



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Lucy Pollak

lucy@lucypr.com (818) 887-1499 (for media only)

‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ is funny, impactful and moving at A Noise Within

PASADENA, Calif (September 5, 2023) — Funny, impactful and moving, A Noise Within’s delightful yet deeply resonant production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by **William Shakespeare** is set to open on **October 14** with co-artistic directors **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott** and **Geoff Elliott** at the helm. Performances will continue at the company’s Pasadena home through **November 12**, with previews beginning October 8.

When two pairs of mixed-up lovers and a troupe of amateur players stumble into the forest of feuding fairies, reality is upended as chaos and mischief abound. Anything can and does happen in this tumultuous, dreamlike world.

“This production anchors our entire ‘Balancing Act’ season,” note the directors. “When we start off, there’s a great deal of conflict, everything is out of whack. As the characters come together in the forest, they — and we — get to see everything in a whole new way and be changed by it. The characters, and even the forest itself, find a kind of alignment. They learn to get along and live with one another. It’s got to be Shakespeare’s most enchanting comedy — but the stakes are high and great transformations happen.”

A Noise Within’s stellar company of lovers, fairies and clowns includes **Zach Kenney** and **Trisha Miller** doubling as the two most contentious couples, Theseus and Hippolyta and Oberon and Titania, with the younger lovers portrayed by **Jeanne Syquia** as Helena, **Rafael Goldstein** as Demetrius, **Erika Soto** as Hermia and **Riley**



Shanahan as Lysander. **Kasey Mahaffy** plays that contrarian purveyor of chaos, Puck, with **Cassandra Marie Murphy** as the First Fairy. The hilarious mechanicals include **Frederick Stuart** as Nick Bottom, **Veralyn Jones** as Peter Quince, **Ed F. Martin** as Flute, and **Brendan Mulligan** as Snug. The ensemble is rounded out by **East Los Angeles College** theater department graduates **Hakop Mkhsian** and **Erick Valenzuela**.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of three plays, out of thirty-nine, for which Shakespeare does not follow a primary source. Literary critic Harold Bloom wrote, "Nothing before *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is its equal, and in some respects nothing by him afterward surpasses it. It is his first undoubted masterwork, without flaw, and one of his dozen or so plays of overwhelming originality and power."

"There's a reason why this play is done so often," conclude Rodriguez-Elliott and Elliott. "It's fast moving, it's muscular, and it's a great company show."

The creative team includes scenic designer **Frederica Nascimento**; lighting designer **Ken Booth**; composer and sound designer **Robert Oriol**; costume designer **Angela Balogh Calin**; wig and makeup designer **Tony Valdés**; properties designer **Stephen Taylor**; and dramaturg **Dr. Miranda Johnson-Haddad**. The production stage manager is **Angela Sonner**, with **Talya Camras** assisting.

A Noise Within has been called "an oasis for those who love classic stories" by the *Los Angeles Times* and is a leading regional producer based in Pasadena, California. Under the leadership Elliott and Rodriguez-Elliott, the award-winning resident company is committed to representing the entire community at its state-of-the-art, 324-seat performance space. In addition to producing world-class performances of classic theater, the organization runs robust education programs with the goal of inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. ANW believes in working hard on its anti-racist practice across the whole organization. By interpreting its mission to fully engage audiences through community and artist-centered work in multiple creative disciplines, ANW is striving to be a theater that better serves the entire community. A Noise Within's 2023-24 Season is presented by the **S. Mark Taper Foundation**.

Performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* take place **October 14** through **November 12** on **Fridays** at **8 p.m.**; **Saturdays** at **2 p.m.** and **8 p.m.**; and **Sundays** at **2 p.m.** (no 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Oct. 14; no evening performance on Saturday, Nov. 4). There will be one additional weeknight performance on **Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.** Four preview performances take place on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 11 and Thursday, Oct. 12 each at 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m.

Tickets start at **\$29**. Student tickets start at **\$18**. Tickets to the previews on **Wednesday, Oct. 11** and **Thursday, Oct. 12** will be **Pay What You Choose**, with tickets starting at **\$5** (available online beginning at 12 p.m. the Monday prior to that performance). Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

The preview on **Thursday, Oct. 12** will be **sensory-friendly**, with a handout providing advance warning and a discreetly-placed lantern offering visual indication of upcoming abrupt or intense moments of lighting, sound or on-stage action. An **INSiders Discussion Group** entitled “Studying Shakespeare” is set for **Sunday, Oct. 8** from **12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.**, prior to the matinee performance (separate admission: **\$25**). **Post-performance conversations** will take place **every Friday** (except the preview) and **Sunday, Oct. 22**. In addition, there will be **13 student matinees** scheduled throughout the run. Interested educators should email education@anoisewithin.org.

A Noise Within is located at **3352 E Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107**. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is recommended for mature audiences ages 14 and up. For more information and to purchase tickets, call **(626) 356-3100** or go to www.anoisewithin.org

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

Details for Calendar Listings ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at A Noise Within

WHAT:

A Noise Within presents its delightful yet deeply resonant production of Shakespeare’s most enchanting comedy, ***A Midsummer Night’s Dream***. When two pairs of mixed-up lovers and a troupe of amateur players stumble into the forest of feuding fairies, reality is upended as chaos and mischief abound. Anything can and does happen in this tumultuous, dreamlike world.

WHO:

- Written by **William Shakespeare**
- Directed by **Julia Rodriguez-Elliott** and **Geoff Elliott**
- Starring **Rafael Goldstein, Veralyn Jones, Zach Kenney, Kasey Mahaffy, Ed F. Martin, Trisha Miller, Hakop Mkhsian, Brendan Mulligan, Cassandra Marie Murphy, Riley Shanahan, Erika Soto, Frederick Stuart, Jeanne Syquia, Erick Valenzuela**
- Presented by **A Noise Within**, *Geoff Elliot and Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, producing artistic directors*

WHEN:

Previews Oct. 8 – Oct. 13

Performances Oct. 14 – Nov. 12

- **Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.:** Oct. 11 ONLY (Preview)
- **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.:** Oct. 12* (Preview) and Nov. 2 ONLY
- **Fridays at 8 p.m.:** Oct. 13 (Preview); Oct. 20**; Oct. 27**; Nov. 3**; Nov. 10**

- **Saturdays at 2 p.m.:** Oct. 21; Oct. 28; Nov. 4; Nov. 11 (no matinee on Oct. 14)
 - **Saturdays at 8 p.m.:** Oct. 14 (Opening Night); Oct. 21; Oct. 28; Nov. 11 (No evening performance on Nov. 4)
 - **Sundays at 2 p.m.:** Oct. 8[†] (Preview); Oct. 15; Oct. 22^{**}; Oct. 29; Nov. 5; Nov. 12
- *The preview on **Thursday, Oct. 12** will be **sensory-friendly**; a handout detailing when an abrupt or intense moment of lighting, sound or on-stage action will occur, and a discreetly-placed lantern will provide a visual indication of when these moments will occur.

****Post-performance conversations** with the artists **every Friday** (except the preview) and **Sunday, Oct. 22**

†An INSiders Discussion Group on “Studying Shakespeare” will take place prior to the matinee on **Sunday, Oct. 8** from **12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m.** (separate admission: **\$25**).

In addition, there will be **13 student matinees** scheduled throughout the run. Interested educators should email education@anoisewithin.org.

WHERE:

A Noise Within
3352 E Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107

TICKETS:

- Tickets start at **\$29**
- Student tickets start at **\$18**
- Wednesday, Aug. 30 and Thursday, Aug. 31 (previews): **Pay What You Choose** starting at **\$5** (available online beginning the Monday prior to that performance)
- Discounts available for groups of 10 or more

PHOTOS:

[Click here](#) to download high-resolution photos.

HOW:

www.anoisewithin.org
(626) 356-3100

A Noise Within’s 2023-24 Season is presented by the **S. Mark Taper Foundation**.

###