

## "A Midsummer Night's Dream Event": Shakespeare set in Vegas delights

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### Theater Review

Oberon, Titania and a band of fairies are cooking up mischief in parks throughout the region this summer. Wooden O Productions offers a magical evening with its presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Director Vanessa Miller has staged the action of Shakespeare's play to emphasize the comic elements of the piece and extend the slapstick without sacrificing the language or story line. The result is a delightful summer concoction that is as pleasing to children as it is to adults. It's a great way to introduce youngsters to Shakespeare.

Otherwise, this is an ideal play for an outdoor setting. Adults and families can sit on the grass and take delight in the silly misunderstandings and unimaginable mistakes that take place one make-believe night, when applications of a little pixie dust have unintended consequences.

During the comedy's night in the woods, the careless Puck, under Oberon's order, places a love potion on the eyes of sleeping Titania, and then on the lovesick mortals who have sought refuge in the forest. Mayhem ensues.

Titania falls in love with a braying ass. The four human lovers wind up in disarray. A slapdash band of actors concocts a bizarre play. All of which is made right by the end of the night.

Director Miller sets her story in Vegas, where one expects illusion to collide with reality. The circuslike costumes, twirling streamers and light-studded hoops reinforce the fact that this is an unreal world.

But all too soon, the actual moon rises over the park, the fairies disappear, and it's back to reality after a satisfying evening of theater.

