

Fullerton Enchants with a Colorful, Dream-Like "Midsummer"  
written by Laila Vataha, a sophomore at Capistrano Valley Christian School

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Fullerton Union High School artistically tells the magical tale of Athenian lovers, desperate to escape constriction and order, fleeing to the enchanted forest inhabited by mystic entities. Chaos ensues as mischievous fairies use a little too much magic, leading to twisted, tangled identities and laugh-worthy comedic moments.

Throughout the play, the two pairs of lovers perfectly contrast each other. Hermia (Andromeda Bruschke) and Lysander (Jacob Thompson), clad in pink tones, are deeply in love and are strong-willed and defiant to those discouraging their love. Bruschke's expert body language and longing vocal resonance echo her devotion to her lover. Helena (Kayla McVicar) and Demetrius (Nolen Sudduth), clothed in blue, create the tension of a one-sided relationship as McVicar aspires to be in her beloved's embrace, but Sudduth maintains a cold, messy demeanor until their love eventually finds a balance.

A standout character, Puck (Raquel Radillo), the elvish and energetic fairy servant to Oberon (Molly Cooper), deviously schemes with her love potion flowers. Radillo utilizes unpredictable, chaotic physicality as she weightlessly scurries about the stage, portraying a mischievous spirit.

Bottom's hysterical performance is not to be missed. Played by Alejandro Thompson, he leads the "Mechanicals" with an over-the-top, dramatic air. His comedic timing, humorous facial expressions, and exaggerated physical acting stole the show. His chemistry with Flute (Westin Butac) throughout their "play within a play" was nothing short of hilarious, as Butac strutted on stage, donning a blonde, curly wig and drag-inspired makeup. Amidst the chaos, Peter Quince (Fae Muñoz), the overworked, mediocre playwright, puts up with Thompson and Butac's theatrical shenanigans, managing a patient and tolerant persona as well as unintentionally creating some funny moments.

The costuming and makeup teams shine, and their work sparkles with individuality and creative expression. They seamlessly blend centuries-old, Shakespearean-era garb with modern rave culture for a fresh, exciting take on the classic play. Isabel Calvo's genius integration of coded LEDs into each character's costume adds to the magic of the show, as well as the glow-in-the-dark makeup on the fairies.

Overall, Fullerton Union's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is an enchanted tale that blends themes of romance, comedy, and chaos. This production utilizes talented actors, creative technical aspects, and imaginative costuming to bring Shakespeare's magical forest of old to life.