

ACT 1
Theatre



AD LIB
Newsletter October 1, 2016

Director wants to alleviate apprehension to The Bard

By Cliff Rowe

A Shakespeare play can spark varying degrees of apprehension within three groups of theater participants: Actors, directors and audience. After all the success of presenting Shakespeare's works on stages around the world is not to be taken lightly.

There is an inherent expectation of "something special."

But achieving that quality brings challenges, particularly for actors and audience, in translating the culture of the period and the intricate stories being told in an often unfamiliar vocabulary and grammatical style.

Trista Duval, who directs ACT 1 Theatre's staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* appreciates the challenges and relishes the opportunity to address them, particularly in the context of community theater.

She said she expected many in her cast to be intimidated as rehearsals began, "especially those who haven't done Shakespeare before." She said she believes she can help them overcome that apprehension by "helping them recognize the story."

They may not know the details of the specific tale the play is delivering, but they know the fundamental stories of hu-



Trista Duval, director

man interaction that underlie them.

"Once they recognize a story, they can identify with the characters," she said.

Then they can face the demands of the language through the vocabulary and grammar Shakespeare used.

Duval said the cast she's working with this time is less experienced overall than those she's worked with previously. For several it's their first Shakespearean role.

"It's exciting to be able to introduce them to Shakespeare and show them

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

PRINCIPAL CAST

Hermia	Jenna McRill
Lysander	Nick Clawson
Helena	Chelsea Pedro
Demetrius	Bob Downing
Titania	Sarah Alexander
Oberon	Joseph Magin
Robin Goodfellow/Puck	Emily Hill
Theseus	Steve Morberg
Hippolyta	Ruth Orozco
Egeus	Vern Hagglund
Nick Bottom/Pyramus	Timothy Duval
Peter Quince	Dan Lysne
Francis Flute/Thisbe	Larry Dixon
Robin Starveling/Moonshine	Desiree Stockton
Tom Snout/Wall	Joshua Morberg
Snug/Lion	Alex Koerger
Philostrate	Glen Duvall
Cobweb	Jessica Isenberg
Mustard Seed	Sophia Carlson
Fairies	Leo Hagglund Sofia Morberg Elizabeth Carlson
Indian Boy	Kepler Koerger

Director	Trista Duval Wilkinson
Stage Manager	Stephanie Carlson
Asst. Stage Managers	Grace Velzy Andrew Arends
Soundboard Operator	Mickey Stevens
Costume Designer	Avelon Tice
Makeup/Set Design	Victoria Morberg
Technical Director	Chris Karr
Artistic Director	Petra Karr

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TRISTA DUVAL

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they're capable of doing it," she said.

As for those in the audience for whom Shakespeare may be a new or relatively new experience, "They should just trust the actors and the story they're telling," she said.

After all, the stories for them, as for the actors, reflect 400 years of humans being humans and the humor, tragedy and other emotions that emerge from all that.

At the same time, she suggests that it might be helpful for those unfamiliar with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to have read a synopsis of it before attending their first performance.

Duval was born into an East Coast family where all were active in theater in one way or another. Both her parents acted; a brother has performed both on stage and in film, and her sister teaches theater and is a theater photographer.

Duval's theater debut came in the seventh grade and included her singing, *You'll Never Walk Alone*, in the musical *Carousel*.

Her education and initial pursuit of a career took her up and down the East Coast from New England to the Deep South. Ul-



OCTOBER 7-8 • OCTOBER 14-15

SHOWTIMES

7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays
2 p.m. (matinee) on Saturdays

TICKETS Available at Act1Theatre.org

General - \$20
Students, Military & Seniors - \$15

timately, she graduated from Elon University in North Carolina with a bachelor of fine arts degree in theater.

She also gained experience during that time with companies in Florida and Texas, among them the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre.

Looking to expand her theater horizons, she considered cities throughout the United States with strong equity-acting programs, and one of them was Seattle. She said she also perceived that Seattle theater

was more open to newcomers than that in other cities she was considering.

Since moving to this area in 2008, she has married and she and her husband, who serves in a lead position at The Boeing Co., have gained two sons, ages 4 and 1. During the five years in which they were starting this family, she stepped out of the theater mainstream, but remained involved in theater through acting and directing at their local church.

Her final acting before that hiatus occurred in a theater program at the University of Washington where she had to opt out of the lead in *HMS Pinafore* because of an illness that damaged her throat. Her physician suggested several remedies, one of which was surgery for removal of a growth, which she ultimately chose. Her doctor later assured her that was "the right choice."

She has proven the validity of that assessment by performing since in the Emerging Artist Program at the Intiman theater in Seattle and directing *Scarlet Pimpernel* at the Tacoma Musical Playhouse.

She was encouraged to consider directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at ACT 1 by Stephanie Carlson, a longtime friend who also has become a mainstay in costuming and stage-managing with the theater company.

A WORD FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Another opening, another show

ACT 1 Theatre flew into The Liberty in downtown Puyallup — and boy are our wings tired!

Jokes aside, we are frantically settling in for our first show this season in our new venue. From 35 seats in an intimate black box theater to hundreds of seats and a vaudeville-constructed stage space.

There is plenty of parking, restaurants, pubs and wine in close proximity to the theater for your before or after cravings, fabulous ambiance, homemade pretzels at concessions and original artwork in the lobby.

You have walked beside us on every step of this laborious transition from two spaces to five. ACT 1 would not be here without your sweat, pulled muscles, aching backs, flexible challenge solving and humor.

Thank you.

We also literally cannot continue forward without your generous donations. Whether you are donating \$20 each month or whenever you can — it is building the foundation for all the excellent theater and programming that enriches our communities.

To that end, we will host a fundraising event on Nov. 19: Encore Dinner Theatre. Tickets and information are on our website at Act1Theatre.org

See you at the Liberty!

Re-awaken your imagination



ACT 1 Theatre

Studio of Theatrical Arts

116 W Main
Puyallup, WA 98371

ACT 1 Theatre is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible



Donations are always welcome.

Please visit us on Facebook or at

www.Act1Theatre.org