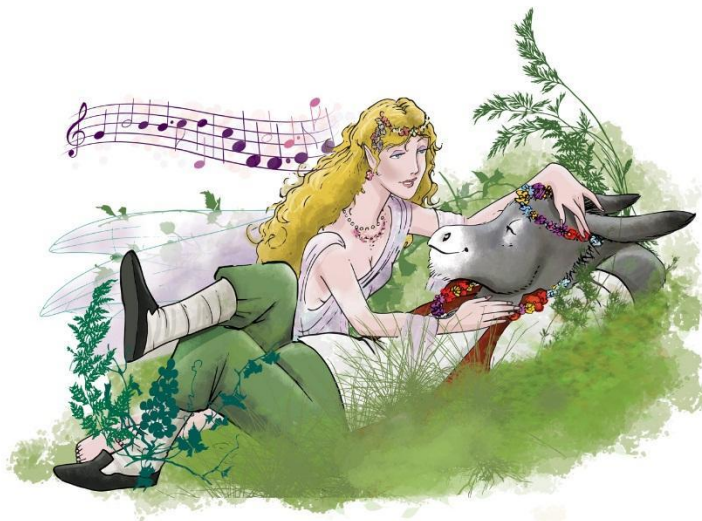


ASSEMBLIES

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

OBERON
TITANIA
PUCK
HELENA
HERMIA
DEMETRIUS
LYSANDER
BOTTOM

[Enter Oberon who walks about the stage very importantly. After a while, Titania enters and is angry at seeing Oberon]

OBERON

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

TITANIA

What, jealous Oberon!

We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.

[Exit TITANIA to other side of stage and goes to sleep on the ground]

OBERON

Go thy way! I shall torment thee for this injury.
My gentle Puck, come hither.

[Enter Puck]

OBERON

Fetch me a flower; the herb I showed thee once.
The juice of it on sleeping eye-lids laid
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this herb.

PUCK

I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes.

[Exit Puck]

OBERON

Having once this juice,
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes.
The next thing then she waking looks upon,
Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,
She shall pursue it with the soul of love.

[He hears a noise]

But who comes here? I am invisible
And will overhear...

[He hides in the corner and overhears the conversation]

[Enter DEMETRIUS and HELENA]

DEMETRIUS

Helena, I do not, nor I cannot love you!

HELENA

And even for that do I love you the more.

DEMETRIUS

I'll run from thee!

HELENA

I'll follow thee!

[Exit Demetrius and Helena runs after him]

[Oberon comes out of hiding]

OBERON

Fare thee well, nymph.

[Re-enter PUCK]

Hast thou the flower there?

PUCK

Ay, there it is. *[Puck gives Oberon the flower]*

OBERON

I pray thee, give it me.

[Oberon sees Titania asleep and goes over to her]

There sleeps Titania sometime of the night.
And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.

[puts the love juice in Titania's eyes]

Titania, wake when some vile thing is near.

[To Puck]

Take thou some of it, *[gives the flower to Puck]* and seek through this grove.

A sweet young lady is in love

With a disdainful youth. Put this on his eyes.

But do it when the next thing he then spies

May be the lady.

PUCK

Fear not, my lord, your servant shall do so.

[Exit Oberon and Puck]

[Enter Lysander and Hermia]

LYSANDER

Fair love, I have forgot our way.

We'll rest us here, Hermia.

HERMIA

Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed;

For I upon this bank will rest my head.

[She lies down and goes to sleep]

LYSANDER

Here is my bed: sleep give thee all his rest!

[He lies down a bit further away from her and sleeps]

Enter PUCK

PUCK *[Sees Lysander]*

Who is here?

This is he, my master said,

Despised the young maid.

[He sees Hermia]
And here the maiden, sleeping sound.
[He puts the love juice in Lysander's eyes]
Upon thy eyes I throw
All the power this charm doth owe.
So awake when I am gone.
For I must now to Oberon.

[Enter Helena who sees Lysander asleep]

HELENA
But who is here? Lysander! on the ground!
Dead? or asleep? I see no blood, no wound.
Lysander if you live, good sir, awake.

LYSANDER
[Awaking]
Not Hermia but Helena I love.
Who will not change a raven for a dove?
Helena ! Helena!

[Helena screams and runs away, chased by Lysander]

HERMIA
[Awaking]
Ay me, what a dream was here!
Lysander! Lysander!
Alack, where are you?
[She gets up and goes off to find him]

[Enter QUINCE and BOTTOM]

BOTTOM
Are we all met?

QUINCE
Here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal.

QUINCE
Come, sit down and rehearse your parts.

[Quince and Bottom talk amongst themselves]

[Enter PUCK behind]

PUCK *[Speaks to the audience]*

What silly people have we swaggering here,
So near the cradle of the fairy queen?

[Puck transforms Bottom's head into an ass's head while Quince is looking at something in his book]

QUINCE *[Looking at Bottom]*

O, monstrous! O, Bottom! bless thee! thou art translated.

[He screams and runs away]

BOTTOM

Peter Quince? Quince?!

I will not stir from this place. I am not afraid!

[He starts walking around and bumps into Titania who is asleep]

TITANIA

[Awaking] What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again.

Thy fair virtues doth move me

On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

BOTTOM

Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason
for that.

TITANIA

I will wind thee in my arms.

O, how I love thee! how I dote on thee!

[She leads him off and they exit]

[Enter Oberon and Puck]

PUCK

My mistress with a monster is in love.

OBERON

This falls out better than I could devise.
But hast thou yet touched the gentleman's eyes
With the love-juice?

PUCK

I took him sleeping.

[Enter Demetrius and Hermia]

OBERON

This the same gentleman.

PUCK

This is the woman, but not this the man.

HERMIA

Leave me alone, Demetrius!
See me no more!

[She runs off]

DEMETRIUS

There is no following her in this fierce vein.
Here a while I will remain.

[Lies down and sleeps]

OBERON

What hast thou done?
About the wood go swifter than the wind,
And bring Helena here.
I'll charm his eyes ready for her to appear.

[Exit Puck and Oberon puts love juice in Demetrius' eyes, then he stands aside]

[Enter Helena and Lysander]

LYSANDER

Helena, I do love thee!

HELENA

You love Hermia, not me!

[She walks into the sleeping Demetrius]

Oh! Demetrius!

DEMETRIUS

[Awaking] O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!

HELENA

O spite! O hell!

[Enter HERMIA]

HERMIA

Lysander!

LYSANDER

Why seek'st thou me? I do hate thee and love Helena!

HERMIA

O me! you juggler! you canker-blossom!

HELENA

Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

[The girls start fighting with each other and the boys try to separate them. As the boys are fighting, they punch one another and knock each other out. They lie on the ground asleep].

HELENA

I will not trust you!

Your hands than mine are quicker for a fray,

My legs are longer though, to run away.

[The girls chase each other around, run into one another, knock heads and fall down onto the ground asleep]

[Oberon and Puck come out of hiding]

OBERON

This is thy negligence!

PUCK

Believe me, king of shadows, I mistook.

[gives flower to Puck]

OBERON

Crush this herb into Lysander's eye.

[Puck puts the love juice into Lysander's eye. The lovers all wake up and hug one another. They then exit together].

OBERON

Good Robin.

Dost thou see this sweet sight?

[Points to Titania and Bottom who enter without seeing them. Titania and Oberon go to sleep on the ground. Oberon starts to feel guilty.]

Gentle Puck, take this transformed scalp
From off the head of this foolish man.

[Puck removes Bottom's ass's head]

I will release the fairy queen.

Now, my Titania; wake you, my sweet queen.

TITANIA

My Oberon! what visions have I seen!

OBERON

Come, my queen, take hands with me.

[They hold hands and exit together with Puck].

BOTTOM

[Awaking]

I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream!

I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of
this dream, and it shall be called Bottom's Dream,
because it hath no bottom!

[He exits]

[Enter Puck]

PUCK

If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumbered here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

[Puck bows and exits]