



Meridian High School - A Midsummer Night's Dream-ish

To dream or not to dream? Hold on, sorry, wrong Shakespeare show. A Midsummer Night's Dream-ish was a hilarious show filled with incredible actors and technical elements.

The original A Midsummer Night's Dream was published in 1600 by the great playwright William Shakespeare. This version, while keeping most aspects of the original, gave the show a modern update, changing some language for modern listeners, and giving the show a new and exciting final twist. The show follows four lovers who get meddled with by King of the Fairies Oberon and his assistant Puck. That same King also sends Puck to meddle in a play being put on by six rude mechanicals. These different plots interact with each other until they come together in a big, dramatic finish!

The four lovers, Hermia, Helena, Demetrius and Lysander (played by Samantha Grooms, Eudora Neal, Hugo Ratheau and Abby Berg respectively) had great chemistry performing onstage. With every one of their choreographed actions, whether it be a punch that sends Demetrius flying onto a pillow, the pose that sends everyone pulling at each other's legs, or the hijinks with Oberon's love potion managed to be hilarious, not because the scene seemed unnatural with the actors, but on the contrary: the realistic way the actors viewed each heightened situation added to the hilarity, the seriousness and the dedication each actor gave to their character and that characters current situation was funny, without needing any over dramatic acting.

The opposite can be said when discussing the Rude Mechanicals, as their ability to heighten the comedic aspects of their character helped turn regular situations into uproarious ones. Jack Kreul, playing the braggadocious actor-turned-donkey Nick Bottom, was especially excellent at bringing his character's confidence to a heightened level. Whether he's confidently telling the author of the show Peter Quince (played by Aggie Linforth) to write the show in a certain format, and to change his role to a pirate, or his ordering around of Fairy Queen Titania's (played by Gundega Davidsone) fairies he never let his energy and cocky quality diminish.

The set, designed and built by Bailey Cash and Meridian's technical theater class, was impressively designed. The original, modest bedroom is taken apart to reveal mountains of cushions and pillows, with a giant sheet canopy that looks straight out of a toddlers pillow fort dream. The pillows are sewn together, with holes throughout the structure allowing fairies and the like to easily climb in and out of the visible stage. This impressive set hid another unusual but welcome part of Meridian's show: their inclusion of a live band. With cushions falling over to reveal a drum set, electric guitar and bass, the show's rock inspired music performed by Aubrey Marrow, Aiden Harper, Sol Modell and Duke Crespian provided for a hilarious tone switch from Shakespeare and showcased Meridian's impressive musical talents.

The entire show was filled with electrifying energy. From the lovers chasing each other around the stage, to the stressful but funny production put on by the Rude Mechanicals, and the mischief surrounding the trickery put on by the Fairy Royalty, there was never a down moment in the show, and there wasn't a moment any actor dropped from their exaggerated characters. Meridian High School's A Midsummer Night's Dream-ish was a modern and refreshing performance of one of Shakespeare's classics, with stunning technical elements, and committed and funny actors.