

FULL CAST ANNOUNCED FOR PETER HALL'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM AT THE ROSE THEATRE

**ROSE
THEATRE**
Kingston

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Peter Hall

Set and costume design by Elizabeth Bury

with lighting by Peter Mumford and sound design by Gregory Clarke.

9 February to 20 March 2010

PRESS NIGHT: MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2010

Judi Dench will be joined in Peter Hall's production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream** by Oliver Chris, William Chubb, Msimisi Dlamini, Charles Edwards, Richard Keightley, James Laurenson, Ben Mansfield, Reece Ritchie, Susan Salmon, Annabel Scholey, Simon Scott, Sophie Scott, Timothy Speyer, Rachael Stirling, Julian Wadham, Leon Williams and Tam Williams

Magic and mischief collide as four young lovers defy authority and are forced to flee the Court for the forest, only to find themselves entangled in a world of reckless enchantment, wonder and sexual desire.

Set in Elizabethan England, this new production sees Titania, the Fairy Queen, as a portrait of the ageing Queen Elizabeth I, fascinated with the theatre, besieged by courtiers but 'married to the people of England'.

A Midsummer Night's Dream reunites Peter Hall and Judi Dench, an enduring theatrical partnership lasting over fifty years. Judi Dench first played Titania for Peter Hall with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1962 and they have subsequently worked together on productions such as *Antony and Cleopatra* (National Theatre), *The Royal Family* (Haymarket) and *Hay Fever* (West End).

Judi Dench plays Titania. Her theatre credits include *Madame De Sade* (Wyndhams), *Hay Fever*, *The Breath of Life* (Haymarket Theatre), *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *All's Well That Ends Well* (RSC), *Amy's View* (National Theatre and Broadway) and *A Little Night Music* (National Theatre). For television, her credits include *Cranford*, *As Time Goes By* and *Last of the Blonde Bombshells*; and for film, *The Quantum of Solace*, *Notes on a Scandal*, *Casino Royale*, *Mrs Henderson Presents*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Iris*, *Chocolat*, *Shakespeare in Love* (Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress) and *Mrs Brown*.

Oliver Chris plays Bottom. Theatre credits include *Rain Man (Tour)*, *Well* (Apollo), *Portrait of a Lady* (Bath), *Taming of the Shrew* (Wilton's Music Hall) and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. For television *Fairy Tales - 'Rapunzel'*, *Hotel Babylon*, *Bonkers*, *Tripping Over*, *Sharpe's Challenge*, *The IT Crowd*, *Green Wing*, *Shelley*, *The Real Jane Austen*, *Rescue Me*, *The Office*, *Lorna Doone*. Film includes *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *The Gathering* and *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*.

William Chubb plays Egeus. His most recent theatre credits include for the Rose Theatre *Love's Labour's Lost*. Other stage credits include *The Sea* (Haymarket), *The History Boys* (NT), *Hay Fever* (Peter Hall Company), *You Never Can Tell* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Whose Life is it Anyway?* (Duke of Yorks) *Galileo's Daughter* (Peter Hall Company), *Homebody Kabul* (Young Vic) and *Ghosts* (ETT). His television credits include *A Very British Sex Scandal*, *Trial and Retribution*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Absolute Power*. For film, his credits include *Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War*, *Milk* and *The Woodlanders*.

Msimisi Dlamini plays Philostrate. Theatre credits include *The Spanish Tragedy* (Arcola), *Namuhula Na Kusasa* (Mbabane Theatre), *Accidental Death of An Anarchist* (Mark Blanco Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Nuffield). Film credits include *Shoot on Sight* for Channel Four.

Charles Edwards plays Oberon. His theatre credits include *The Apple Cart* (Peter Hall Co), *The Browning Version*, *The 39 Steps* (Tricycle/West End), *Hay Fever* (Haymarket), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Peter Hall Co), *Twelfth Night* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Duchess of Malfi* (National Theatre). For television, his credits include *Mistresses*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Monarch of the Glen*, *Murder Rooms* and *Longitude*. His film credits include *Batman Begins*, *Mansfield Park*, *Relative Values* and *An Ideal Husband*.

Richard Keightley plays Fairy. His credits for stage include *Hamlet* (TNT Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oxford Stage Co), *La Dispute* (Theatre du Preau), *Othello* (Epsilon) and *Doctor Faustus* (Left Handed Theatre).

James Laurenson plays Quince. His credits for stage include for Peter Hall, *The Apple Cart*, *The Browning Version*, *Pygmalion*, *Measure for Measure*, *Waiting for Godot* and *As You Like It*. Other recent stage credits include Michael Grandage's *Othello* at the Donmar and *The Crucible* (RSC). His television credits include *Spooks*, *Margaret Thatcher*, *The Long March to Finchley*, *Hustle* and *Silent Witness*. Film credits include *Afterlife* and *The Cat's Meow*.

Ben Mansfield plays Demetrius. His stage credits include *Jenufa* (National Perspective), *French Without Tears* (ETT), *Sisterly Feelings* (Bristol Old Vic). Television credits include *Primeval* and *Holby City* and for film, *Mr Nobody* and *Hell Bent for Leather*.

Reece Ritchie plays Puck. His theatre credits include *Victory* (Theatre Royal Bath). His television credits include *Atlantis*, *Pete Versus Life* and *Silent Witness*. For film his credits include *Prince of Persia*, *The Lovely Bones* and *10,000 BC*.

Susan Salmon plays Hippolyta. Her theatre credits include *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Big White Fog* (Almeida), *The Sugar Wife* (Rough Magic), *Macbeth* (Out of Joint), *Medea* (Abbey Theatre, Broadway and Paris), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (NT) and *Office* (Soho). Television credits include *Primeval*, *Golden Hour*, *Holby City* and *Rockface II*.

Simon Scott plays Snout. His stage credits include *Pinocchio* (Lyceum Edinburgh), *Romeo and Juliet* (Birmingham Rep), *A Christmas Carol* (Lyceum Edinburgh), *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (all for the RSC). His television credits include *A Touch Of Frost*, *Doctors*, *Taggart* and *Inspector Morse*.

Sophie Scott plays First Fairy. Previous credits at the Rose Theatre include *Uncle Vanya*, and for the Peter Hall Company *The Portrait of A Lady*. Most recent stage credits include *The Kreutzer Sonata* (Gate), *The Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Twelfth Night* (Donmar) and *Our Country's Good* (Haymarket).

Annabel Scholey plays Hermia. Theatre credit include *The House of Special Purpose* (CFT), *Wallenstein* (CFT), *Hamlet* (Tobacco Factory), *The Cherry Orchard* (Sheffield Crucible) *The Real Thing* (Theatre Royal Bath) and *Troilus and Cressida* (Peter Stein at the Kings Theatre Edinburgh). Television credits include *Being Human*, *Personal Affairs*, *Eastenders*, *Jane Eyre*, *Poirot* and *Holby City*.

Timothy Speyer plays Snug. His theatre credits include for Peter Hall, *Pygmalion* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Great Expectations* (Manchester Library), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Shakespeare's Globe), *The Anatomist* (English Angles) *Horrible Histories* (Tour) and *Tom's Midnight Children* (Birmingham). His television credits include *The Culshaw and Stephenson Show*, *The Dorset Hanging Oak*, *Wind Up TV* and *The Hutton Enquiry*.

Rachel Stirling plays Helena. Theatre credits include *The Priory* (Royal Court), *Pygmalion* (International Tour), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Wilton's Music Hall), *Uncle Vanya* (Wilton's), *Tamburlaine* (Bristol Old Vic), and *Theatre of Blood* (National Theatre). Television credits include *Boy Meets Girl*, *Murder at the Vicarage*, *Lewis*, *The Haunted Airman* and *Tipping the Velvet*. Film credits include *The Young Victoria*, *Centurion*, *The Triumph of Love*, *Freeze Frame* and *Maybe Baby*.

Julian Wadham plays Theseus. Theatre credits include *Plenty* (Albery Theatre), *A Letter of Resignation* (Comedy), *Our Country's Good* (Royal Court) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (National Theatre). Television credits include *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, *The Alan Clark Diaries*, *Islands At War*, *Middlemarch*, *Blind Justice* and *My Boy Jack*. His film credits include *Wah Wah*, *The English Patient*, *The Madness of King George* and *Goya's Ghosts*.

Leon Williams plays Flute. His most recent stage credits include *Crimes of the Heart* (Union Theatre), *Great Expectations* (Manchester Library), *Romeo and Juliet* (Regents Park), *Twelfth Night* (Regents Park), *The Changeling* (ETT) and *Charley's Aunt* (Oxford Playhouse).

Tam Williams plays Lysander. For theatre his credits include *Factors Forseen* (Orange Tree), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Winter's Tale* (all at the Watermill) and *Macbeth* (West End). His television credits include *A Touch of Frost*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *Heartbeat* and *Cold Enough for Snow*.

Peter Hall, internationally acclaimed director of theatre, opera and film, is the Rose's Founding Director and led the campaign to open the theatre.

He continues his role as the Rose's Director Emeritus alongside Artistic Director Stephen Unwin. In 2010 Peter Hall not only celebrates his 80th birthday but also a directing career that has spanned almost 60 years.

Judi Dench, one of Britain's greatest actresses, is a long standing supporter of the Rose and hosted a fundraising gala for the theatre in 2004.

For national press enquiries please contact Clíona Roberts on 020 7704 6224 / 07754 756504 or e-mail cliona@crpr.co.uk

For local press enquiries please contact Louise Gilbert on 020 8939 4052 or e-mail louiseg@rosetheatrekingston.org

Listing Information

Venue & Booking Details

Friends of the Rose Theatre can take advantage of priority booking from Monday 24 August. Public booking opens on Monday 14 September.

Rose Theatre, Kingston, 24-26 High Street, Kingston KT1 1HL.

Box Office 0871 230 1552 (operated by See Tickets) www.rosetheatrekingston.org

Tickets

Stage-side pit cushion seats	£8
Seated Tickets	£5 - £37.50

Access Performances

Signed performance - Signed by Donna Ruane of Theatresign.

Friday 5 March 7.30pm.

STAGETEXT Captioned performance

Thursday 11 March 7.30pm

Audio described performance

Wednesday 18 March 2pm. Touch Tour 12.30pm.