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Production photos now available for

Chicago Shakespeare Theater's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Now thru January 3 in the Jentes Family Courtyard Theater

Performed in repertory with *The Winter's Tale* as the centerpiece theatrical event of the 40th Anniversary Season

Directed by Artistic Director Edward Hall



Chicago—November 13, 2026—Chicago Shakespeare Theater **(CST)** begins performances for ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, the second production of an unforgettable theatrical event at the heart of our 40th Anniversary Season.

Under the creative leadership of **CST Artistic Director Edward Hall** and taking inspiration from Shakespeare's own company and CST's roots as the Shakespeare Repertory, one company of 14 outstanding Chicago actors perform both ***The Winter's Tale*** **(October 13-December 12**) and ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** **(November 11-January 3)**, two of Shakespeare's most beguiling fairy tales exploring the formidable power of love, laughter, and forgiveness. The all-Chicago cast includes **Ronald L. Conner**, **Sean Fortunato**, **Kevin Gudahl**, **Dan Haller**, **Erik Hellman**, **Chiké Johnson**, **Kieran McCabe**, **Felicia Oduh**, **Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta**, **Issy van Randwyck**, **Patty Roache**, **Grace Steckler**, **Demetrios Troy**, and **Jessica Dean Turner**. This double header of productions in the Courtyard Theater, the first in CST's history, makes for a thrilling theatrical experience, and audiences will have the one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience both repertory productions in one day on November 21 & 24 and December 5 & 12.

“Bringing these two plays together with one group of actors is a genuinely exciting prospect,” said Hall. “Audiences will have the rare opportunity of seeing performers switch into completely different roles from one play to another celebrating Chicago’s huge well of creative talent. This Chicago Shakespeare Company will have it all: laughter, drama, magic, forgiveness, and love. An unforgettable journey through magic forests and wild seacoasts, with fairies, oracles, bears, kings, and queens. Everything that a good adventure can bring you and all from the safety of your seat!”

The cast and creative team boasts a combined 300+ credits at Chicago Shakespeare Theater along with exciting debut performances:

Ronald L. Conner (Snout) was most recently seen onstage at CST as Bardolph in *Henry V*, Lord Capulet in *Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet*, and Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*.

Sean Fortunato (Theseus/Oberon) has performed in over two dozen Chicago Shakespeare productions, most recently as Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other recent credits include *Leopoldstadt* at Writers Theatre and *Catch Me If You Can* at Marriott Theatre.

Kevin Gudahl (Egeus) holds the record for appearing in 65 CST productions, including 53 as an actor and 12 as verse coach or director, and was most recently seen as Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing*. In June, Gudahl received the Spirit of Shakespeare Artistic Award.

Dan Haller (Lysander) makes his CST debut after recently graduating from the Theatre School at DePaul. Recent credits include *Courtney vs. Cancer* at Raven Theatre and *Coriolanus* at the Athenaeum Center.

Erik Hellman (Quince) returns to CST with many credits, most recently Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Lord Hastings in *Richard III*. Other recent credits include *Leopoldstadt* at Writers Theatre and *Holiday* at Goodman Theatre.

Chiké Johnson (Bottom) returns to CST after playing Master Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and his Jeff Award-nominated performance as Benny in *Hymn*. Other recent credits include *Ashland Avenue* at Goodman Theatre.

Kieran McCabe (Flute) played Mick Avory in CST’s US premiere of *Sunny Afternoon*, with other recent credits including *As You Like It* at CST and Writers Theatre and the title role in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*.

Felicia Oduh (Hermia) has been seen onstage at CST as Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Juliet in *Short Shakespeare! Romeo and Juliet,* and Julietta in *Measure for Measure*. Other recent credits include *Covenant* at Goodman Theatre.

Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta (Demetrius) previously appeared in *Shakespeare in the Parks: The Hero Within* with CST. He is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, where he appeared as Don Quixote/Cervantes in *Man of La Mancha*.

Issy van Randwyck (Starveling) returns to CST after appearing as Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Bottom in *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and the subsequent Shakes in the City tour.

Patty Roache (Puck), making their CST debut, is a company member with Queer Dance Freakout and artistic affiliate at Babes with Blades, with whom they appeared as Helena in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Queen Margaret in *Richard III*.

Grace Steckler (Helena) has been seen onstage as Helena in *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and the subsequent Shakes in the City tour. Other recent credits include *Octet* at Raven Theatre and Goodman Theatre.

Demetrios Troy (Snug the Joiner) most recently appeared as Pistol in *Henry V*, with many other CST credits including *Richard III, King Charles III*, and *Julius Caesar*. He is known for playing Lazarus in the series *The Chosen*.

Jessica Dean Turner (Titania/Hippolyta) recently appeared at CST as Gertrude in *Short Shakespeare! Hamlet* and Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III*. She has many additional Chicago theater credits, including work at Goodman Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre.

An acclaimed international director, CST Artistic Director **Edward Hall** joined the company in 2023, and has since directed *Short Shakespeare! Hamlet, Sunny Afternoon, Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Henry V,* and *Richard III*. Prior to his tenure as Artistic Director, he directed *Rose Rage* at CST and in New York in 2003. He was the founding artistic director

of the multi award-winning Propeller Shakespeare, touring globally for over 20 years. He led the UK's Hampstead Theatre for nearly a decade, transforming it into one of the nation's most successful theaters for new work development with more than 100 world premieres. He has served as an Associate Director at the National Theatre and Old Vic, and his extensive film and television credits include *The Heist Before Christmas, Blithe Spirit* starring Dame Judi Dench, multiple HBO and BBC series, and the *Downton Abbey* season four finale. He is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago.

The creative team also includes Scenic and Costume Designer **Michael Pavelka**, Lighting Designer **Marcus Doshi**, Sound Designer **Emily Hayman**, Composer **Kieran McCabe**, Casting Director **Bob Mason**, Associate Director **Nicole Ricciardi**, Production Stage Manager **Jinni Pike**, Assistant Stage Manager **Danny Fender**, and Second Assistant Stage Manager **Anna Vu**.

Opening for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is set for **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15**.

More information at **www.chicagoshakes.com** or on social media at @chicagoshakes.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by **William Shakespeare**
Directed by **Edward Hall**
November 11, 2026-January 3, 2027
The Jentes Family Courtyard Theater

"Give me your hands, if we be friends..."
Shakespeare's most magical romantic comedy is a delectable treat for all as some of his best-loved characters are consumed by the absurd chaos of love and the joy of friendship. Young love collides with a fairy feud and a bumbling group of amateur theatricals in the most warm-hearted play in the English language. An enchanting story of love, marriage, and magic, this "Dream" will fill you with happiness and hope.

PERFORMANCE LISTING

- Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Fridays at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Creative Team

Edward Hall – Director
Michael Pavelka – Scenic and Costume Designer
Marcus Doshi – Lighting Designer
Emily Hayman – Sound Designer
Kieran McCabe - Composer
Bob Mason – Casting
Nicole Ricciardi – Associate Director
Jinni Pike – Production Stage Manager
Danny Fender – Assistant Stage Manager
Anna Vu – Second Assistant Stage Manager

Cast

Ronald L. Conner – Antigonus/Snout
Sean Fortunato – Lord/Autolycus/Theseus/Oberon
Kevin Gudahl – Lord/Old Shepherd/Egeus
Dan Haller – Lord/Young Shepherd/Lysander
Erik Hellman – Camillo/Quince
Chiké Johnson – Polixenes/Bottom
Kieran McCabe – Lord/Flute
Felicia Oduh – Mamillius/Perdita/Hermia
Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta – Florizel/Demetrius
Issy van Randwyck – Paulina/Starveling
Patty Roache – Lady/Mopsa/Puck
Grace Steckler – Dorcas/Helena
Demetrios Troy – Leontes/Snug the Joiner
Jessica Dean Turner – Hermione/Titania/Hippolyta

ABOUT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER (CST)

CST is a leading international theater company and the nation's largest year-round theater dedicated to the works of Shakespeare. Under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Edward Hall, the Regional Tony Award recipient is committed to creating vivid, entertaining theatrical experiences that invigorate and engage people of all ages and identities by illuminating the complexity, ambiguity, and wonder of our world. With Shakespeare at the heart of the artistic work, CST also produces compelling, contemporary stories from fresh voices of today. CST brings the world to Chicago and sends Chicago out into the world as Chicago's foremost presenter of international theater, and consistent producer of North American and world premieres. Serving more students and teachers than any theater in the city, CST annually welcomes more than 20,000 students to performances and programs like Chicago Shakespeare SLAM, alongside professional development opportunities for teachers. CST activates its campus with three venues: 700-seat The Yard; the 500-seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater; and the 200-seat Carl and Marilynn Thoma Upstairs Studio. Shared humanity and unforgettable stories—now THIS is Chicago Shakespeare. www.chicagoshakes.com

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