



For immediate release May 28, 2019

Bear & Co. tours Shakespeare's well-loved *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Ottawa parks July 3–August 4

In ancient Athens, a father owns his daughter. Falling in love outside his wishes is not an option. Hermia faces death if she does not obey.

But this is a **comedy**! A love-struck Duke and his Amazon queen, warring monarchs of the Fairy kingdom, mismatched rival lovers, and a hapless troupe of improbable players all get knitted up into a tangled knot of desire and hilarity. How will the course of true love ever run smooth? Leave it to Puck to interpret the Dream!

A family favourite, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, produced by Bear & Co., invites the audience to play. Bring your children by 18:40 to take part in the woodland scenes. At 18:50, help us construct our outdoor theatre by seating yourselves. Chairs or a rug: necessary. So is raingear in "Scots weather!" A picnic, butterfly hat, or kazoos: optional. The show commences at 19:00!

Directed by Rachel Eugster (core Bear artist, Banquo, Luciana), this year's cast is led by Bear favourites Chris McLeod (Prospero, Macbeth, Albany) and Phillip Merriman (Romeo, multiple *Cymbeline* villains, Edgar). Rebecca Benson (six roles in *Cymbeline*!) returns, as do Guy Buller (Iago, Hortensio), Eleanor Crowder (core Bear artist, Good/Bad Duke, Gloucester), and Gabriella Gadsby (Cordelia). Nick Wade (Backpack and May Can alum) joins us for his first Bear show, and we welcome Gilbert Benson-Franks (age 10) to the stage, as he makes his professional debut as Puck.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Rachel Eugster / Producers: Eleanor Crowder, Rachel Eugster

Players: Rebecca Benson, Gil Benson-Franks, Guy Buller, Eleanor Crowder, Nicholas Fournier, Gabriella Gadsby, Chris McLeod, Phillip Merriman

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Coming to a park near you! We play Wednesday through Sundays, July 2 (open dress rehearsal) –August 4, 2019. Full schedule will be posted shortly at <http://www.bearandcompany.ca/>. All shows begin at 7:00 p.m. outdoors.

Bring the family, a picnic and something to sit on! Bring kids early, if they'd like to join in.

We pass the hat at the end of the show. Suggested donation: \$20 per person

Rain policy: We play in Scots weather! The show will go on, unless conditions become unsafe.

About Bear & Co. *Compelling theatre, close to home.* Eleanor Crowder and Rachel Eugster are the core artists at the heart of this professional indie collective: www.bearandcompany.ca/; bearandcompanytheatre@gmail.com.

Media Contact:

For further media information and artist interviews, marketing, and promotions, contact Rachel Eugster (bearandcompanytheatre@gmail.com; 613-290-2707)

CAEA: *This is a Canadian Actors' Equity Association production under the Artists' Collective Policy.*

