



Visual Storybook

Meet the Artists



Choreographer
Christopher Wheeldon



Artistic Director
Gil Boggs



Composer
Felix Mendelssohn



Conductor
Adam Flatt

A choreographer creates and arranges dance movements, a composer writes and arranges music, an artistic director oversees the creative direction of performances, and a conductor leads the orchestra during rehearsals and performances.

ACT I



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of New York City Ballet

Hermia and Lysander are very much in love. When Hermia's father Egeus demands she marry Demetrius with the blessing of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, Hermia is distraught. She wants to marry Lysander. Demetrius is pursued by Helena but is in love with Hermia. When he rejects Helena she becomes upset. Helena sees Hermia and Lysander run away together to the woods and tells Demetrius who proceeds to follow them, Helena close behind.



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of New York City Ballet

As the sprites and fairies of the kingdom make their way to the court of the King of the Fairies, Oberon and his queen, Titania, the lovers wander through the woods watched by Puck, servant to Oberon.



Photo Credit: Mike Watson featuring Artists of the Colorado Ballet

Titania and Oberon arrive to their court with Titania's attendant, an indian changeling child. Oberon admires her attendant and insists Titania give the child to him. Titania refuses and leaves, taking the child with her.



Photo Credit: Design by Robert Perdizola

Enraged, Oberon tasks Puck with finding a flower which causes the victim to become infatuated with the first person they lay eyes on. Demetrius enters the clearing followed by Helena, and Oberon conceals himself. While Demetrius searches for Hermia, Helena does her best to get his attention but is cast aside. Seeing all of this, Oberon follows them thinking he may be able to help.



Photo Credit: Design by Robert Perdizola

Meanwhile, Puck is in search of the flower. He finds it and brings it back to Oberon. Oberon then sends Puck off to use a petal from the flower on Demetrius and Helena.



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of Pacific Northwest Ballet

After her encounter with Oberon, Titania is weary. The fairies sing her to sleep keeping the changeling child close. Once the fairies leave, Oberon uses the magic of the flower on her and quickly vanishes.



Photo Credit: Erin Baiano featuring artists of NYC Ballet

Lost in the woods, Hermia and Lysander search for somewhere to rest. They pick a spot and Hermia sends Lysander off to sleep at a respectable distance. In flies Puck, who mistakes Lysander for Demetrius and uses the magic of the flower on him.



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of Tulsa Ballet

Demetrius and Helena enter the clearing. Demetrius rejects Helena a final time and leaves her despondent. Helena then finds Lysander sleeping in the clearing and wakes him. Under the spell of the flower, Lysander sees Helena and falls madly in love, following her further into the forest. When Hermia wakes she finds Lysander is missing and runs off to find him.



Photo Credit: Mike Watson featuring Sean Omandam and Gregory Gonzales

Four villagers become lost, watched over by Oberon and Puck. The two chose Nick Bottom as their unwitting victim, turning him into a donkey and scaring off his friends. They then lead him to where Titania is resting, their plan now in motion.



Photo Credit: Mike Watson featuring Maria Mosina and Gregory Gonzales

Titania awakens to the sound of Bottom's braying and when she lays her gaze upon him she falls deeply in love. Oberon and Puck watch and laugh to see their revenge plot was successful.

ACT II



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of San Francisco Ballet

Still in search of Lysander, Hermia stumbles upon Demetrius. She demands to know where Lysander is. Getting no response from him, Hermia storms away. In need of rest, Demetrius finds a nice spot in the clearing and lays down to sleep. Thinking he can fix the error made by Puck, Oberon finds a sleeping Demetrius and dusts the flower pollen in his eyes.



Photo Credit: Mike Watson featuring Artists of Colorado Ballet

In rushes Helena being pursued by Lysander. She wakes Demetrius to help her and he too falls in love with her. Now being pursued by both men, Helena tries to fight them off. As she struggles, Hermia enters the clearing and attempts to help Helena and reclaim to affection of Lysander. Fighting ensues between the four individuals.



Photo Credit: Costume Design by Robert Perdizola

In order to rectify Puck's mistake, Oberon hypnotizes the lovers and places them to sleep with their correct partners. Oberon then wakes Titania to teach her a lesson. Having been awoken and seeing the beast she has slept with, Titania feels foolish and agrees to give the changeling child to Oberon. They set off into the forest followed by Puck who changes Bottom back into a human before leaving.



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of Houston Ballet

The day of Hermia's wedding has arrived. Bridesmaids and groomsmen are sent out to find the couples. Upon discovering that Demetrius is now content to marry Helena, Duke Theseus approves of Hermia's marriage to Lysander. The four lovers go back to the court.

ACT III



Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of San Francisco Ballet

At the court, the bridesmaids and children of the court prepare Hermia and Helena to be married. Once the two couples are married by Duke Theseus the court dances the night away.



Photo Credit: Mike Watson featuring Maria Mosina and Alexei Tyukov

In the woods, Titania and Oberon reconcile their disagreement and Titania gives the changeling child to Oberon. They dance the night away, at peace once more.