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BALLETJÖRGEN

A Midsummer Night's Dream

October 23, 2026
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto - Toronto

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Introductory remarks by Member of Parliament Jean Yip Scarborough—Agincourt

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!

The creation of A Midsummer Night's Dream was made possible by the generous support of Mary and Graham Hallward and 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. Presentations across Toronto are generously supported by BMO Financial Group, the Toronto Arts Council, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts. Tonight's performance is supported by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the many other 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	Ryusei Nagafuchi
MOUNTIE	Bengt Jörgen
SPRITES	Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Matt Bryce, Natalie Dixon, Anna Turkington
NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER	Eugene Pang
PRINCESS ELIZABETH	Akari Fujiwara
DUKE OF EDINBURGH	Adrián Ramirez Juárez
*TRAIN BEARERS	Beatrice Apostol, Sofia Khan
VILLAGERS	Company & Local Participants: Beatrice Apostol, Gabriella Sinclair, Sofia Khan, Kary Lee, Aishat Olowe, Sofia Pilorget
QUINCE-POSTMISTRESS	Esther Zignaigo
SNOUT-A PLASTERER	Matt Bryce
FLUTE-A MECHANIC	Ilia Dogudovskii
SNUG-A FARM HAND	Eugene Pang
HELENA	Taisiya Zamula
DEMETRIUS	Omar Hernández
HERMIA	Lydia-Laure Germain
EGEUS	Marco Alessandro Corcella
LYSANDER	Matthew Jordan
BOTTOM-A WOODSMAN	Adam Davidson
FAIRIES	Chabi Arauz, Mandi Bryce, Natalie Dixon, Esther Zignaigo, Risa Takeshima, Anna Turkington, Matt Bryce, Adam Davidson, Ilia Dogudovskii, Matthew Jordan, Eugene Pang
*LITTLE FAIRIES	Sadie Armstrong, Julianna Ferreira
*BUNNY	Madison Ayer
*MOUSE	Lillian Yang
TITANIA	Akari Fujiwara
OBERON	Adrián Ramirez Juárez
*LYNX	Gabriella Sinclair
PASTOR	Marco Alessandro Corcella

Play- The Most Lamentable Tale of Pyramus and Thisbe

MASTER OF CEREMONY	Esther Zignaigo
PYRAMUS	Adam Davidson
WALL	Matt Bryce
THISBE	Ilia Dogudovskii
LION	Eugene Pang

JÖRGEN COMMUNITY DANCE

Credits

Local Youth Participants:

Beatrice Apostol, Sadie Armstrong, Keira Edwards, Julianna Ferreira, Alyna Glass, Anastasia Gornostayev, Anna Gornostayev, Gabriella Sinclair, Madison Ayer, Sofia Khan, Kary Lee, Diara Navin, Aishat Olowe, Mila Oreopoulos, Lily Rose Orr, Sofia Pilorget, Defne Saglam, Nyree Smith, Lillian Yang, Rachel Zimmerman MacEwen

Local Youth Participants Courtesy of:

Aura Dance Studio, Ballet Etobicoke, Charb Arts Studios, City of Mississauga Culture Division - Dance, Harriet Chung Performing Arts, Jo-Anne Chapman School Of Dance, Kids in Dance, Protégé Dance Company, Rhythm Dance Studio, Swansea School of Dance, The Danceroom

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Ballet Jörgen Extends Special Thanks

LEAPS & BOUNDS
PERFORMANCE REHABILITATION

Carolina Rotondo, MPT, Cert. MDT
Taylin Kelly, MScPT, BScKin

Leaps and Bounds: Performance Rehabilitation
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All of our volunteers that made this production possible.

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Panama, Panama
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Mandi Bryce
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
Company Member since 2025

Marco Alessandro Corcella
Cerignola, Italy
Company Dancer 2026

Matthew Bryce
Maple Ridge, British Columbia
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Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019

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Company Dancer
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Moscow, Russia
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Akari Fujiwara
Aichi, Japan
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Montréal, Québec
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Adelaide, Australia
Company Member
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Adrián Ramírez Juárez
México City, Mexico
Company Member since
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Rose Juliette
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Kumamoto, Japan
Company Member
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Ryusei Nagafuchi
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Garreth Chapple
Toronto, Ontario
Ballet Jörgen Mentee

Natalie Kempton
Dartmoutyh, Nova Scotia
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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
Costumers & Cutters Brenda Clark, Kim Crossley
Assistants Kaz Maxine, Karen Merriam, Shona Humphrey, Nancy Turner
Millinery and Moose Headdress Monica Viani

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

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RBC Apprentice Courtney Yun, Emma Courish
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Principal Character Artist Clea Iveson
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Resident Stage Direction Heinar Pillar
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