



LOYALIST CITY
SHAKESPEARE PRESENTS:

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

SAINT JOHN
THEATRE COMPANY

A NIGHT OF ENCHANTMENT

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. DIRECTED BY SANDRA BELL

JULY 15-18 & 22-25, 2026 AT PLACE FORT LA TOUR

WWW.SAINTJOHNTHEATRECOMPANY.COM | 506-652-7582



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Saint John Theatre Company acknowledges that we carry out our work on the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet along with their indigenous neighbours, the Mi'kmaq/Mi'kmaw and Passamaquoddy/Peskotomuhkati. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet), Passamaquoddy and Mi'kmaq peoples signed with the British Crown in the 1700's. The treaties did not surrender the territory and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Passamaquoddy title, and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land.

SYNOPSIS:

One of the most well-known lines from the play is "The course of true love never did run smooth"—and the lovers in MSND all have their share of bumps and twists. Duke Theseus and the Amazon Hippolyta were at battle but are now waging a war of love. Young lovers Hermia and Lysander run into the nearby forest, away from the strict laws of Athens that demand Hermia marry her mother's choice of partner; Demetrius (the mother's choice) pursues them into the woods and Helena (formerly betrothed to Demetrius and Hermia's childhood friend) runs after him.

These woods are a magical place ruled by the King and Queen of Fairies, Oberon and Titania, who find themselves arguing over the control of a young orphan boy that Titania is raising; the Fairy Queen refuses to give him up and the Fairy King decides to get revenge with a tricky love potion, which finds its way into the eyes of the young lovers, too, and redirects their desires to confusing and comic effect. Meanwhile, a group of labourers or "rude mechanicals" have gathered in the woods to rehearse a play to perform for the celebration at Theseus and Hippolyta's wedding day; these amateur thespians get unwittingly involved in the Fairies' love-potion shenanigans.

Chaos ensues and all the lovers are tested: what happens when desires are distorted and fulfilled? What does it mean to love someone—and to fear losing them? After the confusion of the night, the lovers end up wiser than when they started, and although clumsily executed, the final theatrical celebration, the "tragical mirth" of the amateurs' play-within-the-play holds the mirror of love up to its audience.

THE CAST:

CHRISTINA ISBILL.....Titania
MATT HAMILTON-SNOW.....Oberon
CELEIGH BARBER-RUSSELL.....Puck
HANNAH CROTHERS.....Hippolyta
JASON ROBERTSON.....Theseus
DEWAYNE KEATING.....Egeus
CHRISTINA KIPPING.....Hermia
BEATRICE DONAHUE-POWER.....Helena
KIEFER SULLIVAN.....Lysander
JACK ROBERTS.....Demetrius
KENDRA MURRAY.....Peaseblossom, Quince
DAN TEED.....Bottom (Pyramus)
MARIAH DARLING.....Snug, Lion, and Moth
HELENA DE SOUZA...Mustardseed, Snout (Moonshine)
JULIA WRIGHT.....Cobweb, Starveling (Wall)
SUMNER MURRAY.....First Fairy, Flute (Thisbe)

THE CREATIVE TEAM:

SANDRA BELL.....Director
JEAN-MICHEL CLICHE.....Fight Director
SEAN DOWNING.....Sound Designer
SYDNEY HALLETT....Movement, Dance Choreographer
ALLIE JOHNSON.....Costume Designer
GIBSON MACMILLAN.....Music Director
DREW MURDOCK.....Set Designer
MEAGHAN SMITH...Stage Manager, Properties, Painter

RUN TIME:

TWO HOURS, INCLUDING A 15
MINUTE INTERMISSION.

PRODUCTION:

SET & PROPS BUILDING:

Anthony Allen
Emily Collins
Andrew Pond
Meaghan Smith

TECHNICIANS:

Anthony Allen
Emily Collins
Matt Dymant
Andrew Pond
Meaghan Smith

HEAD DRESSER:

Joanna Crosby-Wilson

WARDROBE:

Ann Emerson
Patti MacMackin
Cathy Boudreau Ehrhardt
Brenda McLeese
Nathalie Davis
Lesley McDonnell
Norah Emerson
Jane Buck
Sandra Donnelly
Eden Sheffroth
Beth Pollock

SJTC STAFF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stephen Tobias

ADMINISTRATION & BOX OFFICE MANAGER

Chris Webb

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Angela Halpin

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Lise Driscoll

HEAD TECHNICIAN, BMO STUDIO THEATRE

Anthony Allen

OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Jesse McRae

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Drew Murdock

RESIDENT GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Erica Campbell

SEASONAL ADVERTISING SALES

Chris Gabriel

TECHNICIAN & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Meaghan Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

CHAIR: Andrew Beckett

VICE-CHAIR: Beth Richardson

TREASURER: Jillian English

SECRETARY (NON-VOTING):

Angela Halpin

DIRECTORS:

Ann Mowatt

Michelle Robichaud

Michelle Thibodeau Coates

Jeff McAloon

EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING):

Stephen Tobias

THE SAINT JOHN THEATRE COMPANY IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:

The Atlantic Presenters Association (APA)

The Canadian Institute for Theatre
Technology (CITT/ICTS)

International Amateur Theatre
Association (IATA)

The Playwrights Atlantic
Resource Center (PARC)

The Saint John Region
Chamber of Commerce

CAFF Canadian Association
of Fringe Festivals

Association of Fundraising Professionals

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:



SANDRA BELL

(Director) Sandra Bell has been involved with theatre in Saint John for many years. She's acted (including *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Noises Off!*, *The 39 Steps*, *Betrayal*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Pride of Parnell Street*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*), directed (*The Taming of the Shrew*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Pride and Prejudice*), and written (7 plays have been produced). She is a professor of literature at UNB Saint John.

REHEARSAL PHOTO BY MEAGHAN SMITH



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Twelve years ago, Loyalist City Shakespeare's very first production was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed indoors at SJTC's BMO Studio. This year's new production, our fourth at Place Fort La Tour, embraces the possibilities of outdoor theatre. The Fort's structure, history, and geographical place on Wolastoqey land has infused a different flavour into each of our Shakespeare productions. *MSND* shifts from the urban world of Athens to the natural landscape of a woods infused with the magical powers of the Fairy world; Place Fort La Tour is next to uptown Saint John, the working port, and the highway bridge, but we're also beside the water, where the ocean meets the river, on land that was an Indigenous gathering place and a portage route. Like the characters in the play, we are meeting where the human, the natural, and the spiritual landscapes merge.

Midsummer Night's Dream is an actor favourite for many reasons: there is comic chaos, heart-felt emotion, physical hijinks, and more rhymes than you can shake a stick at. We all become a bit like the amateur thespian Bottom: we want to play all the roles! But we couldn't play any without our capable crew: so thank you to those who look after the tech, the music, the costumes. And thanks to our audiences, who come to support us year after year.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES:



CHRISTINA ISBILL

(Titania) Christina has been performing since 2010 with SJTC, LCS, Fundy Fringe Festival, Virgo Theatre, and Theatre Six, and is thrilled to be performing Shakespeare again at Fort La Tour, alongside this wonderful cast and crew! Some previous credits include: *The Great Gatsby* (Daisy), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Kate), *The Tempest* (Prospera), *The Crucible* (Elizabeth Proctor), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), and most recently, *Dial M for Murder* (Maxine).



MATT HAMILTON-SNOW

(Oberon) Matt has been involved with ten of eleven Loyalist City Shakespeare: as Demetrius 2015, Duke Frederick, Director: *The Tempest* 2017, Borachio, Stage Managed: *Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Producing & Directing: *Doctor Faustus* at Imperial Theatre Incubation Project, two summer Shakespeare projects as a Wydr Sister, a Player, and Antonio. Now...Oberon!



CELEIGH BARBER-RUSSELL

(Puck) Celeigh is thrilled to play Puck in a real show after many childhood summers performing the role for backyard birds. Previous LCS roles include: Ophelia (*Hamlet*, 2024); Margaret (*Much Ado*, 2019); and Ariel (*Tempest*, 2018). When she's not reading fairytales, she works as a therapist at Maythorn Counselling treating neurodivergent clients using creative, humanistic approaches. Celeigh is grateful to the volunteer cast for their dedication, and thanks her parents and partner for their love and support.



HANNAH CROTHERS

(Hippolyta) Hannah is an actor and playwright balancing a love for the classics with a passion for new work. Her stage credits include *Macbeth* and *Saint Joan*, among others. Hannah's original plays have been produced across North American festivals, including Four Plays Festival and East/West PlayFest. Her writing is published in the anthology *Type Cast* by Purple Light Productions.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES:



JASON ROBERTSON

(*Theseus*) Jason began his theatrical journey at 40 as Hank in *The Boys in the Band* and has been busy over the past ten years in many local productions. Including Mephistophilis in *Dr. Faustus*, Ariel in *The Pillowman*, Earl of Warwick in *Saint Joan*, Stephano in *The Tempest*, ensemble parts in *Shakespeare in Love* and *Rent* and Fundy Fringe Festival with the B Team. Thanks to castmates and directors for the many creative adventures.



DEWAYNE KEATING

(*Egeus*) Dewayne has been in a number of SJTC performances, most recently *Lend me a Tenor* and *Sense and Sensibility* as well as with the Fundy Fringe Festival in *The Case of the Deadly Alibi* and *Space Gas*. Dewayne would like to thank the cast as well as the crew for the opportunity to be part of the show and wife Leslie for her patience, love and support.



CHRISTINA KIPPING

(*Hermia*) Christina is a voice student at Mount Allison University. She has been singing competitively since age seven and is involved in various art forms, such as writing and drawing, but only recently discovered her interest in acting. She would like to thank her family for supporting her artistic journey, SJTC for the opportunity to explore theatre, and her wonderful castmates for making her first Shakespeare production so memorable.



BEATRICE DONAHUE-POWER

(*Helena*) New to Saint John, Bea is thrilled to be making her return to the stage for the first time since high school. She is deeply grateful to the Saint John Theatre Company for welcoming her into their wonderful community and hopes you enjoy the show!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES:



KIEFER SULLIVAN

(Lysander) Dreams given form, one more bow at Fort La Tour, one more gathering in a sacred space, one more summer of memories. Kiefer has performed for LCS' productions of *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He leaves his past behind him and embraces the future as a young teacher to the next generation. These performances are dedicated to his mentors, friends, family, and to his guiding star.



JACK ROBERTS

(Demetrius) Jack is currently studying philosophy at UNBSJ. He has always loved the arts, especially acting and writing, and studied from the ages of 5-17 under the incredibly talented instructors at Interaction School of Performing Arts. He wishes to thank his parents for always supporting his passion for theatre, InterAction for a warm and accepting environment in which to develop his skills, and the SJTC for this amazing opportunity.



KENDRA MURRAY

(Peaseblossom, Quince) This is Kendra's sixth Loyalist City Shakespeare production, going way back to the LCS's first production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2015, when she played Hippolyta. She's been involved in theatre for over twenty years, often with the Saint John Theatre Company, the Fundy Fringe Festival, and occasionally does voiceover work for the horror/sci-fi 'SCP Foundation Database Podcast'. As always, she would like to thank her parents for their support.



DAN TEED (Bottom {Pyramus}) Dan was born and raised in Saint John, NB and has had the pleasure to perform in a number of Loyalist City Shakespeare and Saint John Theatre Company productions over the years. Most recently appearing in SJTC's *A Christmas Carol*, he is excited for his first performance at the historic Fort La Tour.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES:



MARIAH DARLING

(Snug, Lion, and Moth) Mariah (all pronouns) is thrilled to return to SJTC's Shakespeare at Fort La Tour. Past roles include Ariel in *The Tempest*, Joan in *Saint Joan*, and Bruce Niles in *The Normal Heart*. Outside of theatre, Mariah is an educator, advocate, and community builder who is passionate about helping people show up fully as themselves. They love roles that invite physical storytelling and are grateful to share this story with such a kind and talented team.



HELENA DE SOUZA

(Mustardseed, Snout {Moonshine}) Helena is excited to return for her third season with the company. What began with a first audition in 2024 has grown into a passion for theatre, community, and storytelling. This performance is lovingly dedicated to Rosamond, whose kindness and encouragement changed the course of her journey in ways she will never forget. This one is for you, Roz.



JULIA WRIGHT

(Cobweb, Starveling {Wall}) Julia is a writer, educator, and, as of this summer, amateur thespian from Saint John, New Brunswick. She would like to thank her twin sister, Kate Wright, for encouraging her lifelong dream of becoming a Wall, as well as her castmates and director Sandra Bell for their commitment and enthusiasm for local theatre.



SUMNER MURRAY

(First Fairy, Flute {Thisbe}) Sumner is performing in his first show! He's recently moved to Saint John from Halifax and works for the NBEUB as a records & information specialist. He'd like to thank his friend Hannah Crothers (Hippolyta) for pulling him out of his comfort zone and joining this wonderful community.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES:



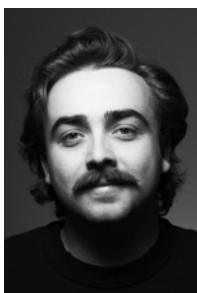
MEAGHAN SMITH

(Stage Manager, Properties, Set Painter) Meaghan has been actively involved in theatre for almost 9 years and is thrilled to be beginning her career with the Saint John Theatre Company. Meaghan recently completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at the University of New Brunswick, specializing in English literature and drama. Meaghan typically works as a theatre technician, and has worked with companies across New Brunswick, including Theatre New Brunswick (TNB) and KV Players, The Fredericton Playhouse and The Imperial Theatre.



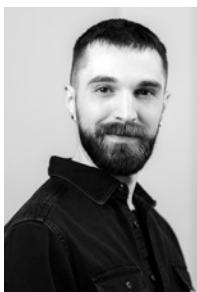
SYDNEY HALLETT

(Movement, Dance Choreographer) Sydney (she/her) is a choreographer, actor, and dancer based in Fredericton, New Brunswick. She holds a BA in Fine Arts and English (Drama) from St. Thomas University and has trained in physical theatre since 2017. She has worked with Theatre New Brunswick, Solo Chicken Productions, Rogue Productions, Bard in the Barracks, and others, while also creating her own dance work. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is her fourth SJTC show, following choreography on *Come From Away* and *The Tempest*, and intimacy direction for *The Play That Goes Wrong*.



DREW MURDOCK

(Set Designer) Recent Credits Include *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Dial M For Murder*, *Misery*, *Come From Away* (Saint John Theatre Company); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Neptune Theatre); *Something Rotten!* (Saint John High School); *Still Buffering* (Connection Danceworks); *Waiting for Godot*, *The Woman in Black*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *No Man Is an Island* (ARC); *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* (Loyalist City Shakespeare).



JEAN-MICHEL CLICHE

(Fight Director) Jean-Michel (he/him) is a theatre artist based on the banks of the Wolastoq (Fredericton, NB). He has trained across the country with Fight Directors Canada and is now New Brunswick's premiere fight director and violence designer. Past fight direction/violence design credits with Saint John Theatre Co include: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2026), *Dial M for Murder* (2025), *Waiting for Godot* (2024), *Misery* (2024), *Hamlet* (2024), *Macbeth* (2023).

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES:



SEAN DOWNING

(Sound Designer) Sean is a Saint John based sound designer and engineer. Credits include: *The Tempest* (SJTC), *Hamlet* (SJTC), *Firebringer* (Spark Call Productions), *Sh Boom!* (Drayton Entertainment), *Sponge Bob the Musical* (St Lawrence College), *Cornicles of Sarnia* (Blyth Festival), *Ride the Cyclone*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Haunting of Hungerford House* (Tweed and Co Theatre).



GIBSON MACMILLAN

(Music Director) Gibson J. MacMillan grew up in Stratford, Ontario, and moved to New Brunswick in 2017 to study organ at Mount Allison University, graduating in 2021. Now in Saint John, he enjoys a busy musical life as a keyboardist and conductor around town, as well as teacher at Divine Mercy Catholic School. Whether at the organ bench or in the classroom, Gibson's work reflects his conviction that music is all about beauty, truth, and goodness.



ALLIE JOHNSON

(Costume Designer) Allie is a Moncton-based costume designer and Dalhousie graduate with an honours degree in Costume Studies. Recently nominated for the award for Best Costumes in a Fiction at the 41st Prix Gémeaux for her work as co-costume designer on the French series "Bedaine". Working with SJTC since 2022, she designed costumes for *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*. Also, she has been acting as head of wardrobe for Capitol Theatre's musical productions since 2023.

