



# ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare  
Presented by the Rude Mechanicals



## **Cast** (in order of appearance)

Lysander	Ethan Clarkewallis
Demetrius	Lucian Clarkewallis
Hermia	Becca Korn
Helena	Peri Walker
Peter Quince	Peter Eichman
Nick Bottom	Kate Medwar-Vanderlinden
Francis Flute	Laurel Miller-Simms
Robin Starveling	Stephen Duda
Snug	Richard Atha-Nichols
Tom Snout	Peter Orveti
Puck	Wes Dennis
Oberon	Claudia Bach
Titania	Aparna Sri

## **Crew**

Director	Joshua Engel
Assistant director	Liana Olear
	Alan Duda
Stage manager	Liana Olear
Producer	Alan Duda
Set	Erin Nealer
Costumes	Spencer Dye
Lighting design	Jeff Poretsky
Videography	Jeff Poretsky
Magician / Consultant	Christopher DePamphilis
Sound design	Claudia Bach
Tech	Sam Kaplan

*The play lasts approximately ninety minutes. There is no intermission.*

## Synopsis

Demetrius insists that Hermia should marry him, rather than Lysander. The lovers agree to flee Athens to escape him. They explain their plan to Helena. Helena, herself in love with Demetrius, resolves to tell him, hoping he will be grateful to her.

Meanwhile, an amateur theater troupe decides to perform the play *Pyramus and Thisby*. They assign parts, and agree to meet later to rehearse.

In the woods, the fairy Puck summons Titania and Oberon. They have been feuding over the ownership of a human child, wreaking havoc on the human world. Oberon plots to bewitch her, and dispatches Puck to retrieve a magic flower to force her to fall in love, embarrassing her into conceding.

While waiting, he encounters Demetrius and Helena, fighting. Oberon commands Puck to bewitch "an Athenian" so that he will fall in love with Helena.

Instead, he finds Lysander, who has become lost in the woods with Hermia and fallen asleep (after some dispute over sleeping arrangements). Lysander is awoken by Helena, and falls in love. Hermia, after a nightmare about a snake attack, pursues them.

The amateur actors (insultingly dubbed Rude Mechanicals) rehearse their play, badly. Puck transforms Bottom, the lead, into a donkey, and the other Mechanicals into fairies.

Oberon observes the mix-up with Lysander, and orders Puck to bewitch Demetrius. Now both men are in love with Hermia, and fight.

Titania wakes, and falls in love with the transformed Bottom. She summons Bottom's former co-stars, now fairies, who perform magic for him, then she takes him off to sleep with him. Puck enlists the fairies to gather all four lovers together.

Oberon tells Puck that Titania has given him the human boy he desires, not entirely convincingly. He wakes Titania, and the two patch up their differences. Bottom is transformed back into a human, and says goodbye to his friends, who will forever remain as fairies. The lovers wake, unsure of what they've experienced.

Fairies were not always wee Tinkerbells. Fairies inhabited the "Perilous Realm" of the dark forests of medieval Europe. Travelers wandered into Faërie-land, met the Faërie King or Queen, and

never returned. Or they returned deeply changed, to a world they did not recognize and which did not recognize them.

Shakespeare contributed to the transformation of fairies from dark Elves to twee creatures hiding in flowers. JRR Tolkien said, “The disastrous debasement of [Elves], in which Shakespeare played an unforgivable part, has really overloaded it with regrettable tones, which are too much to overcome.” Shakespeare and Tolkien both use “Elf” and “Fairy” to refer to these creatures.

*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* still contains echoes of these older, more terrifying Fairies. A man becomes a beast. The hearts of lovers are wrenched from one to another on the whim of these immortals, for whom humans are ephemeral visitors to the world, of little not except for amusement. When humans wander into this place, they are irrevocably lost, even if they find their way out.

Titania and Oberon each care about humans, but more like pets than as sentient beings. Their plot revolves around a kidnapped human, without agency, while Puck plays mind-altering games with the four lovers, with lifelong effects.

Shakespeare’s rendition of Faërie is lighthearted and its consequences easily forgotten, but the Rude Mechanicals (who draw their name from this play) have a talent for finding the play within the play. My goal for Rudes productions has always been to strip off the varnish of centuries of tradition and find the story that was always there. For *III Met*, I found lurking within *Midsummer* elements of that deeper tradition of people lost to powers they could not comprehend, and which did not comprehend them — or even take much notice of them.

I have long been fascinated with the Greenbelt Arts Center’s black box, on which I can literally draw a new world in light. *III Met By Moonlight* developed over many years — more than expected, as it was supposed to appear in the fated autumn of 2020. In between, yet more artists joined my team, bringing magic, art on bodies, and other beauties.

## Cast and crew bios

**Richard Atha-Nichols** (*Snug*) last appeared with the Rudes as Pompey the Not So Great more than half a Becca ago. Having both formed the same year, the Rudes consider themselves one Becca old.

**Claudia Bach** (*Oberon, Sound Design*) is in her 8th year with the Rude Mechanicals. Previous Rudes highlights: Rosaline (LLL), Sonya (Uncle Vanya), Anne Bullen (Henry VIII). Director: Doctor Faustus, Romeo & Juliet, Merchant of Venice. Playwright: NPX @Claudia Bach, [claudiahbach.com](http://claudiahbach.com). With love and thanks to J&E.

**Ethan Clarkewallis** (*Lysander*) is returning to the Rude Mechanicals to fulfill his dream of playing a romantic lead. He is grateful to a rehearsal process that made him laugh out loud on several occasions and for getting to work with so many talented performers, including his loving husband.

**Lucian Clarkewallis** (*Demetrius*) returns to the Rude Mechanicals to play yet another jerk! After creeping out the stage during Belle's Stratagem, he is excited to play the rude dude with a heart of gold, Demetrius! He wants to give a massive thank you to the wonderful cast and crew of this production, including his loving husband. Until the next one!

**Wes Dennis** (*Puck*) would like to inform you that no animals were harmed in this production. Alas.

**Christopher DePamphilis** (*Magician / Consultant*) is an experienced sleight of hand professional of over 20 years, assisting in this new take on a classic. You can find him performing his stage show "The Devil You Don't" this October right here at GAC.

**Stephen Duda** just likes to say MOOONSHINE! Feel free to join in.

**Peter** (*Peter Quince*) is playing Peter so as not to be confused with Peter.

**Rebecca Korn** (*Helena*) is back with the Rudes after a 4 year betrayal (hiatus) to go to High Point University and get TWO WHOLE degrees, one in Theater Performance and one in Computer Science. Helena is a dream role she thought she would never reach the heights of (Get it? She's short and Helena's supposed to be tall) but has been so grateful for the chance to

play. Big love to Sam, Frank, and Anya, only one of whom is human.

By joining the Rudes, **Kate Medwar-Vanderlinden** can finally say she has now hit Bottom.

**Erin Nealer** (*Set Design*) has been designing and building theatrical sets professionally and recreationally since she was 14 years old, and has built an average of two per year since then, which is bananas when you spell it out like that. She'd like to thank JE for trusting her with this cool project, CB for making her take breaks for food sometimes, and viewers like you.

**Laurel Miller-Simms** (*Francis Flute*) prefers day-glo color as makeup rather than a wig.

**Liana Olear** (*Assistant Director, Stage Manager*) thanks Josh for their zillionth collaboration, Jeff for too many concurrent projects and Sam for something always, and invites you to continue the creepy classics journey as she next directs Macbeth.

All in all, **Peter Orveti** (*Snout*) is just another brick in this production. While he has been acting for more than a decade and this is his sixth show with the Rudes, it is his first time playing a condiment.

**Jeff Poretsky** (*Lighting Design, Videography*) is photon directing and photon gathering.

**Aparna Sri** (*Titania*) is delighted to make her debut with the fabulous Rude Mechanicals! She recently appeared as Heather Clark in Laurel Mill Playhouse's (LMP) two-hander production of Gideon's Knot (2023), Mrs. Alfieri in Upstage Artists' production of A View from the Bridge (2023), Kay Strange in LMP's production of Towards Zero (2023), and as Larita Dehavilland for a staged comic farce reading with the Sterling Playmakers (2023). She has also worked with the Silver Spring Stage (2022) and has performed with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Drama Club. As a student, she performed prolifically in both high school and university productions featuring comedy, Greek tragedy, and musical theatre, and received individual acting awards for her roles in University Interscholastic League

productions. Offstage, she can be found exploring ocean worlds and ancient moons as the First Officer on the USS Defiant.

**Peri Walker** (*Hermia*) denies all rumors that she is short - she has been a Rude for 1/86th of a Becca.

## **Platinum**

Anonymous  
Covert Beach  
Joseph Condo  
Jaki Demarest  
Alan Duda  
Stephen and Linda Duda  
Doug Humphrey  
Ed Starr

## **Gold**

Claudia Bach & Erin Nealer  
Mark Engel  
Joshua Engel  
Flying Feet Enterprises  
Ginny and Bill Jones  
J. Calvin Smith  
Rachel Zirkin

### **Silver**

Jeffrey and Katherine Albo  
Mikki Barry  
Carol Calhoun  
William Bodie  
Joseph Downs  
Aaron Engel  
Gretchen Hall  
Lisa Hilliard & Al Bach  
William Jones  
Barbara Schick  
Melissa Schick  
Harry Trout  
Michelle Trout  
Steven Vaugh-Nichols

### **Bronze**

Justin Bigelow  
Robert Candey  
Jonathan Gardner  
Aimee Hollenhorst  
Richard Huffman  
Daniel Korn  
Penny Martin  
Sarah Pfanz  
Shelby Sours  
Christine Wells