These are the audio description introductory notes for A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Creative audio description, performed live by the cast, is available at every performance for A Midsummer Night’s Dream from 14th February through till 30th March. Please call Box Office on 01789 331111 for more information.

***QUINCE***

Marry, our play is the most lamentable comedy by William Shakespeare - A Midsummer Night’s Dream…

Our director is Eleanor Rhode. The designer is Lucy Osborne. The sound designer is Pete Malkin. And the Audio Description Director is Ben Wilson, with consultancy from Vicky Ackroyd.

***MUSTARDSEED***

Welcome to the city state of Athens, the stage is vast, bare and charcoal grey, but hundreds of orbs hang from the sky - they are alive with light and colour. At the moment they are high above you but once we enter the forest they will float down to create the forest canopy and an eerie dreamscape. It’s an uncanny world where anything can happen. In this forest nothing quite feels real, and the normal rules do not apply - people will appear and vanish into thin air, and that’s just the start of the magic and mischief.

***QUINCE***

Our characters fill this world with striking silhouettes of post punk / new wave 1980s fashion and a live band is always present at the sides of the stage.

‘First - read the names of the actors and so grow on to a point.’

The court of Athens is awaiting the marriage of its leader - Duke Theseus - to Hippolyta.

THESEUS

HIPPOLYTA

EGEUS

PHILOSTRATE

Theseus & Hippolyta are not the only ones set to be wed. Four young Athenians have caught themselves in a complicated web of love and duty.

HERMIA

LYSANDER

DEMETRIUS

HELENA

Elsewhere in the city, a crew of mechanicals, a group of honest hard working Athenians, are hoping to perform a groundbreaking theatrical production at the upcoming nuptials.

‘Are we all met?’

QUINCE

BOTTOM

SNUG

SNOUT

STARVELING

FLUTE

***MUSTARDSEED***

‘Lord what fools these mortals be!’

But this world is not only inhabited by humans - amongst them are otherworldly spirits, the fairies. In their natural state they are orbs of energy, who move through the canopy and around the forest at will - they can be heard, felt and seen all around you. When they wish to they can take on human form.

OBERON

TITANIA

PUCK

PEASEBLOSSOM

COBWEB

MOTH

MUSTARDSEED

***QUINCE***

In your audio description headsets you will hear voices from our company sharing the visual elements of the story in their own inimitable and characterful ways.

‘For aught that I could ever read, could ever hear by tale or history, the course of true love never did run smooth…’