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A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare In Production)



Synopsis

This volume describes the theatrical fortunes of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the British stage, from the 1590s to the 1990s. A substantial introduction traces the rise of the play from theatrical neglect in the eighteenth century through the spectacular productions of the nineteenth century to its current high status. The authoritative Cambridge text of the play is accompanied by detailed notes on actors' interpretations, settings, textual alterations, and the conceptions of individual directors from David Garrick to Robert Lepage. It will be invaluable to students of Shakespeare in performance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...the variora of performative choices recorded in his lucid annotation provide a useful resource for teachers and students of the play. Highly recommended for all academic collections." Choice

This volume describes the theatrical fortunes of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the British stage, from the 1590s to the 1990s. A substantial introduction traces the rise of the play from theatrical neglect in the eighteenth century through the spectacular productions of the nineteenth century to its current high status.

Although it's been more than 40 years since I graduated with a degree in English and I've retired from a non-literary career in government, I still read Shakespeare on a regular basis. I'm updating

my collection with volumes that will fit into my backpack for travel. This edition fits nicely and the binding protects it from being bent better than a paperback.

This was helpful as a precursor to seeing a live production of the play, as it had been many years since I last read it. Shakespeare's language is, of course, beautiful, but it is also helpful to be able to glance at the "translation" to make sure I am really getting the meaning correctly.

One of my favorite Shakespeare plays with an easy to read translation, yes please. I have a BA in English, so reading Shakespeare is easy for me, but this book was a gift. The recipient really enjoyed reading Shakespeare in plain English.

Purchased the kindle version. Simple illustrations were omitted deliberately because of possible copyright infringements. I figure if I am purchasing the book, I should get the book, copyright and all.

I am performing this play coming up, and purchased this version of "Twelfth Night" to serve as a guide. First, physically, it is small enough not to be bulky as you carry it around onstage, but the text is still easily readable. Second, the modern text sits on the opposing page of the original, translating it line-by-line. This version even includes a character breakdown. I would recommend the "No Fear Shakespeare" editions to any actors preparing to perform the Bard's plays to fully understand the text and to make it fun.

As with most Shakespeare the language can both add and take away from the meaning or in this case the humor. Going to see the play at the Globe and didn't want to be confused so I read this first and will check out the movie next. Funny stuff that I've seen before but of course what I've seen before was likely influenced by this.

Shakespeare's classic comedy gets the graphic novel treatment courtesy of Classical Comics. The text is in the original language, perfect for classroom instruction, and the artwork is good enough to bring the story to life for inquiring minds. The comedy may lose a little in a book presentation, but a graphic novel may help pull in new generations of Shakespeare fans. The narrative captures the overlapping stories of the original play: The dilemma of the Duke of Athens over the fate of the maiden Hermia and her two lovers, the rivalry of the King and the Queen of the Fairies, and the group of thespians hoping to pull off a winning play in front of the Duke of Athens. The story relies

heavily on magic, passion, and the interference of the mischievous Puck, but it all works and works. Recommended as a good introduction to a great play.

When I lived in the Alexandria, VA area (1999-2001), I would visit The Folger Library in Wash, DC on a near-monthly basis. It's so wonderful to be able to build my Folger Library here! Thank you!

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