

**For Immediate Release, June 8, 2010**

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Website: [http://www.hamnertheater.com/Season5/Midsummer\\_Nights\\_Dream](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Season5/Midsummer_Nights_Dream)

High resolution images (or by request):

[http://www.hamnertheater.com/Season5/Midsummer\\_Nights\\_Dream\\_Press](http://www.hamnertheater.com/Season5/Midsummer_Nights_Dream_Press)

**The experiment continues: Nelson County Shakespeare Festival returns to the Hamner Theater with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, June 17-27th.**

**NELLYSFORD,VA** - Nelson County Shakespeare Festival, in conjunction with the Hamner Theater, presents William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Mary Coy, opening June 17, and running Wed. - Sun. through June 27th.

'The course of true love never did run smooth.' Lysander loves Hermia, Hermia loves Lysander, Helena loves Demetrius, Demetrius used to love Helena and now loves Hermia... Hermia's father, Egeus, prefers Demetrius as her suitor, and enlists the aid of Theseus, the Duke of Athens: Hermia is given four days to choose between Demetrius, life in a nunnery, or a death sentence...And, all this is just the beginning! These romantic intrigues are confused and complicated still further when the fairies and an amateur theater troupe - Oberon & Titania, Puck, Bottom and his friends Snug, Snout, Quince and Flute - get involved. Three worlds collide in this famous comedy, one of Shakespeare's most immediate and engaging works - but, you can rest assured that, it all works out in the end, in the words of Bottom, 'You shall see, it will fall pat as I told you.'

Says manager/ director, Mary Coy: "This production of *Midsummer* is part two in an on-going exploration of the benefits of knowing and employing Shakespeare's original rehearsal and performance practices to modern theater. With part one, *Richard III*, I was part of the production as an actor. In this production I am on the sidelines, hoping to infuse each actor with some of the sense of play and experiment Shakespeare's actors would have brought to the process."

"For me, theater is also a place to build community. For this reason, I intentionally use local actors, children and adults, novices and longtime theater practitioners, anyone I can get my hands on, in order to build a sense of ownership in the plays, the process, the theater and, therefore, the community. Some of the young people have worked with me before; onstage in *The Homecoming* or in *Richard III* and in the classroom where, for the last eight years, Betty Tabony (also a cast member) and I have taught Shakespeare to Nelson County sixth graders."

The company of experienced performers and debutant actors includes Richard Averitt, Savannah Averitt, Colin Bruguiere, DJ Crocker, Sami Cunningham, Dan Dennis, Louise Ferrall, Alice Ferrall, Phyllis Reed (Gardner), Alan Hickerson, John Holdren, Olivia Marshall, Kerry Moran, Brian O'Connor, Noel Quigley, Luisa Schneider, Megan Schultz, Betty Tabony, Puja Tolton, Dan Trombley, April Winsheimer, Kaya Winsheimer and Alexey Zielinski

In the air-conditioned Hamner Theater, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. between June 17 - 27th. Admission is \$10, or \$5 for seniors and children under 10. Family passes are also available, call the box office at 434 361 1999. Reservations are suggested. There will be a Free Preview Wed., June 16 at 7:30 p.m.

**About Nelson County Shakespeare Festival:**

Nelson County Shakespeare Festival rehearses and performs Shakespeare's plays by drawing from Elizabethan staging practices in an ongoing exploration of how to make modern productions happen more efficiently and with more actor input. Actors are an empowered entity in the staging and costuming and organization of the production. A manager or director acts on behalf of the playwright and a prompter is present at rehearsals to oversee entrances and exits and maintain a structure to the rehearsal as well as to feed in the lines. The Hamner acts as our Henslowe providing a space to play and other support. Any volunteers to be our patrons- a Queen Elizabeth or a Lord Chamberlain? Please contact the Hamner!

**About the Hamner Theater:** The Hamner Theater, now presenting its fifth season, is a non-profit project of the Rockfish Valley Community Center in Nelson County, and receives funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and anonymous donors to support its mission of bringing professional theater to Nelson County. Learn more at [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com).

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**Summary:**

**What - A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare, presented by Nelson County Shakespeare Festival**

**Where - Hamner Theater, Nellysford**

**Opening Night - Thursday, June 17**

**Runs June 17 - 27, Wed.-Sun.**

**Show Times at the Hamner Theater - Wed., Thu. & Fri. at 7:30pm, Sun. at 2:00pm**

**Tickets \$10, \$5 seniors & children under 10**

**Special shows: Free Preview Wed., June 16**

**Opening Night Reception, Thu., June 17,**

**Reservations 434 361 1999**

**Information [www.hamnertheater.com](http://www.hamnertheater.com)**

**Box Office: Hamner Theater, 434 361 1999**

Tag Line:

This is a dream like no other...Set in Athens High School, meet the lunch ladies, the custodial staff, the IT guy and the young lovers. Watch everything fall apart when the fairies get involved...fun for everybody!