

Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

Play no. 93

Opening show: 25/05/1949

Hebrew by: S. Z. Davidowitz

Producer: Julius Gellner

Music: Felix Mendelsohn-Bartholdy

Conductor: Fordhaus Ben-Cissy

Setting by: Dr. P. Levy

Chorus ad Ballet: Gertrud Kraus

The Cast

Theseus, Duke of Athens: A. Varshaver

Egeus, father to Hermia: S. Rodensky

Lysander } both in love : A. Ninio/ A. Rynwein

Demetrius } with Hermia : J. Ben-Moshe

Philostrae, Master of the Revels to Theseus: I. Rubinstein

Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons betrothed to Theseus: A. Govinska

Hermia, daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander: A. Wenderov

Helena, in love with Demetrius: R. Lupowitz

Oberon, King of the Fairies: J. Becker

Titania, Queen of the Fairies: S. Perach

A Fairy: S. Shmukler

Puck, a fairy: H. Hendler, A. Ninio

Prologue: J. Bertonov

Pyramus: R. Klatzkin

Thisbe: David Vardi

Wall: Ben Haim

Lion: E. Priver

Moonshine: M. Benjamini

Ballet of Gertrud Kraus

Prima Ballerina – Marina Rothschild

Peasblossom – Dina Paskin, Hadassa Avni

Mustardseed – Erna Grinfeld, Nehama Ben-Sofer

Cobweb – Esther Zimmer, Dalia Geber

Moth – Sufa Garbi, Aviva Krakovski

Fairies

Hadassa Avni, Nehama Ben-Sofer, Ahuva Rubinstein, Gisela Brankis, Mannia Vareslavski, Miriam Gross, Dalia Geber, Esther Grazer, Erna Grinfeld, Karmela Goldberg, Yochbed Studniak, Dina Paskin, Esther Zimmer, Tamar Czizik, Aviva Krakovski

Our play is divided into three parts. The curtain falls for the first time after what is described in the traditional editions of Shakespeare's plays as the first scene of the third act, and for the second time after the fourth act. The first part presents the complex coil of the enchanted actions in the wood:

There is the story of the crossed loves of the two pairs of lovers. Hermia, who loves Lysander but is bidden by her father to marry Demetrius to whom she is

indifferent; Helena who pursues Demetrius, who is in love with Hermia. Puck, ordered to bind the hearts of the lovers together by a love flower, mischievously errs, and both youths fall in love with Hermia. Secondly, there is the quarrel between Oberon, King of the Fairies, and Titania, his queen, about a lovely child given to Titania by the King of India, whom she refuses to surrender to Oberon. Oberon takes revenge on Titania by causing her to fall in love with donkey. At the same time there is interwoven the story of the Duke of Athens and the preparations for his wedding with Hippolyta. Finally, there is the play within the play, of Pyramus and Thisbe, and the transformation of the weaver, Sheti, who plays the part of Pyramus, into a donkey with whom the Queen of the Fairies falls in love. This is a parody on the "logic" of love. The strings of all this confusion are pulled by Oberon and Puck, his whimsical slave.

This part of the play takes place before the wedding of Theseus, the Duke and Hippolyta, the Amazon, whom he had defeated in war.

In the second part Shakespeare provides a happy ending for all the lovers. Titania awakes and is reconciled with Oberon. The two couples in the wood wake up with the heart of each lover turned to his true love: Hermia and Lysander, Helena and Demetrius. Egeus, Hermia's father, consents to her marriage with Lysander.

The wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta is the occasion for the rousing performance by the artisan actors before the noble audience. The world of the mortals is gently separated from that of the sprites, ending with the impish Puck taking leave of the audience.