTC's production of *Lungs* and TPP's production of *HAIR* as Shelia Franklin. During the day, she works as the Production and Education Manager at TPP. She wants to thank her parents, siblings and extended family for their continued enthusiasm in her theatrical endeavors and her cat pack, Nathan and Mikey, for their love, support and understanding for the late nights! Enjoy the show & believe in LOVE!



#### **Allegra Sekely** / A Fairy

Allegra (she/her) is Elated to be back with TPP for her 8th production at the Orpheum. Her last appearance being in *HAIR*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Premiere Premieres*. She is usually working as Nurse for Interim Healthcare, but her true love is for music and acting. Allegra would like to thank her loving husband Andrew for always supporting her passions and encouraging her to continue to strive for greatness! What mystical creature will she attempt next!



#### Ceil Stoll / Helena

Ceil (they/them) is thrilled and honored to return to the Orpheum stage for their first foray into Shakespeare as Helena! You may have seen them most recently as Magenta in The Premiere Playhouse's shadow casting of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, or as Ado Annie in The Premiere Playhouse's production of *Oklahoma!* When they aren't on stage, you can find them in the classroom as a preschool teacher. Ceil would like to thank their fiancé, Ian, their roommates, their friends, and all of their parents and siblings for their deeply appreciated love and support.



#### Charlie Ellingson / Moth

Charlie is returning to the The Premiere Playhouse stage in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* He's excited to share the fun and whimsical show with everyone. Playing the faerie, Moth, Charlie hopes to bring some fun and music to the show with the rest of the faerie choir! And he hopes that everyone has as much fun in the audience as we have on stage! Charlie would like to thank his family, friends, and roommates for their shared appreciation of theater and whimsy.



#### **Devin Basart** / Nick Bottom

Devin (he/him) is making his Premiere Playhouse debut with A Midsummer Night's Dream after a brief hiatus from SECT. This will also be his first Shakespeare role as well (always the bridesmaid, never the bride....until now). He has been in recent productions with the Olde Towne Dinner Theatre such as Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest, Audrey II in Little Shop of Horrors, and Robert in Boeing Boeing. He is super grateful and thankful for the wonderful support of his parents of whom this will be their first Shakespeare as well (he does give them full permission to skidaddle off to Wiley's if needed and will meet them afterwards:)



#### **Ebony Shanklin** / The Fairy

Ebony (she/her) is thrilled to be making her return to The Premiere Playhouse stage doing her 2nd Shakespeare production ever playing a fairy called The Fairy! Past Premiere Playhouse productions include *HAIR* (Dionne) and *Grease* (Marty). She hopes her mom really enjoys this production! Love ya!



#### Erica Stahl / Egeus

Erica (she/her) is enthralled to return to the TPP stage for this production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. You may have seen her debut as Grandma Helene in Freaky Friday. She thanks the cast and crew for being such continual bringers of joy! As a former English teacher, Erica is excited to share this quintessential Shakespearean comedy with audiences and reminds them to embrace the humor and laugh out loud! Thanks to her family for supporting her enjoyment of community theatre.



#### Grace Kjelden / Tom Snout

Grace (she/her) is excited to be reprising the role of Snout! She played this role in the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival's 2019 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is Grace's eighth production with the playhouse, and she is excited to be back on the Orpheum stage. Outside of theater, she's an EA at Whittier Middle School who likes to color, read, and sing in her free time. She hopes you enjoy this magical production!



#### lan Ward / Lysander

lan (he/him) is thrilled to be in his first Shakespeare production! He is returning to The Premiere Playhouse after having a rollicking good time in *Oklahoma!* He would like to thank his family, roommates, and his fiancée Ceil.



#### **Jordan Doss** / Robin Starveling

Jordan (she/her) is happy to be back on stage after a long hiatus. By day, she is a pediatric oncologist. She is super thankful to her husband, Patrick, for graciously exchanging the swamp for the tundra so she could be closer to her family (hi mom!).



#### In Memoriam

# Theamarie Hagemann

1968-2024

Thea loved the theatre, the experiences on stage and off; the fun of playing.

She was a beautiful light.















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#### Joshua Werre / Demetrius

Josh is excited to be making his Premiere Playhouse debut with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Having graduated with a BA in Theatre and Media at the University of Sioux Falls in 2023, Josh is thrilled to return to the stage as Demetrius. He would like to thank all who have made this production possible and all those in attendance. We hope you enjoy the show!



#### Kale Hellman / Puck

How now, spirits! Kale is delighted to be back on stage! They earned their BA in Theatre and English from Augustana University where they once played Lysander. You may recognize Kale from TPP's productions of *Cinderella* and *Comfortably Single* or Bare Bodkins Theatre Co's productions of *Much Ado About Nothing, The Tempest,* and *Twelfth Night.* They would like to thank their friends and family for their support, especially their partner Caleb for being the BEST off-stage scene partner.



#### Kjersti Olson / Philostrate

Kjersti is thrilled to be returning to the Premiere Playhouse stage as part of this magical romp of a show! *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of the first plays she ever saw live, and she is delighted to be performing in it for the second time. She would like to thank her family, her roommates, and this wonderful cast and crew for their support and joy during this process!



#### Laurel Holcomb / Mustardseed

Laurel (any pronouns) couldn't ask for a better return to the stage and debut with TPP than to jump into the world of Shakespeare! They are a longtime enjoyer of whimsy, with a BA in Theatre and Communications from USF and countless creative hobbies including but not limited to sewing, fiber arts, foamcraft and miniature painting. Laurel is forever grateful to their friends, family, and four dogs. And you! Thank you for supporting local art!



#### Leigh Spencer / Peter Quince

Leigh has been a Shakespeare fangirl since the late 1900s and has thoroughly enjoyed her first opportunity to be involved in one of the Bard's plays! This is her eighth production with TPP, as a playwright, a choreographer, and a performer (usually dancing in the ensemble and moving furniture). Outside of the theater, Leigh is usually outside: traveling, birding, and writing. Thanks to my family, friends, and staff for listening to me talk about theater way too much!



#### Luke Humke / Cobweb

Luke is thrilled to live the dream as Cobweb in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream! Seen in recent productions such as HAIR and Freaky Friday with The Premiere Playhouse and Ernst with Good Night Theater Collective, Luke has been performing alongside his family and friends since he was out the womb. Catch him in TPP's upcoming performance of 9 to 5! He would like to thank his family for inspiration and unending support in all aspects of life.



#### Mal Lukomski / Peaseblossom

Mal (he/they) is so excited to be returing to The Premiere Playhouse Stage for A Midsummer Night's Dream! You've likely heard his work as Sound Designer for The Little Mermaid, A Christmas Carol, and The Glass Menagerie. They are excited to be performing again and especially returning to their first ever Shakespeare play. Mal would like to thank his family, friends, and community for their endless support.



#### Melissa Prostrollo / A Fairy

Melissa (she/her) is excited to return to The Premiere Playhouse stage after first appearing in Leigh Spencer's *Comfortably Single* last year. She has also recently appeared in *A Sherlock Carol* at Mighty Corson Art Players and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Olde Towne Dinner Theatre. She would like to thank the rest of the cast and crew, her family, friends, coworkers and especially her boyfriend, Mike, for their support of her theater antics.



#### Mike Richards / Francis Flute

Mike (he/him) sincerely hopes you enjoy the show! He is incredibly proud of this amazing cast and crew and the small part he has in it and is enormously appreciative of everyone who supports him, especially you Melissa! But more than that, he wants you all to know you are loved and he hopes that you can spread that love to those around you! Please be kind and considerate of others. For as the Bard wrote, "How far that little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world."



#### Morgan Holien / Hippolyta

Morgan is delighted to be in Athens with an amazing cast and crew! Since acting in her first Shakespeare production in 2016, Morgan has been eager to work on more of the Bard's portfolio. *Midsummer* has been a blessing! She would like to thank the production team for their guidance, her family and friends for their support, and her backpack for not falling apart while it held three separate productions for two months!







#### Nancy Tapken / Titania

Nancy co-founded Broad Cast Theatre (2019-2023) and founded Theatre Lab in 2024. She has performed with most local theatres and is a past president of the MCAP board. Some favorite past shows are Theatre Lab's inaugural production of *Other Desert Cities, Lombardi, God of Carnage, They Promised Her the Moon, Love and Information,* and of course, *Broadly Speaking...and Other B.S.* which she co-wrote. Thanks to Jeff and this fun, kind cast for a great experience!



#### Ryan Harrison / Snug

Ryan G. Harrison (he/him) is back with The Premiere Playhouse for another great show! Previously he appeared on stage for *The Odd Couple, The Little Mermaid, The Glass Menagerie*, and *HAIR*. Ryan has also appeared on stage at Olde Towne Dinner Theatre multiple times. Ryan has loved to be on stage for all of these performances and looks forward to many more to come! Special shout out to Ryan's family for supporting his theatre dreams!



#### Tom Roberts / Oberon

Tom portrayed Scrooge in TPP's production of *A Christmas Carol* in 2021, '22, and '23. This past year he performed with Monstrous Little Theatre Company and with The Good Night Theatre Collective. His theatre experience spans 45 years as an actor, director, performing arts educator, producer, and writer. Recently retired, Tom enjoys spending time with family and friends. He is grateful for this opportunity to perform for the first time in a Shakespeare play.



#### Woodlin Smith / Theseus

Woodlin (he/him) is very excited and grateful for his debut performance with TPP! He hopes that you have as much fun watching the show as he does performing in it! When he is not ruling Athens, he moonlights as a software engineer at Sanford Health. He would like to thank his fiancée Kailey for her love and support, the cast and crew for being a joy to work with, and his dog Sokka for being himself!





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# **Production Team**



#### Alex Pikiben / Sound & Lighting Designer

Alex is stoked to be designing for Premiere Playhouse again. He loves to work with his fellow USD alums. He is coming back to Premiere Playhouse after sound designing for *HAIR* in 2024. He is currently a professor of lights/sound at Truman State University. He wants to thanks his wonderful partner AP and hopes you will enjoy this tale from the Bard. Free Palestine

#### Janice Gilbert / Composer & Music Director

Janice (she/her) is honored to have been asked to create music for this amazing production! This is her first project with The Premiere Playhouse. Janice is a high school choir director at Tea Area High School, a frequent performer with The Good Night Theatre Collective, and a performing singer-songwriter. She would like to thank her husband, Tim, and her son, Dawson, for their never-ending patience, support, and understanding when she's busy creating.

#### **Jeff Larsen** / Director

Jeff (he/him) is excited to be directing his first production with The Premiere Playhouse. He received his B.A. in Theatre and Philosophy from Augustana University, and his M.F.A. in Directing from the University of South Dakota. You may have seen him performing Shakespeare with Bare Bodkins Theatre Company for the past 10 seasons. He would like to thank Sarah and Caspian for their love and support throughout this process!

#### Joseph Karnof / Assistant Director, Assistant Stage Manager

Joseph (he/him) is back as assistant director and assistant stage manager for this wonderful Shakespeare play. He was recently on stage as QT for the *Premiere Premieres* back in February. He would like to thank his girlfriend Samantha Huntimer for her continued support has Joseph has done two shows back to back!

#### Michelle Smith / Stage Manager

Michelle is glad to be back on the headset for another great show. Once upon a time Michelle stage managed for a number of regional theatres in the San Francisco bay area. In real life Michelle is a realtor at Remax and enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 rescue pitbulls Honey, Hank, and Sweetie Pie.



## **The Premiere Playhouse Team**

**Managing Artistic Director** Oliver Mayes

Production & Education Manager Alex Newcomb

Weiland

Facilities & Scene Shop Foreman Pierce Humke

**Administrative Finance Supervisor** Amber Sumner

**Production & Education Coordinator** Abby Kustak

**Costume Shop Manager &** Brittney Lewis **Development Associate** 

Scenic & Technical Supervisor Jill Clark

Web & Media Developer Chris Berke



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