

Experiencing Stanislavsky Today – Event Breakdown #1

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM by William Shakespeare Character/Scene/Event Breakdown

Key: Servants ed = eavesdropping, slp=sleeping

Based on the 2015 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at East Stroudsburg University, Directed by Stephanie Daventry French
This started as an event breakdown and evolved into a plan for a production.

Act I	Events	Characters Called	Location	Description	Props/Tech
Top show	Disarmed Hippolyta is stripped of her warrior garb dressed up to please Theseus	Hippolyta, Guards, & Theseus	Behind a screen	Ceremonial, prescriptive, pleasing for him humiliating for her	Reveal/Transform Hippolyta Bow, arrows in sheath, blow dart, knife,
I-1a p.3-4	Dictating Love - Wedding Plans (Unrequited Love #1) Theseus' lustful, forced Happy idea	Theseus, Hippolyta, Philostrate, Guards, Servants (Court) <i>Exit Phil</i>	The Duke's Estate – Main chamber (aka Court)	Formal, forced limited movement, careful, calculating	Private moving platforms (T,H, P?) Ring? (decided right then after he sees her changed?)
I-1b p. 4-7	Dictating Love - A Father's Right (Unrequited Love #2) Egeus claims his father's right over Hermia "marry the guy I give you to (Demetrius) or die." Hermia stands up to the tank, refuses and pleads for Lysander. Duke creates 3 rd option (nun). Lysander pleads his case and calls out Demetrius about his courting of Helena.	Court as above Add Egeus, Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius (Helena ed) <i>Exit Court, Egeus, Dem</i>	Court	Formal like supreme court or testifying before senate hearing-challenged by Hermia and Lysander	Platforms E, H, D (not Ly and Hel, they sneak in) A law book or scroll?
Insert A p. 12 or p.16	Stirring up Merriment Egeus trying to stir the distraught lovers to merriment. Fails. Puck takes over. Voice over of Duke (recorded so it seems like it is in his head or mic backstage or...?)	Tries to Stir Hip, Hel, Her & Ly to merriment, fails	Court	Hopeless	Voiceover: Theseus – "Stir up the Athenian Youth"
I-1c p.7-9	True Love's Secret Escape Lysander's rebellious Happy Idea. Despair turns to hope with a plan to elope	Hermia and Lysander	Court		

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I-1d p.9-11	Secret Shared - Throwing Helena a Bone They decide to reveal their plan.	Hermia, Lysander, Add Hel, <i>Exit Her &L</i>	Court		
I-1e p.11-2	Secret Betrayed - Trading Trust for Favor Helena decides to tell Demetrius about the elopement.	Helena	Court		
I-2 p. 12-16 4 pgs	Casting Quince assigns parts and Bottom wants to play all of them. Happy idea – rehearse in the woods.	Mechanicals <i>Exeunt</i>	Peter Quince’s Carpentry Shop		Entrance & Exit 6 Scripts, 1 scroll 2 Saw horses, 4 boards

Act II	Events	Characters Called	Location	Description	Props/Tech
II-1a p. 17-19	Capture the Flag Fairy tries to impress Puck and claim the dancing ground. Puck counters trying to intimidate her with Oberon and entice her with his pranks.	Puck and Fairy	Wood- dancing ground	Scene	Upstage Fabric comes in
Dance p. 19	Weaving the World & HakaSteph Titania’s fairies unfold from her body and weave’s the world, Oberon’s Posse disrupts and tangles.	Oberon and Titania Puck & Posse and Fairy Train	Wood- dancing ground	2 Dances	Reveal Titania behind scrim
II-1b 19-22	The Green Monster over Indian boy and because Oberon was professing love to another. He was with Hippolyta and Titania was into Theseus (open relationship but not totally okay with it.) She invites him to her fairy revels. He boycotts.	Oberon and Titania Puck & Posse and Fairy Train <i>Exit Titania & Fairies</i>	Wood- dancing ground		
II-1c p.22-23	Get Her - Oberon’s Happy idea Love Juice #1, Revenge Prank, He sends puck to get a flower as a love potion to make Titania fall in love with a beast.	Oberon and Puck <i>Exit Puck</i> <i>Exit Oberon & Posse</i>	Wood- dancing ground		move Sculpture piles, Posse move piles in Thrust fabric?

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II-1d p.23-25	“Use me as your Spaniel” Unrequited Love #4 Helen pursues Demetrius. Oberon promises to reverse that	Demetrius and Helena (Oberon ed) <i>Exit Dem & Hel</i>	Wood- dancing ground		
II-1e p.25-26	For True Love’s sake Oberon’s is a secret romantic. Happy idea: tells puck to put the juice in the Athenian man’s (Demetrius) eyes	Re-enter puck, Oberon <i>Exeunt</i>	Wood- dancing ground		thrust fabric falls.
II-2a p. 26-27	Spelling B – A Lullaby - Titania’s bower Fairies sing Titania to sleep.	Fairies Titania and (Oberon ed)	Another part of wood Wood – Titania’s bower	Live song and dance & Protection Spell	thrust fabric falls.
II-2b p.27-28	Special Kiss Good night Oberon reverses protection & puts the love juice on her eyes, inviting beasts	Fairies Titania (slp) Oberon <i>Exit Oberon</i>	Wood – Titania’s bower	Dark protection and activate love juice spell	Counter
II-2c p.28-29	The Push Up (One Bosom one Bed; Consummation Denied) Lysander is lost and wants to rest until morning. He wants to sleep with Hermia. Hermia insists he lies apart.	Fairies Titania (slp) Hermia and Lysander	Wood – lost lovers landscape	SPELL	
II-2d 29	Facing Failure Puck cannot complete his tasks as he cannot find an Athenian, finally does and casts spell on wrong one, Lysander.	Herm Lysander(slp) Puck	Wood – lost lovers landscape	SPELL	
II-2e p. 29	Unmade Bed (Vows revoked) Puck comes and puts flower on wrong Athenian, Lysander’s eyes	Fairies Titania (slp) Hermia, Lysander (slp) Later Puck	Wood – lost lovers landscape	SPELL	
II-2f p.29	Chasing Confusion – (Unrequited Love # 5) Demetrius tries to disentangle from Helena and gets away.	Fairies Titania (slp) Hermia, Lysander (slp)	Wood – lost lovers landscape		

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		Enter Demetrius and Helena (<i>exit Dem</i>)			
II-2g p.30-31	Keen Mockery - (Unrequited Love # 6) Lysander falls in magical love with Helena and is disgusted by Hermia.	Fairies Titania (slp) Helena & Lysander Hermia (slp) <i>Exit Her & Ly</i>	Wood – lost lovers landscape		Sound: Romeo & Juliet love theme
II-2h p.31-32	Shocking Dream Reality Hermia discovers Lysander has abandoned her. She is alone in the dark of the mystical wood	Fairies Titania (slp) Hermia alone <i>Exit Hermia</i>	Wood – lost lovers landscape		

Act III					
III-1a p.33-37 4 pgs	An unexpected Entrance- Rehearsal Mechanicals come to rehearse Pyramus & Thisbe/Puck stumbles on them and turns Bottom's head into an Ass' (Donkey's head). Rest of mechanicals run away scared Wild Goose chase #1 here or end of part I?	Fairies Titania (slp) Mechanicals Later Puck <i>Exeunt all Mech but Bottom</i>	Wood near Titania's bower	behind scrim? Puck leads Mechanicals astray	<i>Transform bottom into an ASS: Tasmanian Devil</i>
	Wild Goose Chase #1 (Pucked)		Voms, Stage, Fabric Forest	Chase	Chase music
III-1b 38-40	Transported - Love at first Bray Titania awakes and is spellbound in animal lust to Bottom the Ass	Fairies Titania (awake) , Ass/Bottom <i>Exeunt</i>	Wood – Titania's bower		
INTERMISSION					

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	Intermission				
III-2a 41-42	Report of Sport My mistress with a monsters is in love. Puck brags to Oberon of enlivening the prank, and of fixing the Athenian love problem as instructed.	Oberon Puck	Oberon's temp haunt (SL House stairs)		Sound:
III-2b 42-44	Mortal Accusations (Unrequired Love #6) Lysander pursuing Helena. She is confused by Lysander's sudden disappearance and suspects Demetrius of foul play. She goes looking for him. Demetrius seeing no point in following, lies down exhausted.	(Oberon Puck ed) Demetrius and Hermia			Sound:
III-2c p.44-45	Puck's F' up. Oberon chides puck for messing up true love rather than fixing errant love as instructed.	Oberon Puck	Oberon's temp haunt (SL House stairs)		
III-2d 45-53 9 pgs	Helen in the Middle (Unrequired Love #6) Lysander pursues Helena, unrequited, much as she pursued Demetrius prior. Then Demetrius awakes and starts to praise her beauty. Hermia enters looking for Lysander and is shunned by him. Helena thinks they are all putting her on, including Hermia, just to hurt and make fun of her. Young men exit to fight. Helena now runs from Hermia.	(Oberon Puck) Lysander and Helena Demetrius asleep & later awake) Later Hermia		Comic Fight Dance off	
III-2e p.53-55	Puck F'd up Again Oberon directs Puck to mislead the guys so they can't find each other to fight. Lovers all fall asleep from exhaustion. Puck puts lovers to sleep with a spell then restores Lysander's sight to his true love, but doesn't remove potion from Demetrius' eyes (so he still will see Helena)	Oberon Puck Lysander and Helena Demetrius Hermia		Spell	
III-2f p55-56	Wild Goose chase #2 Lead Lovers up and down			Spell of transformation	Lovers Mislead SOUND: chase

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Act IV	Events	Characters Called	Location	Description	Props/Tech
IV-1a 59-61	The Cigarette Tango or 1000 Kisses for the Hairy Ass (satisfaction of appetites and indulgence in sensual pleasures) or The cigarette Titania fawns on Bottom adorning his Ass' head with flowers, while he feasts.	Titania (attended by fairies) adorns Bottom's Ass' head.		DANCE: Tango	Start with Sculpture Behind scrim or in bower?)
IV-1 b p.61- 63	Reconciliation Oberon has stolen the Indian boy while Titania had a wild affair with Bottom He releases her from the spell. He instructs Puck restore Bottom's head. Titania wakes and tells of her dream of loving an Ass.	(Titania (attended by fairies) and Bottom sleep) later Oberon and Puck and Posse		SPELL	Sound: undo love juice)
	Lambda Love	Exeunt all but Bottom		DANCE: Lambada	SOUND:
III-2g p56-58	Wild Goose chase #3 Continued, end in Puppy Pile			SPELL- undo lysander	Sound: undo love juice)
IV-2 63-67	Strange Quarry (heap of game as prize of hunt) Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus stumble upon the lovers sleeping side by side. The problem is resolved Demetrius is back in love with Helena, Theseus overrules Egeus and votes for romantic love over parental prescription (even though he got his bride through force – he hopes to wed her in another key).	Theseus, Hippolyta, Egeus, Guards (as huntsmen) Lysander and Helena Demetrius Hermia			SOUND: discovery SOUND: Chorus of hounds howling? SET moves in???
IV-2 67-69	Preshow Panic (Bottom's Away) At Peter Quince's house the tradesmen worry about Bottom being "transported" and decide the play cannot be done without him. Bottom returns and the head to palace as their play is selected.	Mechanicals Later add Bottom	Back stage at the show (officially Quince's workshop)	PIT	
	Wedding Tableau (do we have time?) One couple after another comes forward to exchanges rings and a kiss (in sillhoutte)				Walls move in Sound Wedding: Court Wall moving back into place

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Act V					
					SOUND: Wedding
V-1a 70-74	Anticipation All married and waiting between a wedding supper and wedding bed, they weigh up entertainment options and decide on the rudimentary version of <i>Pyramus and Thisbe</i> .	Theseus, Hippolyta, Philostrate And lovers following after		Enter from wedding throw purple petals	Sound: Anticipation? Props: throws pillows
V-1b 74-83 9 pages	Love Transposed to Comedy The Tradesmen (Clowns/mechanicals) perform <i>Pyramus and Thisbe</i> before the nuptial couples. After they hurry off to bed before Fairy time.	Theseus, Hippolyta, Philostrate And lovers following after Plus rude mechanicals			
V-1c 83-84	Cotton-Eyed Joe Theseus and Hip slip out			DANCE: to tableau freeze	SOUND
V-1d 84-85	Fairy time – Oberon and Titania’s fairies bless the palace.	Oberon and Titania’s fairies including Puck		Little candle lights? SOUND: Lullaby song? Again into fade out? Protection Spell	Frozen tableau during these last monologues Fairies Sing?
86	Epilogue, by way of apology and making amends	Puck			
	CURTAIN CALL - Servants, Fairies (plus Posse: Dontel and Tyrell), Mechanicals, Lovers, Tita and Ob, Puck Then freeze			Dance: Soul train style each has a flare out to bow	SOUND: