

## **Say Aloha to Tesoro's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"**

written by Elle Viefhaus, a senior at Trabuco Hills High School

Tesoro's hilarious performance of the famous Shakespearean comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" follows four outspoken lovers who find themselves bewitched by a manipulative creature, Puck.

In 1960s Hawaii, two couples disappear from the comfort of a beachside hotel to pursue their hearts' desires. Curses sent by Oberon and duels between former friends hinder their journey to true love. Meanwhile, a group of eager thespians gathers on the sand to prepare a play for the Duke and his new wife.

Puck (Amanda Shea) cartwheels onto the stage prepared to create mischief between the mismatched lovers. Shea's active body language and prolonged speech reveal the rambunctious attitude and mysterious motivations of the chaotic guide. Under Puck's love curse, Lysander (Dawson Henry) and Demetrius' (Maceo Vadas) prideful competition over Helena's affection transforms into a physical brawl with Demetrius flexing in triumph as his foot forces Lysander down on the floor. Lysander's love, Hermia (Mikayla Procter), giggles and reaches out to him only to find he has been cursed to love Helena (Bella De Marco) who scurries and pouts, fearful that she is being tricked.

Meanwhile, Petra Quince (Abby Baytieh) rallies her group of beachside players to perform a radical play of "Pyramus and Thisbe." Baytieh's confident tone while casting members of the troupe displays her passionate directorial manner. Nick Bottom (Luke Schoettger) is rightfully cast as the titular role, Pyramus, and jumps onto shipwrecked crates, full of energy and theatrical enthusiasm. His lady lover counterpart, Thisbe, is played by Flute (Gage Williams-Whitney), a man who rushes onto the stage wearing a bright blonde wig and speaking in an obnoxious, high-pitched voice. This ensemble of players charges the comedic tone of the story with unique vocals and physical absurdity.

Titania's fiery cape heats up the island as she graciously enters the mystical scene styled with a black and red cape resembling beautiful lava flow from a volcanic eruption. Using an elegant crimson makeup style and flower headpiece, the costume, hair, and makeup team highlight the goddess-like qualities of Titania. The sound design (TJ Downs) enhances the magical tone of the work, adding dramatic gusts of wind as powerful characters enter each scene. As conflict arises between the mighty Titania and Oberon, violent rain underscores their quarrel.

The talented company of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" reimagines this classic comedy with wit, charm, and charisma.