



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 09/16/14

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**SUU'S DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS & DANCE
PRESENTS SHAKESPEARE'S MAGICAL ROMANTIC COMEDY
*A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM***

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: SUU's Department of Theatre Arts & Dance puts a unique spin on William Shakespeare's classic magical comedy when it sets the Bard's masterpiece ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** in pioneer Utah. This fantastical production will be performed **October 2, 3, 4, 6 and 10** in the **Adams Shakespearean Theatre** on the SUU campus in Cedar City. Curtain time is **7:30pm** for all performances. The production is directed by **Nathan Smith** and opens the 2014-2015 Theatre Arts & Dance Season.

The fairy-filled wilderness of Utah is the central setting for much of this beloved comedy which draws four lovers and a group of amateur theatricals in one wildly mystical evening. However, a magical flower in the hands of the fairy, Puck, sets in motion a calamitous series of situations and the comedic plot thickens for the feuding fairies, mismatched lovers and confused theatricals. SUU's production of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** is given new life and accessibility by being set in pioneer Utah.

According to **Nathan Smith**, an SUU theatre major and the show's director, "I want to use *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to tell a southwestern fairy tale. I think we can blend the pioneer history and heritage of the local community, Native American Mythology and Shakespeare's Classic Text. If broken down to its bare fundamentals, the play is about Hermia, a woman fleeing for her life into a hostile world. I see Athens as a Fort Bridger-type settlement on the edge of the desert wilderness. When we say forest, we mean desert. Thus Hermia and Lysander's flight is quite dangerous, even without the presence of Oberon and Titania, fairy spirits, which draw heavily on Native American lore, with Puck being a stand in for Coyote, the classic trickster. I should stress that these spirits are part of the lore, but we don't need to make them Native American. Dr. Wynne Summers, of the English Department, an expert in Native American Mythology and Literature, has agreed to help as a source of information for designers and actors, and keep the production as authentic and respectful to the Native American Community as possible."

Collaborating with Smith on developing his vision are set designer **Brian Jude Beacom**, costume designer **Erika Anderson**, lighting designer **J.D. Sargeant** and sound designer **Ryan Turpin**. **Katie Cable Hyer** serves as stage manager, with assistance from **Hannah Fontes** and **Kristine Norby**. **Beth Snarr** is the show's choreographer.

The cast features **Amber James** (Hermia), **Halie Merrill** (Helena), **Trevor Messenger** (Lysander) and **Nik Mikkelsen** (Demetrius) as the lovers while **Lizzy Anderson** (Philostrate), **Jordyn Cardwell** (Hippolyta) **Michael Demasi** (Theseus) and **Andrew Morrison** (Egeus) make up the rest of the Athenian court. The talent-challenged theatraclals are played by **Jesse Atkinson** (Robin Starveling), **Kade Cox** (Tom Snout), **Alex Greig** (Peter Quince), **Justin Stockett** (Snug), **Alec TerBerg** (Nick Bottom) and **Robby Wilson** (Francis Flute). Heading up the mystical fairies are **Sceri Ivers** (Puck), **Luke Johnson** (Oberon) and **Selena Price** (Titania) with **Abigail Larsen** (Cobweb), **Jess Phillips** (Moth), **Carly Skankey** (Fairy), **Natalie Solomon** (Peaseblossom) and **Jane Wright** (Mustardseed).

Laugh at the foibles of fairies and lovers by attending this Utah-set production of the timeless comedy. Ticket prices are: **\$10 Adult General Admission; \$5 Youth and free for Faculty/Staff and SUU students with a valid ID**. Faculty and staff are entitled to bring one guest. **The CPVA Flex Pass** offers six admissions to any theatre, dance or music event and can be used for a single entrance to a production or can be used to admit six people to one event. The pass can be used in any multiples for CPVA ticketed events. The cost of the Flex Pass is **\$40** per pass (a \$65 value). For tickets or the Flex Pass, call the SUU Ticket Office at (435) 586-7872, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm, or purchase in person at the Centrum Arena box office. Single tickets may be purchased online at www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

The 2014-2015 Theatre Arts & Dance Series includes the Tony Award-winning drama **Dancing at Lughnasa**, a 50th anniversary production of the beloved musical **Fiddler on the Roof** and the American classic Tennessee Williams' **A Streetcar Named Desire**. This series also includes two dance concerts the Student Dance Concert and the Faculty Dance Concert.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and the new Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195

arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah Shakespeare Festival and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean at (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

WHAT: *The fairy-filled wilderness is the central setting for much of this beloved comedy which draws four lovers and a group of amateur theatricals in one wildly mystical evening. Director Nathan Smith sets the production in pioneer Utah.*

WHO: Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts,
Theatre Arts & Dance Series

WHEN: Oct. 2, 3, 4, 6 & 10, 2014

TIME: 7:30pm

WHERE: Adams Shakespearean Theatre, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

TICKETS: (435) 586-7872, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm or visit: www.suu.edu/pva/arts

PRICES: General Adult Admission: \$10; Student & Youth: \$5;
SUU Faculty, Staff and Students: Free with valid I.D.
CPVA Flex Passes \$40 each, good for six admissions