A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

DIRECTED BY TRE'VON GRIFFITH

AUGUST 2-27, 2022
FREE IN 24 PARKS
TOURCO PARTNERS

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ST. LOUIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Tom Ridgely, Producing Artistic Director

A TOURCO PRODUCTION

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

with

TIÉLERE CHEATEM
RAE DAVIS
RICKI FRANKLIN

ASHA FUTTERMAN
MEL MCRAY
CHRISTINA YANCY

PRODUCTION DESIGN
LAURA SKROSKA

COSTUME DESIGN
BRANDIN VAUGHN

MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN
TRE’VON GRIFFITH

PRODUCER
COLIN O’BRIEN

STAGE MANAGER
BRITTENY HENRY*

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER
JOSH VAN HOOREBEKE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CAMERON JAMARR DAVIS*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
ADAM FLORES

DIRECTED BY
TRE’VON GRIFFITH

*denotes member, Actors’ Equity Association

St. Louis Shakespeare Festival operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. STL Shakes Fest employs members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local #6 and United Scenic Artists, Local 829 AFL-CIO, Stage, Directors and Choreographers Society and is a member of Theatre Communications Group, Inc.

Photographing or recording this performance in any way without prior approval is strictly prohibited.

Cover art by Visitor Assembly; Model: Sarita Moody; Photographer: Phillip Hamer; Makeup Artist: Michael Shead.
Welcome to Shakespeare in YOUR park.

We’re here tonight because we wanted to share this beautiful story with you, and we’re so grateful for your coming out to be with us. This show is more than just a cultural experience, it’s a social one – a celebration, a party! It has so much joy and wisdom to offer that we knew we had to take Mr. Shakespeare off his pedestal and out from behind the glass and into the parks and spaces that we hang out and relax in, especially in the summer.

And whether you’ve seen a ton of Shakespeare or this is your very first taste, you’ve never seen it like this. Tre’von Griffith, our director, is a native son of St. Louis and one of its brightest young talents. He and his design team have dreamed up a world so full of light and life that you’ll never see or feel about MIDSUMMER the same way again. And this brilliant company are infusing their (many!) roles with such freshness and insight, you’ll wonder how it’s possible the play you’re watching was written over 400 years ago in another country.

But the play, this production and the entire tour are exercises in border crossing. The play moves fluidly from city to forest and back, from the human world to the fairy world. This production moves as fluidly across boundaries of race, class and gender – just like this company will be crossing rivers, county lines and other divides to bring their vision of love and truth to 24 neighborhood parks all over the region.

Tonight is yours. Thank you for being here.

And now a roundel and fairy song,

Tom Ridgely
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SCHEDULE
6:30p - Living Study Guide
6:45p - Performance Begins
8:00p - Performance Ends

TOUR DATES
8/2   Kiener Plaza
8/3   Tower Grove Park [AD]
8/4   9 Mile Garden
8/5   Etzel Heights
8/6   Bellevue Park (IL)
8/7   Fairground Park
8/9   14th and St. Louis
8/10  O'Day Park Amphitheater
8/11  Schroeder Park
8/12  Love Bank Park
8/13  Harney Mansion
8/14  Pomme Park
8/16  Schlafly Bottleworks
8/17  Carondelet Park
8/18  Chesterfield Amphitheater
8/19  City Park (IL)
8/20  January-Wabash Park
8/21  Brussels Heritage Park (IL)
8/23  Fountain Park
8/24  Jones Water Park (IL)
8/25  Shaw Park
8/26  Chroma Plaza [ASL]
8/27  Hermann Farm

NIGHTLY GIVEAWAY
Click the link below or scan the QR code on the signs around the park to enter the nightly prize package giveaway for merch, gift cards, beer and more! Must be 21 to enter.

One lucky winner each night of the tour will be announced during the pre-show speech.

CLICK HERE TO ENTER

CONNECT ONLINE
@STLShakesFest
THE COMPANY

TIÉLERE CHEATEM
Helena/Hippolyta/
Peter Quince

RAE DAVIS
Hermia/Tom Snout/
Titania

RICKI FRANKLIN
Demetrius/
Nick Bottom

ASHA FUTTERMAN
Theseus/Oberon

MEL McCRAY
Lysander/
Francis Flute

CHRISTINA YANCY
Egeus/Snug/
Puck
WHO’S WHO: CAST

Tiélere Cheatem (Helena/Hippolyta/Peter Quince) is beyond excited to be making their debut with the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. Tiélere is a daring stage and visual artist who has appeared in such roles as Pythio in Head Over Heels, Jacob in La Cage aux Folles with New Line Theatre where he received the award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. Other recent credits include St. Louis Public Library’s The Honest to Goodness Truth (Old Boss/Mrs. Tussleberry), The St. Louis Actors’ Studio’s LaBeaute Festival, R-S Theatricts’ The Light In The Piazza (Fabrizio Naccarelli), Stray Dog Theatre’s Sweeney Todd (Adolfo Pirelli), Mustard Seed Theatre’s Elegies (Keith), Eugene Onegin In Concert (Lenski), and Rebel & Misfits’ Hamlet: See What I See (The Player King). When Tiélere is not on stage they are avidly making their name for themselves in the Art world. Showcasing their emotionally charged oil paintings that showcase the beauty of expression through the male form. For more of their work check their website www.therustyartist.com

Rae Davis (Hermia/Tom Snout/Titania) is a creative and KC native that migrated to St. Louis after getting her Bachelor’s in Theatre at MU. Her love for storytelling has allowed her opportunities to act on stage and in film, and appreciates every opportunity to perform.

Ricki Franklin (Demetrius/Nick Bottom) is thrilled to be returning after playing Emilia in last summers tour of Othello. She is a proud St. Louis native and Baylor University graduate. She feels so blessed to have this opportunity. Some of her favorite actor credits include Comb Your Hair (Ensemble Member), The Liar (Lucrece), Honeymoon in Vegas (Buddy Rocky), and This Random World (Bernadette).

She’s so absolutely grateful to her parents for their support and love.

Asha Futterman (Theseus/Oberon) is an actor and poet from Chicago. She is a recent graduate of Barnard College and a current MFA candidate in Poetry at Washington University.

Mel McCray (Lysander/Flute) is a woman who is passionate about bringing love into whatever she does. She uses theatre and dance as a way to empathize with others and to share real human experiences. She graduated with a BFA in Acting from Missouri State University. Since then, she has performed and worked closely with many local companies like St. Louis Black Rep Company, Consuming Kinetics Dance Company, and TLT Productions. Her latest Shakespeare performance was as Hortensio in Taming of The Shrew with Chicago based Stonesoop Shakespeare Company. Currently, Mel enjoys teaching Drama and Dance at Kipp Inspire Middle School, and mostly being a mother, and taking care of her family. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with St. Louis Shakespeare Festival this summer!

Christina Yancy (Egeus/Snug/Puck) is a stage actress originally from Alabama. She received her B.F.A. Acting Degree from the University of Montevallo. While studying at university, Christina performed in several plays including Much Ado About Nothing, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, and HAIR. During the day, Christina works at The St. Louis Black Repertory Company, serving as the company’s Development Associate. Since joining The Black Rep, Christina has been featured in numerous Mainstage and Professional Touring productions including Home, Spell #7, Freedom
WHO’S WHO: CAST/ARTISTIC

Songs, Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt, Stamping, Shouting, Singing Home, and Turn-Up. Her work outside of The Black Rep includes the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival’s 2021 production of King Lear. She has also worked as a guest artist in Washington University in St. Louis’ 2019 production of For Colored Girls ..., and the 2021 virtual streaming production of Remem-ber... That Time Before The Last Time.

Tre’von Griffith (Director) is a St Louis native, (better known by stage name Tre G) is an independent artist, creative and music director. He has been apart of the creative team of productions at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, COCA, St. Louis Black Rep, Metro Theater Company, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, TLT Productions and companies in Europe and China. In 2020, Tre G formed WerQFest, an annual arts & culture festival celebrating and highlighting black queerness. GO! Magazine by St. Louis Post-Dispatch named Tre G “2016 Rising Star” and has also landed a spot in DELUX Magazine’s Emerging 30 Under 30. Tre G received his master’s degree in Global Entertainment and Music Business from Berklee College of Music campus in Valencia, Spain. @treg_music

Brandin Vaughn (Costume Design) Brandin’s passion began in Chicago with a strong foundation of earning the true technique of a well-constructed garment. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree from the Illinois Art Institute and began working for local designers while also establishing a name for himself by participating in fashion shows and related projects showcasing his work. With seven years of experience under his belt and a desire to revitalize fashion in a new area with his own brand, Brandin decided to move back to St. Louis to jump-start the fashion scene. Brandin began at full speed and quickly made a name for himself in St. Louis. After 3 years of hard work, he successfully became a sought out designer in the city and opened his boutique in February 2018, the Brandin Vaughn Collection (BVC). BVC has been featured in a number of articles and magazines such as Alive Magazine and the St. Louis American newspaper. Most notably, BVC was featured on the cover of Upscale Magazine with a 3-page editorial spread. The collection was modeled by celebrity actress and entrepreneur Vivica A. Fox. Brandin’s recent endeavors include working with the Isley Brothers on their 60th-anniversary documentary and costume design for the St. Louis Black Rep and the Center of Creative Arts (COCA).

Laura Skroska (Production Design) is excited to be returning for her fifth Tour production and her second as Scenic and Props Designer. In addition to work with TourCo, Laura is the Technical Director for New Jewish Theatre and Props Master for Shakespeare in the Park, Winter Opera St. Louis, and Gateway Center for Performing Arts. Laura received her MFA in Painting from Fontbonne University and a BS in Theatre and Dance from SIUE. She lives in St. Louis with her husband, Philip, and their two rabbits, Theodore and Oscar.
WHO’S WHO: ARTISTIC

Cameron Jamarr Davis* (Assistant Director) 2022 Directing Fellow - Cameron is an actor, playwright and filmmaker with a BFA in dramatic performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. A proud member of SAG-AFTRA and the Actors Equity Association, he thanks the Festival for casting him in his first professional production at the age of 17. He is Founder and Artistic Director of his own theater company, Soul Siren Playhouse; producing stories for stage and screen speaking to various social challenges seeking healing and awareness. With a background in devised theater and a passion for education, he has created and performed in a variety of Fringe Festivals nationally and abroad. He has worked professionally as an actor and teaching artist for esteemed theaters such as Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Hangar Theater, The Celebration Theater, and The Carnegie Center of Performing Arts. Find more at www.playsiren.com

Hannibal Buress. He is on the board of Cinema St. Louis and is involved with dozens of other events and venues around St. Louis. He and his friend AJ have collaborated for nine years running to throw a much-beloved annual Christmas party. IG: @thecolinobrien

Brittney Henry* (Stage Manager) is back at the Festival, and excited to spend this summer with the Midsummer company following her time as assistant stage manager for Much Ado earlier this summer. Previously she joined the King Lear company as the Covid Safety Officer. In 2021 she also held the post for Stages St. Louis, and Max & Louie Productions. She boasts zero covid cases on her watch. Her educational tour credits include: New Kid (Metro Theatre Company, 2016) St. Louis Shakespeare Festival TourCo (2017 & 2020), Reedy Press’s Do You Know MO?, and The Tooth Fairy in Delta Dental’s “Land Of Smiles” Tour. Her favorite acting credit is Lavinia in Titus Andronicus (St. Louis Shakespeare). Directing credits include: Ntozake Shange’s For Colored Girls…, Don Negro’s Scarecrow (Independent Theatre Co.), The Trip to Bountiful (Theatre Guild of Webster Groves) and most recently 61 Inches & A Thousand Trillion Tons...(Overdue Theatre Co/The Main Santa Clarita. A show that can be found on YouTube if you look hard enough. Brittney enjoys Grey’s Anatomy, quoting vines, and she is a new member of AEA. Hi Mom!

*denotes member, AEA

Colin O’Brien (Producer) is thrilled to finally see this production come to fruition during his eighth season with the Festival. Colin produces the Dogtown St. Patrick’s Day Parade and O’Fallon Heritage and Freedom Festival through his event company, Blank Slate and has booked hundreds of concerts including Styx, Pat Benatar, and
PRODUCTION CREW

Matt Anderson.................................................................Scenic Build
Josh Van Hoorebeke.................................Associate Production Manager
Kaitlyn Kelly...............................................................Production Management Intern

Sydney Tennill....................................................Community Engagement Intern
Haley Levin..............................................................Wash U Gephardt Institute Fellow
FESTIVAL STAFF

Tom Ridgely, Producing Artistic Director
Susan Rowe Jennings, General Manager
Austin Skinner, Director of Development
Colin O’Brien, Associate Producer
Allie Magee, Marketing & Communications Manager
Adam Flores, Manager of Community Engagement & Education
Tori Rezek, Development Manager
Charlie Tatum, Administrative Coordinator
Deanna Jent, Confluence Program Director

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Marvin Moskowitz, Chairman Emeritus
Lana Pepper, Founding Managing Director
Bringing “Shakespeare in the Park” to neighborhoods across the region.

“Midsummer is about pursuing what you love most. Disorder and confusion run wild, but love and joy win out in the end - as they should.”

TREVON GRIFFITH
DIRECTOR
_A Midsummer Night’s Dream_

“TourCo makes Shakespeare feel welcoming in every way. The shows are free, so money is never an issue. It’s in our local park, so it’s super easy to get to. And the actors make it so easy to understand!”

EMILY THENHAUS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
_Cherokee Street CID_

TourCo is the only program bringing free, professional theater directly into communities across the bi-state. Over 60% of performances are in low- to middle-income neighborhoods. The tour also visits rural communities with limited access to the cultural offerings of St. Louis. No other arts organization in St. Louis offers such radical accessibility.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

STLSHAKES.ORG/DONATE
ON STAGE
NEXT
SHAKESPEARE IN THE STREETS:
SEPTEMBER 22, 23 & 24, 2022

BEVO MILL
AT THE INTERSECTION OF
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ST. LOUIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
STLSHAKES.ORG
BASED ON A COMEDY OF ERRORS
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WRITTEN BY
DEANNA JENT
DIRECTED
BY ADAM FLORES
The Festival launched the Confluence Regional Writers Project in 2018 to invest in promising and underrepresented writers in the bi-state area – and to help elevate their unique voices into the national conversation. The yearlong program offers playwrights a safe space to take risks on a new work via a generous stipend, guided mentorship and a supportive cohort of fellow playwrights.

The 2022 Cohort will present their commissioned works in a three-day reading festival in the spring of next year.
WORTH FIGHTING FOR

SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

@SUMNERSTL
As the first high school west of the Mississippi to educate Black students, Sumner nurtured artists and activists like Chuck Berry, Tina Turner, Grace Bumbry, Dick Gregory, Arthur Ashe, and more. However, Sumner was recommended for closure in fall 2020 — a move that would further the disinvestment in one of the nation’s most historically significant Black communities.

Alongside 4theVille, St. Louis Public Schools, an advisory board, and many other cultural institutions, the Festival developed a multidisciplinary, arts and advocacy residency to increase student enrollment at Sumner. The Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the program and keep the school open; the pilot year began in August 2021.

All students gain daily arts training, choosing from five pathways. Now enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year.

**RECOVERY PLAN - ARTS PATHWAYS**

DANCE • DRAMA • MUSIC • VISUAL ART
MUSEUM STUDIES • FASHION