

Reinventing the 'Dream'

The Theater Company revamps Shakespearean Classic

BY KELLY PREISER
The Battalion

Try to imagine your wildest dream. Now imagine it on stage.

That is the premise behind The Theater Company of Bryan-College Station's production of William Shakespeare's comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which will be playing for the next two weeks at The Theater.

"The entire production revolves around sleeping and dreaming. It goes into a different realm than most Shakespeare — the realm of fantasy," said Chris Vander Kaay, who plays the role of Bottom.

The play is directed by Randy Wilson, who began his career acting in New York, then went to Baylor to get his masters in theater and has been directing since 1981.

"I've directed everything from the most famous Shakespeare plays to 'The Fiddler on the Roof' to 'Camelot.' I usually direct about seven shows a year," Wilson said.

Wilson's directed version of a "Midsummer Night's Dream" takes a different twist on the story.

"This version is great because of the different way it's done. Wilson changed the setting to 1920s Paris and made the character Bottom the lead instead of Oberon. The costuming is also brilliant and there's also a complicated lighting scheme, so it's really great," Vander Kaay said.

"I took a real fresh approach in directing this play. I decided to do it this way when I read an article by Harold Blume, who is a Shakespeare authority in England. Then I came upon a picture that really impressed me that was on the cover of a book of French plays by a playwright I really like. I just thought ... I love that period [the '20s and '30s

in Paris]! So that's how it started, but it's expanded past that now," Wilson said.

"Costumes, for one thing, are really wonderful. James Vignal, a costume designer, worked with me on my crazy ideas. The actors' performances are great. Robert Gonzalez, who plays Puck is great. The fairy scenes are beautiful — the set is so well realized. But I really had a lot of help from my producer, Amy Wise. She was really willing to work with me. We got most of my vision the way I wanted it. Everyone should come see it, it's a lot of fun," Wilson said.

Wilson said that while viewers may be surprised by the look of the play, they quickly adjust to changes that have been made.

"So far our audiences have really enjoyed it. At first they might be a little taken aback, but after they get into it, they really enjoy it, and it's really enjoyable to watch," said Wilson.

"This is really a first class production. Anyone interested in theater should come see it. We have a growing audience and would like to tap in more to A&M," said Pam Coleman, who plays Hippolyta in the production.

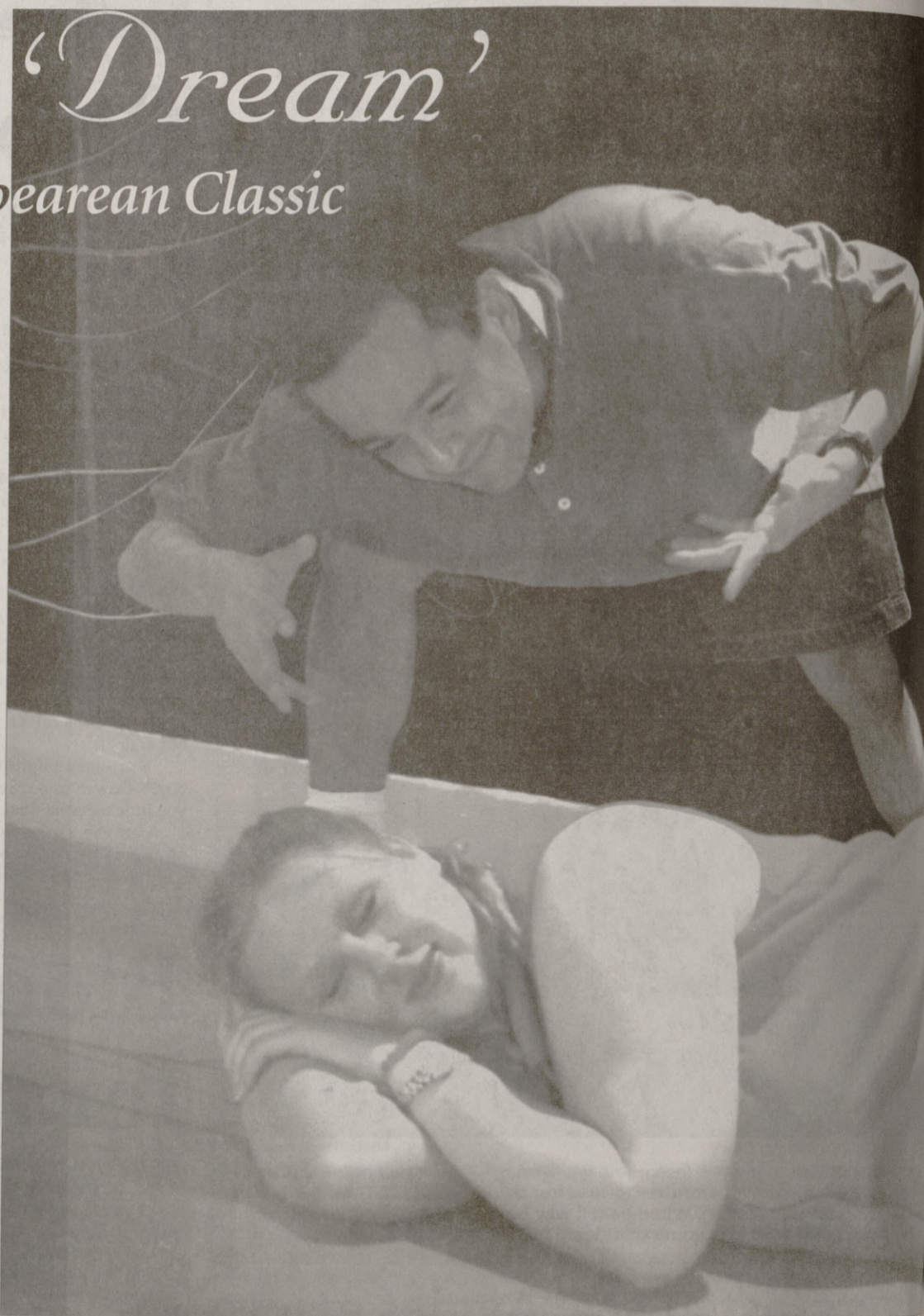
"We really love having A&M students. That's why we have tickets on sale at the MSC. It's a place where students can feel like they're at home. It's a home away from home," Wilson said.

"This will be a production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' you'll never see again. It's very original. It's very individual in that it's very much a realization of my dreams," Wilson said.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be showing for the next two weekends at the Theatre Company of Bryan-College Station (formerly 'Magination Station) at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office.

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— Randy Wilson
Director of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"



Robert Gonzales portrays Puck and Christy Sims portrays Titania in The Theatre's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Worship Directory

Assembly of God

Bethel Temple Assembly of God
2608 Villa Maria, Bryan
776-4835
Sunday Worship 8:30, 10:45, 6:00 pm
College & Career Class Sun. 9:30
Randy Scott, Pastor
www.startel.net/bethel

Baptist

Texas Avenue Baptist Church
3400 Texas Avenue South, C.S.
(at the intersection of Deacon & Texas Ave.)
696-6000
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 4 p.m.,
Wednesday 7 p.m.
Pastor Eric Doucet

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6:30 PM Worship
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on Graham Rd. between
Wellborn and the West
bypass service Road.

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St. Mary's
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Rev. David A. Konderla, Associate Pastor
Campus Ministers
Deacon Bill Scott • Martha Tonn
Lillian Smith • Maureen Murray
Heidi Nicolini
Daily Masses
Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m.
Tues., Thurs: 12:05 Noon
All Faith's Chapel on A&M Campus
Sat.: 10:30 a.m. (Korean)
Weekend Masses
Sat. - 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 (Spanish)
Sun. - 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:30, 7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

Bryan / College Station Church of Christ
Sunday
Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
College Station Conference Center
(Just across George Bush from TAMU Golf Course)
(409) 731-1230
Email: mark-d@tamu.edu or mwmm@tamu.edu

Episcopal

St. Thomas Episcopal
906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX
(Across from Duncan Dining Hall)
Sunday services at 8:00, 9:00 and especially
for late rising Ags, 11:15 a.m.
Next door to Canterbury House,
the Episcopal Student Center

Free Will Baptist

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church
College & Career Class
You are invited to a Bible study especially for students.
Sunday mornings at 9:45
1228 W. Villa Maria
779-2297
For more information contact
Marcus Brewer: 696-6558
mbrewer@tamu.edu
http://PersonalWebs.myraid.net/fwb

Lutheran

Peace Lutheran Church
FM 2818 at Rio Grande • College Station
Worship 8:15 & 10:45
Aggie Lutherans
Craig Borchardt - Pastor Debra Grant - Pastor
2201 Rio Grande Blvd.693-4403

Non-Denominational

Covenant Family Church
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Sunday 10:30 a.m. Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
4010 Harvey Rd. (Hwy. 30) E-Mail: greenct@aol.com
College Station 774-1269 www.covenant-family-church.org

United Methodist

A&M United Methodist
417 University Dr. (on Northgate) • 846-8731
Sunday Services: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
College Sunday School 9:45
Sr. Pastor Charles Anderson
amumc@tca.net

First United Methodist Church
28th & Houston St.,
1 block E. of Texas Ave., in Bryan
779-1324
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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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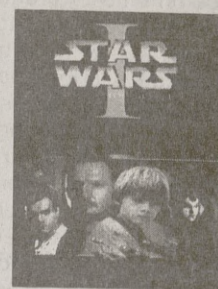
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