



The Young Shakespeareans

“A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM”

AUDITION MONOLOGUES

THESEUS

Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour
Draws on apace; four happy days bring in
Another moon.
Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword
But I will wed thee in another key,
With pomp, with triumph, and with reveling.

HIPPOLYTA

Four days will quickly steep themselves in night.
Four nights will quickly dream away the time.
And then the moon, like to a silver bow
New-bent in heaven, shall behold the night
Of our solemnities.

EGEUS

(pointing to Demetrius)
This man hath my consent to marry her.
(pointing to Lysander)
This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child.
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,
As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
Which shall be either to this gentleman *(pointing to Demetrius)*
Or to her death, according to her law.

LYSANDER

Hear me, Hermia.

I have a widow aunt, she hath no child.
From Athens is her house remote seven leagues,
There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee.
Steal forth thy father's house tomorrow night.
And in the wood, a league without the town—
There will I stay for thee.

HERMIA

My good Lysander!

By all the vows that ever men have broke
In number more than ever women spoke,
In that same place thou hast appointed me,
Tomorrow truly will I meet with thee.

HERMIA

(waking) Help me, Lysander, help me! Do thy best
To pluck this crawling serpent from my breast.
Lysander!—What, removed?—Lysander, lord!—
Either death or you I'll find immediately.

DEMETRIUS

I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.
Where is Lysander and fair Hermia?
Thou told'st me they were stol'n unto this wood.
Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

HELENA

How happy some o'er other some can be!
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
He will not know what all but he do know:
For ere Demetrius looked on Hermia's eyne,
He hailed down oaths that he was only mine.
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight.
Then to the wood will he tomorrow night
Pursue her. But herein I enrich my pain,
To have his sight thither and back again.

QUINCE (as PROLOGUE)

This man is Pyramus, if you would know.
This beauteous lady Thisbe is certain.
This man, with lime and roughcast, present Wall,
And with his cap of gold is also Moon.
This grisly beast, is "Lion" called by name.

SNUG (as LION)

You, ladies, you whose gentle hearts do fear
The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor,
May now perchance both quake and tremble here,
When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.

BOTTOM (as PYRAMUS)

(seeing Thisbe's bloody mantle on the ground)

Eyes, do you see? How can it be?

Thy mantle good. What, stained with blood?

Come, tears, confound! Out, sword, and wound!

Now am I dead.

Now am I fled.

Tongue, lose thy light.

Moon, take thy flight.

Now die, die, die, die, die.

(dies)

FLUTE (as THISBE)

(in regular voice) Most radiant Pyramus,

(in higher pitch) Most radiant Pyramus,

(in very high pitch) Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,
Of color like the red rose on triumphant brier,
I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

FLUTE (as THISBE)

Asleep, my love? What, dead, my dove?

O Pyramus, arise!

Speak, speak. Quite dumb? Dead, dead? A tomb

Must cover thy sweet eyes.

Tongue, not a word. Come, trusty sword.

Come, blade, my breast imbrue. *(stabs herself)*

And, farewell, friends; thus Thisbe ends.

Adieu, adieu, adieu.

(dies)

OBERON

(to PUCK) My gentle Puck, come hither.
I once beheld a little western flower.
The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this flower, and be thou here again.

OBERON

(squeezing flower juice on TITANIA 's eyelids)
What thou seest when thou dost wake,
Love and languish for his sake.
When thou wakest, it is thy dear.
Wake when some vile thing is near

TITANIA

The Fairyland buys not the child of me.
His mother was a votaress of my order,
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die.
And for her sake do I rear up her boy,
And for her sake I will not part with him.

TITANIA

Out of this wood do not desire to go.
Thou shalt remain here whether thou wilt or no.
And I do love thee. Therefore go with me.
I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee.
Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustardseed!

PUCK

My mistress with a monster is in love.
A crew of patches, rude mechanicals
Were met together to rehearse their calls.
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren sort,
Who Pyramus presented in their sport,
When from the other players I he lead,
A brayer's face I fixèd on his head.
When in the moment he became a flunky,
Titania waked and straightway loved a donkey.

FAIRIES

You spotted snake with double tongue
Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;
Newts and blind-worms, do no wrong,
Come not near our fairy queen.
Philomel, with melody
Sing in our sweet lullaby;
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby.