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BMO

BALLETJÖRGEN

A Midsummer Night's Dream



THE ARDEN THEATRE

March 4, 2026
The Arden Theatre - St. Albert

Photo credit : Tea and Thread Designs

Message from the Artistic Director



Thank you for joining us for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*!

As a company dedicated to telling Canadian stories, we are immensely proud to share a truly Canadian interpretation of this great Shakespearean comedy. Anchored in a real historical moment—the 1951 Royal Tour of Canada—we have set our production in the small fictional northern hamlet of Athens, Alberta.

Creating this ballet has been on my wish list for many years. Felix Mendelssohn's music makes our feet move, and the story has enough twists and turns to spin our heads. People fall in and out of love, and when you throw in a moose, a lion, a hobgoblin, and a handful of fairies, well… then we're truly set to go!

A Midsummer Night's Dream is made possible by the generous support of Mary and Graham Hallward, with additional major support from BMO Financial Group. Significant gifts have also been made by Kathleen & Buck Henderson, Heather J. Baker, Robert & Teresa Brouwer, Judith Gelber, Dawn Frail & Tim Margolian, Kevin R. Goldthorp and David Aylward & Robyn Simpson.

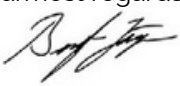
RBC sponsors our National Education and Skills Program, supporting Local Participants, Apprentices, and Mentorship Students whose contributions enrich both the creative process and performances. BC programming is supported by The Hamber Foundation and Community Foundation of North Okanagan. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, foundations, and corporations whose generosity has made it possible for us to share this ballet with you tonight.

I also want to acknowledge the vital contributions of my co-creative team, without whom this production would not have been possible. Stage Director Heinar Piller and Set & Costume Designer Sue LePage have been instrumental in shaping the ballet.

Of course, the dancers have been my closest collaborators. I am indebted to our Dancers who have helped create every role in the production. Their energy, enthusiasm, ideas, and steadfast support are vividly present in the performance you will see today.

I hope Puck and his friends bring delight and a little magic rubs off along the way. Enjoy the performance!

Warmest regards,



Bengt Jörgen C.M.

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Synopsis

ACT I

Prologue
Early Morning - Midsummer Night's Eve 1951, Northern Alberta
Our friend Puck, a traveller and sprite hobgoblin, chances on the sleeping village of Athens – a northern town watched over by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Far away at Westminster Abbey, London, England
The wedding of Princess Elizabeth & the Duke of Edinburgh has taken place.

Village Square, Athens, Alberta
The news spreads that the Royals are coming to Canada and they will make a brief stop right here in Athens, Alberta!

Excitement builds – people stream into the square many, themselves, in love - Helena with Demetrius, Demetrius with Hermia, Hermia with Lysander, and Lysander with Hermia.

The postmistress, Quince, decides to put on a play in the Royal's honour with her motley band of amateur actors, led by the swaggering woodsman Bottom.

The festive mood is abruptly punctured by a fight between Demetrius and Lysander over Hermia. She has been promised in marriage to Demetrius by her father, Egeus. Hermia, being in love with Lysander, refuses to accept.

Lysander and Hermia decide to elope through the nearby forest to the next village. Demetrius is in hot pursuit of his promised partner, and Helena is in turn on his heels with the aim to turn his heart towards her.

Behind the Post Office
Quince reveals to her motley crew that the Play they will perform is The Most Lamentable Tale of Pyramus and Thisbe and assigns roles. To avoid curious onlookers, they retreat into the forest to find a secluded place to rehearse.

In the Forest
Puck is frolicking with fairies from far and near.

Queen of the Fairies, Titania, and King of the Fairies, Oberon, meet up but are interrupted by a wonderous silver lynx that they both desire to keep as their own. Titania wins the struggle and departs with the Lynx. Oberon, enraged, plots his revenge.

Oberon sends Puck around the world to find a magical flower that will cause a person to fall instantly in love with the first being they see.

While waiting for Puck to return, Oberon chances on Helena desperately pleading with cold-hearted Demetrius for his love. Taking pity on Helena, he picks up Demetrius's discarded jacket and instructs Puck to find the young man to whom it belongs and enchant him to fall in love with Helena.

Oberon then hears Titania's retinue approach as they scope out a perfect place for their mistress to sleep. Oberon, back to his mission of revenge, waits until Titania is asleep and applies the love potion to her eyes.

In the meantime, the exhausted Hermia and Lysander decide to rest for the night in the clearing. Hermia insists, for propriety's sake, that Lysander must sleep away from her until they are married. Puck, still searching for Demetrius, sees the sleeping teenagers, and mistaking Lysander for Demetrius, he applies the love potion and thinks – mission accomplished!

Demetrius, still fleeing Helena, stumbles on Lysander who immediately wakes. Lysander eyes fall on the pursuing Helena and he instantly falls in love, professing his passion for her. Helena flees in horror, pursued by the now madly in love Lysander. This leaves Hermia alone as she wakes up from a nightmare. Discovering Lysander gone but recognizing Demetrius's jacket, she is convinced her dear love Lysander is in danger or worse. She sets out to find him.

Quince, Bottom and Friends have found the perfect place to rehearse! But discord soon follows and playful Puck adds mayhem by turning Bottom into a moose! The commotion awakes Titania who then spies the Moose and.... falls head over heels in love with the beast – all to Oberon's delight. What embarrassment! Sweet revenge!

–INTERMISSION–

ACT II

In the Forest
Hermia finds and confronts Demetrius, accusing him of harming Lysander. Demetrius, completely confused and exhausted, falls asleep.

Oberon, realizing that Puck has enchanted the wrong man, applies the love potion to Demetrius and sends Puck to bring Helena back so things can be set right. As Helena arrives, she falls onto Demetrius, who wakes and instantly loves her. But Lysander still under the spell continues in hot pursuit of Helena. Both men now chase Helena who struggles to escape. Hermia arrives, and full chaos ensues.

Oberon, blaming Puck for the mayhem, orders Puck to arrange things properly: have the correct man fall asleep beside the correct partner. Oberon uses the antidote to release Lysander and then does the same for Titania. Titania wakes and is horrified to find herself beside a Moose and retreats to Oberon. Oberon realizes he went too far, and both he and Titania remorsefully embrace each other.

Lastly, before leaving the clearing Oberon wakes the two couples - now contently in love with the correct partner.

The watchful Mountie, who was left searching for the missing teenagers, finds the four reconciled lovers who only remember their discord as if in a dream. All rush back to Athens to greet the Royals with a proper wedding celebration. Puck releases Bottom who reunites with his friends and rushes back to put on their play.

Village Square, Athens, Alberta
The Royals arrive – the young lovers get married – Quince, Bottom and Friends put on their play – all is well. As the Royals depart, Puck puts the everyone to sleep.

If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended:
That you have but slumber'd here
While these visions did appear.
So good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

The Cast

In order of appearance, program & cast subject to change.

**Local Youth Participant Roles*

PUCK	Eugene Pang
MOUNTIE	Bengt Jörgen
SPRITES	Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Adam Davidson, Natalie Dixon, Adrián Ramirez Juárez, Anna Turkington
NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER	Matt Bryce
PRINCESS ELIZABETH	Risa Takeshima
DUKE OF EDINBURGH	Omar Hernández
*TRAIN BEARER	*Local Participants
VILLAGERS	Company & *Local Participants:
QUINCE-POSTMISTRESS	Taisiya Zamula
SNOUT-A PLASTERER	Daniel Da Silva
FLUTE-A MECHANIC	Ilia Dogudovskii
SNUG-A FARM HAND	Matt Bryce
HELENA	Esther Zignaigo,
DEMETRIUS	Matthew Jordan
HERMIA	Akari Fujiwara
EGEUS	Adrián Ramirez Juárez
LYSANDER	Ryusei Nagafuchi,
BOTTOM-A WOODSMAN	Adam Davidson
FAIRIES	Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Natalie Dixon, Lydia-Laure Germain, Risa Takeshima, Anna Turkington, Esther Zignaigo, Matt Bryce, Adam Davidson, Ilia Dogudovskii, Matthew Jordan, Eugene Pang
*LITTLE FAIRIES	*Local Participants
*BUNNY	*Local Participants
*MOUSE	*Local Participants
TITANIA	Risa Takeshima
OBERON	Omar Hernández
*LYNX	*Local Participants
PASTOR	Adrián Ramirez Juárez

Play- The Most Lamentable Tale of Pyramus and Thisbe

MASTER OF CEREMONY	Taisiya Zamula
PYRAMUS	Adam Davidson
WALL	Daniel Da Silva
THISBE	Ilia Dogudovskii
LION	Matt Bryce

JÖRGEN COMMUNITY DANCE

Credits

Local Youth Participants:
Brynn Beres, Ava Giacobbo, Zoey Harrigan, Rylee O'Neil, Sophia Oliveira, Skylyn Ryan, Taya Sorensen, Elena Spilak

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:
Danceco Ltd

Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks

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Lily Gillman Bkin
Matt Carson DC

All of our volunteers that made this production possible.



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Meet Your Dancers



Chabi Arauz
Panama, Panama
Company Member
since 2024



Mandi Bryce
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Company Member since 2025



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Ilia Dogudovskii
Moscow, Russia
Company Member
since 2025



Akari Fujiwara
Aichi, Japan
Company Member
since 2017
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Lydia-Laure Germain
Montréal, Québec
Company Member
since 2021



Omar Hernández
Pinar del Rio, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



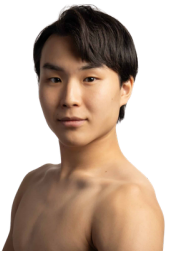
Matthew Jordan
Adelaide, Australia
Company Member
since 2024



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
México City, Mexico
Company Member since
2014



Matthew Bryce
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Company Member



Ryusei Nagafuchi
Aichi, Japan
Company Member
since 2025



Eugene Pang
Hong Kong, China
Company Member
since 2025



Risa Takeshima
Nagoya, Japan
Company Member
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Hitoshi Ohtsuji.



Anna Turkington
Katrine, Ontario
Company Member
since 2025



Taisiya Zamula
Moscou, Russia
Company Member
since 2023



Esther Zignaigo
Lima, Péru
Company Member
since 2021



Natalie Dixon
Calgary, Alberta
RBC Apprentice



Rose Juliette
Montréal, Québec
RBC Apprentice



Lily Villeneuve
Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario
RBC Apprentice



Zoë Kindrachuk
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Mentee



Jennifer Ramirez
Caracas, Venezuela
Mentee

Learn More About Our Dancers

Production Credits

Choreography Bengt Jörgen, C.M.
Music Felix Mendelssohn
Costume & Set Design Sue LePage
Lighting Design Madhu/ மது
Stage Direction Heinar Piller
Synopsis Heinar Piller with assistance from Sue LePage
Scenic Carpentry Hamilton Scenic Specialty
Props Nina Hartt, Young People's Theatre
David Hoekstra
Set Coordinator Cindy Smith
Costumer & Cutter Kim Crossley
Assisted by Kaz Maxine, Karen Merriam, Shona Humphrey
Cutter Brenda Clark
Assisted by Nancy Turner
Millinery and Moose Headdress Monica Viani
Assisted by Lilian Gibson and Lacie George

Thank you to the following young dancers for being a part of the creation of the ballet:

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Artistic Lead & Rehearsal Director Daniel Da Silva
Company Dancers Chabi Arauz~`, Mandi Bryce, Matt Bryce, Daniel Da Silva, Adam Davidson~`, Ilia Dogudovskii, Akari Fujiwara`, Lydia-Laure Germain~`, Omar Hernández, Matthew Jordan`, Adrián Ramírez Juárez`, Ryusei Nagafuchi`, Eugene Pang, Risa Takeshima, Anna Turkington`, Taisiya Zamula'~, Esther Zignaigo
RBC Apprentices Emma Courish, Natalie Dixon, Camilla Hood, Rose Juliette~, Lily Villeneuve~
Mentorship Students Zoë Kindrachuk, Jennifer Ramirez
Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson
Resident Choreographer Hanna Kiel
Resident Stage Direction Heinar Pillar
Production & Stage Manager Amanda Caliolo
Technical Coordinator Jeff Bornstein
Lighting Coordinator Erwin Lau
Wardrobe Supervisor Márcio Teixeira *(Sponsored by Mary & Graham Hallward)*
Artistic Working Group Daniel Da Silva, Lydia-Laure Germain~`, Matthew Jordan', Esther Zignaigo

`Past RBC Foundation Apprentice Dancer
~George Brown Dance Graduate

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A Midsummer Night's Dream

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