

SCAN TO ACCESS MORE PROGRAM CONTENT ONLINE:

including bios of the company, notes from Director Jarrod Yuskauskas and Theater Department Head Mary Jo Lodge, and the audition announcement for the Theater Department's next production, a radio play version of *Miracle on 34th Street*.



PRODUCTION STAFF

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

Jarrod Yuskauskas

Director

Jake Salgado

Scenic Designer

Erin Hopwood

Costume Designer, Hair & Makeup Design

Haley Brown

Lighting Designer

Matthew Sheehan

Sound Designer

Jacqueline Holloway

Intimacy and Violence Coordinator

Mary Jo Lodge

Choreographer

Puck	Liu	Snout	Joanna Howson
Theseus	Christopher Taverner	Flute	Truman Morsman
Hippolyta	Sydney Friedman	Snug	Hannah Daskal
Egeus	lan Horch	Starveling	Kailey Krausz
Demetrius	Luca Ferrucci	Mustardseed	Benry Juno James
Hermia	Sonali Shah	Titania	Alex Thurtle*
Lysander	Riley O'Connor	Oberon	Liam Thompson
Helena	Marisa Carroll*	Cobweb	Camsey Noonan
Petra Quince	Catherine Gardner	Moth	Emma Li
Nick Bottom	Cormac Hurley*	Peasblossom	Mary Romashchenko

Aven Lancaster & Alanna Haldaman

Stage Managers

Sebastiano Riverso*

Assistant Scenic Designer

Alexander Owens

Technical Director & Production Manager

Lily Groff

Assistant Lighting Designer

Lobby Display

Costume/Hair & Makeup Leads Costume/Hair & Makeup Crew

Stage & Prop Crew

Lily Groff & Sebastiano Riverso*

Ani Brutus* & Laura Coffey

Kira Baker, Allison Stein & Manning Yip Nicole Bagdasarian, Miles Asher Dorai-Raj,

John Griffith, Juliet Minadeo

Nihan Cedimagar Calum McConnell

SHOP CREW

Light Board Operator

Sound Board Operator

Ani Brutus, Laura Coffey, Owen Eltz, Lily Groff, Aven Lancaster, Lavender Layre, Calum McConnell, Seamus Mcgee, Zoe Ohl, Maddie Perry*, Sebastiano Riverso*, Kate Stadter, Tony Wanta Sophia Gal, Téo Rodriguez

* denotes a member of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

Special thanks to Maddie Perry for stepping in as interim stage manager when the need arose.

There is no eating or drinking in the theater. Please turn off all electronic devices.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will play with one 15 minute intermission. The run time, with intermission, is approximately two hours and fifteen minutes. As the new Head of the Theater Department, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2024-2025 Lafayette Theater Department Season, "Remagining the Classics" and our opening production, Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, an engaging and magically reimagined comedy directed by Guest Artist Jarrod Yuskaukas. Later in this program, you'll find an audition announcement for our next production, Miracle on 34th Street, a new adaptation of the classic holiday story into a live radio play. Professor Michael O'Neill will direct the heartwarming tale as his final production before retiring after a storied career at Lafayette. Next semester, I'll direct The Book Club Play by Karen Zacarias, a hilarious comedy about books and the people who love them. We'll close out our season with our first ever Senior Capstone production. We want you to help us to choose our next season! Please use this link to fill out a Google Form to submit productions you are interested in seeing the Theater Department produce year.

-Professor Mary Jo Lodge

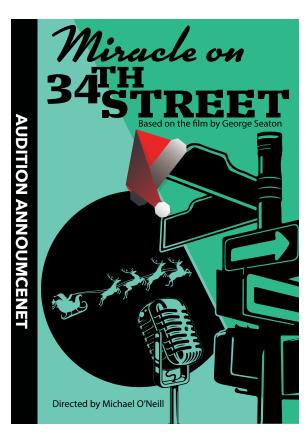
"...not for an age, but for all time..." Even his contemporaries saw then that there was some universal appeal, a common heartbeat in the stories, humans, and words that flowed from the quill of William Shakespeare which have allowed them to not just endure but thrive for over four centuries. Somehow this glover's son from a small town saw the heart of his

time and expressed the soul of the ages. My first encounters with Shakespeare were children's distillations of the tales and Zeffirelli costume drama. I appreciated and found the grandeur in Shakespeare of puffy pants, gowns, and ruffs. In high school, I was fortunate to have two wonderful teachers whose epiphanic impact on me included presenting a much broader scope of how one could tell Will's tales, how they could "hold the mirror, as it were, up to nature," our nature. I began to seek these out, to see how artists were holding their mirror up from the state (or screen). That drive presented many wonderful productions led by a bevy of adventurous directors who collaborated with armies of wildly talented artists to dig into the tales and present the assembly with something familiar and compelling to behold. So buoyed by my

personal heroes, Emma Rice and Nicholas Hytner, when presented with Lafayette's invitation to consider Midsummer. thought about their productions and their other visits with Will. I asked myself a lot of "what if's" and many "why not's" followed which opening potential to step into the story with a contemporary mindset and led me to tell it from a very specific perspective. Puck, famed eternal being, in our world is an unabashed Bard Fan Girl. enraptured by mortals and their popular culture. She finds a blank space in which to manifest a story in which she has always played a major part; but now, she will play actor and editor, seeing the story through her way. A team of creators gathered over this brief to say "oh yeah!... and, what if..." and from the first meeting to the most recent rehearsals, these theatre artists have gathered to build a world and inhabit it with wild glee. My hope is that this world reflects a world for you that is familiar, even if only in your dreams where I know these shadows come with true good will to make shadows bright.

Dream on...

-Jarrod Yuskauskas



Q7:00PM

Studio Theater 248 N. Third Street

CASTING:

- -8 MEN
- -6 WOMEN
- -2 GENDER NON-SPECFIC
- -3 WOMEN SINGERS

[in the style of the Andrews Sisters]

-1 MALE SINGER

[in the style of Bing Crosby]

Actors who can perform and vocalize as eight-year old boys and girls are especially encouraged to audition.

Actors who play musical instruments other than piano are also encouraged to audition.

The Lafayette College Theater Department invites you to audition for our special holiday presentation of Miracle on 34th Street. Based on the classic 1947 film, Lafayette's production will recreate the Lux Radio Theater version of the film, first aired on Christmas Eve, 1947. Our Miracle on 34th Street will be staged as a live radio broadcast with music, sound effects, singers, and an ensemble of actors playing all 24 characters in the Lux Radio Theater script.

Director: Professor Michael O'Neill. Musical Director: Tom DiGiovanni '97. Practicum credit of .25 is available to all cast and crew.

Actors should note that Miracle on 34th Street is a radio play, so memorization of lines is not necessary.

Miracle on 34th Street will be performed in the Weiss Theater on November 30, December 1, and December 2 at 7:30 p.m., and on December 3 at 2:00 p.m.

For more information, please check the Theater Department website or contact Professor O'Neill at oneillm@lafayette.edu

THE COMPANY

Nicole Bagdasarian '27 (Stage/Props Crew): Nicole (she/her) is a first year majoring in International Affairs. This is her first production at Lafayette.

Kira Baker '27 (Costume, Hair, & Make Up Crew): Kira is a first year majoring in environmental engineering and yet to be determined additional extra major/minor. This is her first production with Lafayette but was actively involved in her high school theater program.

Haley Brown (Lighting Design): Haley Brown (she/her) is delighted to join Lafayette College Theater Department for this production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Past productions with Lafayette include Associate Lighting Designer for She Kills Monsters. She has worked with various theaters across the US, including LEAN Ensemble Theater, Circa 21' Playhouse, Peterborough Players, Berkshire Theatre Group, Synchronicity Theater, The Warehouse Theatre, and the Alliance. Haley received her BA from Furman University and her MFA from the University of Georgia, and is currently a faculty member at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. You can follow her @haleybrowndesign on Instagram and view her previous work at www.haleybrowndesign.com.

Ani Brutus '26 (Costume, Hair, & Make Up Lead): Ani (she/they) is a sophomore Studio Art major and Architectural Studies minor. Ani has previously worked on *Ugly Lies the Bone* Spring 2023, *Head Over Heels Fall* 2022, *Arcadia Fall* 2022, and the Marquis Players' 2023 Production of *Footloose*. Outside of the Theater Department, you can find Ani hosting events for the Lafayette College Arts Society or working with students at EPI (The Experimental Printmaking Institute). Ani thanks the company for a wonderful experience!

Marisa Carroll '25 (Helena): Marisa Carroll (she/her) is a Junior Biochemistry and Theater double major. She is extremely excited to be part of A Midsummer Night's Dream and to be working with such an amazing cast and crew. Previously seen in Ugly Lies the Bone, The Galoshes of Fortune, Footloose, Head Over Heels, Legally Blonde, The Wolves, and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Marisa is excited to bring her first Shakespeare show to life!

Nihan Cedimağar '27 (lighting board operator): Nihan is a first year majoring in Theatre and Physics. This is her first production with Lafatette. In high school, she was involved with theater where she gained acting, writing and directing experience. She is excited to be a part of the theater community and learn more about backstage work.

Laura Coffey '26 (Costume, Hair, & Make Up Lead): Laura Coffey (she/her) is a second-year student pursuing a degree in Film and Media Studies. She loves being involved with the Lafayette College Theater Department. Outside of her theatrical endeavors, she devotes her time to her adorable pet rabbit.

Hannah Daskal '27 (Snug): Hannah (she/her) is a first-year Psychology major with a Film & Media Studies minor. A Midsummer Night's Dream is her first production with the Lafayette Theater Department. However, she acted in various productions throughout her high school career, such as Hannah in Puffs. She is very excited to be a part of this production and is eager to explore more within the department. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

Miles Asher Dorai-Raj '25 (Stage/Props Crew): Miles (he/him) is a junior Anthropology & Sociology and Religious Studies double major. This is his first production with Lafayette (but certainly not the last), but he has done a handful of shows in the past, as both an actor and a technician. His favorite play he's participated in was an ill-fated run of an abridged version of *Much Ado About Nothing* when he was a freshman in high school, where he played the character Conrade.

Luca Ferrucci '27 (Demetrius): Luca (he/him) is a Freshman Philosophy major. He is very excited for the opportunity to work with the Lafayette Theater Department. This performance is dedicated to his hometown theater director, Ms. Merrill, who has had a huge impact on his growth as an actor.

Sydney Friedman '26 (Hippolyta): Sydney is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering major with a Philosophy minor. While Sydney has performed and been a stage manager in the past, this is Sydney's first show at Lafayette. Sydney is excited for this opportunity to explore an amazing Shakespeare play!

Catherine Gardner '25 (Petra Quince): Catherine (she/her) is a junior international affairs and psychology double major with a minor in Spanish. She has previously been involved with the Theater Department's productions of *Head Over Heels, Arcadia, and The Wolves.* In the words of Footnote 107.1, "there is no-one else to serve as Prologue, and no other role for Quince;" a special shoutout to Jarrod and the production team for trusting her with them both!

Lily Groff '25 (Asst. Lighting): Lily (she/her) is a junior Theater major with a Mechanical Engineering minor. In the past, she has done a bit of everything technical, but mostly Stage Management here at Lafayette. She was the Assistant Stage Manager for Legally Blonde and Head Over Heels, as well as Stage Managing, Co Scenic Designing, and even helping with lights for Footloose last year. Working on lighting for this show has been a lot of fun and a great learning experience! Thank you to Haley for everything.

Alanna Haldaman '25 (Stage Manager): Alanna (she/her) is a junior Biology major and Theater minor. This is the fifth production that she has done with Lafayette College's Theater department. She has previously worked as a lightboard operator in The Wolves and a sound board operator in Black Comedy and Head Over Heels. She also was an assistant stage manager for Ugly Lies the Bone. She has learned a lot about theater in her time here and is very enthusiastic to take on the role of stage manager for A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Jacqueline Holloway (Intimacy & Violence Coordinator): Jacqueline (she/her) is an internationally recognized Stage Combat Choreographer and Instructor and is certified with the Society of American Fight Directors (Certified Teacher & Fight Director) and Fight Directors Canada. She is also an Intimacy Choreographer as well as a consent educator. More info on Jacqueline and her work can be found on her website www.arteviolenta.com

Erin Hopwood (Costume Design): Erin (she/her) is a graduate of Kutztown University's Theater Department and has had the opportunity to work at several of the area's high schools, colleges and universities. Erin started designing at Lafayette in 2011

on the musical Rent, and she has costumed and/or designed make-up and hair for many department productions including *The Penelopiad, The Grinch, Metamorphoses* and last season's productions of *Arcadia* and *Head Over Heels*.

lan Horch '27 (Egeus): Ian (he/him) is a freshman, currently planning on majoring in engineering. He is delighted to make his debut at Lafayette alongside such a talented cast and crew. Outside of Lafayette, Ian has been involved with many shows, and absolutely loves theater.

Joanna Howson '26 (Snout): Joanna (she/her) is a sophomore English and/or History potential double major. She is very excited for her first Lafayette College Theater production and would like to thank the cast and crew for making this possible!

Cormac Hurley '24 (Bottom): Cormie (they/he) is a Senior and Theatre and Philosophy double major. Cormac's previously been involved in Lafayette College Theatre's productions of Head Over Heels (Light Board Operator), Arcadia (Valentine Coverly), Black Comedy (Georg Bamberger), and Shakespeare's R&J (Student 4). He is also involved in Marquis Players, Arts Society, the Lafayette Chorduroys, and Thunderground. Cormac hasn't done Shakespeare since Billy quit R&J. Cormac devotes this performance to Billy.

Benry James '25 (Mustardseed): Benry is a junior majoring in geology and English with a minor in theater. Previously, Benry has appeared as Pythio in *Head Over Heels*, as #00 in *The Wolves*, and as Young Melinda in *Love Letters* this past spring. Outside of theater work, Benry can be found backstage as a crew member for other productions or at the English Club and Literary Magazine meetings.

Kailey Krausz '24 (Starveling): Kailey (she/her) is a senior Civil Engineering and Music double-major. Their past work with the Lafayette Theater Department includes assistant stage managing for Shakespeare's *R&J* and starring in *Head over Heels*. Outside of theater, she also regularly performs with Marquis Consort and is an EXCEL research scholar. Thank you to all the cast and crew who are making this show possible.

Aven Lancaster '26 (Stage Manager): Aven is a sophomore Theatre major and Mechanical Engineering minor pursuing scenography and stage management. This is her third show with the Lafayette College Theatre Department and her first show stage managing. She is overjoyed to be working on a Shakespeare show again, especially one as fun as Midsummer. To Jarrod, she would just like to say thank you from the bottom of her heart for this experience; she holds so much love for this production. To Alanna and the cast, thank you for making the past eight weeks so memorable <3. Not even a tumor could hold her back from being a part of this show!

Emma Li '27 (Moth) Emma (she/her) is a first year Theater and English double major. This is her first production with Lafayette's Theater Department. She has previously worked as a stage manager for You Can't Take It With You and a student director for No Exit. Emma is excited to work on this production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Liu '25 (Puck/Philostrate): Liu (they/them) is a junior FAMS-English double major and is NOT a theater kid. Despite their status as a non theater kid, Liu has been in a number of productions with the Lafayette College Theater including Black Comedy, Louder I Can't Hear You, and The Unintentional Video. Liu thoroughly believes that they have been method acting this role all of their mortal life and hopes that the gentles enjoy the show.

Mary Jo Lodge (Choreographer): Professor Lodge (she/her) is Professor of Theater and Head of the Theater Department at Lafayette, and is a theater performer, director, choreographer and scholar. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on the musical, and has directed and choreographed a wide range of professional, college and summer stock productions. At Lafayette, those include *The Secret Garden, She Kills Monsters, The Drowsy Chaperone, The Wolves and Head Over Heels.* Her edited collection *Dueling Grounds: Revolution and Revelation in the Musical "Hamilton,"* was published by Oxford University Press in May of 2021 and her most recent book, *Milestones in Musical Theater*, was published by Routledge in June 2023.

Calum McConnell '25 (Soundboard Operator): Calum (he/they) is a junior Electrical & Computer Engineering and Theater double major. Calum has been directly involved in numerous productions in the past, most recently *Silent Sky* (Scene Shop Supervisor), *Head over Heels* (Mic Wrangler), and *Legally Blonde* (Sound Designer/Engineer). He also works behind the scenes for both on-campus theaters, where they provide the valuable service of long arms that can reach things.

Juliet Minadeo '27 (Stage/Props Crew): Juliet (she/her) is a first year majoring in Film and Media and this is her first production with Lafayette. She has experience in prop managing and stage crew, and has been involved in many productions including *Puffs and The Giver*. She is excited to join the crew for this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*!

Truman Morsman '27 (Flute): Truman (they/them) is a first year engineering student who is considering a double major in theater. This is their first production with Lafayette's Theater department. He was an actor in a production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee as well as a Musical version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. She has previously been a part of the props department for various plays and musicals. Ze is very excited to participate in this production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Camsey Noonan '26 (Cobweb): Camsey is a sophomore English student with a minor in Chinese. She was involved in the *Marquis Players'* production of *Footloose* last spring, but is excited to be doing her first show with Lafayette's Theater Department. Outside of theater, Camsey spends most of their time practicing for the next forensics tournament or doing work with her fellow scholars at the Mckelvy House.

Riley O'Connor '26 (Lysander): Riley (he/him) is a sophomore Math Economics and Theater Major. This is his second production with the Lafayette Theater Department. He wants to thank all of the cast, crew and staff for their dedication to this production and he is so excited for everyone to see their hard work.

Alexander Owens (Production Manager/Technical Director): In his time at Lafayette, Alexander (he/him) has collaborated on a successful grant for the creation of the Immersive Arts Lab,

developed a fellowship for Engineering students interested in theater, constructed a swimming pool onstage for Metamorphoses, and oversaw the move into and opening of William C Buck Hall.

Sebs Riverso '24 (Asst. Scenic): Sebs (he/him) is a senior pursuing a dual-degree in Computer Science and Theater. This is his 8th production with the Theater Department and he is incredibly grateful to be able to assist with scenic design for this show.

Mary Romashchenko '27 (Peaseblossom): Mary (she/her) is a first year English and IA double major with a minor in Theater. This is her first production with Lafayette College's Theatre department. She wanted to act in A Midsummer Night's Dream ever since she was 13 years old and is very excited to be working on this production now.

Jake Salgado (Scenic Design): Jake (he/him) is thrilled to serve as the Assistant Professor of Scenography at Lafayette College and scenic designer for this production of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. This show marks his fifth design contribution to the college's Theater Department, including such productions as Ugly Lies The Bone, Love Letters, and Head Over Heels from last season. Professor Salgado works outside of Lafayette as a freelance designer for plays, musicals, and live events. He is excited to continue his partnership with the Atlanta, GA based Ballethnic Dance Company to remount their dance piece Sanctity at the Alliance Theater as an extension of the Kennedy Center series, Reframing The Narrative. Other recent designs from this year include Shrek the Musical with Crane River Theatre, in Kearney, NE, along with Maytag Virgin and Souvenir, both with the Peterborough Players, in Peterborouah, NH.

Sonali Shah '26 (Hermia): Sonali (she/her) is a sophomore English major with a concentration in writing. While she has been in *Marquis Players' Footloose*, this is her first production with Lafayette's Theater Department. A *Midsummer Night's Dream* has always been her favorite Shakespeare play, so she is incredibly excited to be part of this production! Sonali wants to thank the cast and crew for creating this amazing show, and she can't wait for everyone to see it!

Matthew Sheehan (Sound Designer): Matt (he/him) is a sound designer and stage tech mainly working in live performance at various colleges and theatres in NJ. Outside of theatrical work, he plays music and makes pottery.

Allison Stein '27 (Costume, Hair, & Make Up Crew): Allison is a first year majoring in English and this is her first production with Lafayette. She assistant stage managed a production of *Sense and Sensibility* in high school. She's excited to learn more about theater tech and design.

Chris Taverner '25 (Theseus): Chris (he/him) is a junior Civil Engineering major, and has previously performed with Lafayette College Theater in *Head Over Heels* and *Shakespeare's R&J* (this is his second Shakespeare performance at Lafayette). He is a member of the Lafayette College Concert Band, Pep Band, Chorduroys, played in the pit orchestra for the Marquis Players' production of *Legally Blonde*, and has performed with the Concert Choir. He is also a Co-President of the Lafayette Student Alumni Council.

Liam Thompson '24 (Oberon): Liam (he/him) is a senior Integrative Engineering student with an Energy and Environment Focus. He has previously performed for the Lafayette Theater Department in Arcadia and the Marquis Players' production of Footloose. He is currently the Marquis Players Vice President, and is a member of the Lafayette Mar-Keys, and a Head Resident Advisor on campus. This is his first Shakespeare experience and he is thrilled to be your Fairy King in this mystical story of love.

Alex Thurtle '24 (Titania): Alex (she/they) is a Senior double-majoring in English with a Writing concentration and Theater. Previous Theater Department productions include *Head Over Heels* (Philoclea), *Goloshes of Fortune* (Blue Fairy), *Arcadia* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and *Emma*! Alex is the President of Marquis Players, the President of the Lafayette Mar-Keys, the President of Alpha Psi Omega, an EXCEL scholar, an Arts Houser, and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta. They can't wait to enchant the stage and get some fairy revenge!

Manning Yip '27 (Costume, Hair, & Make Up): Manning is a freshman Engineering and (possible) Theater major. Manning performed *Macbeth* in his junior year of high school and has a continued interest in pursuing acting and learning more about the ins and outs of what goes into a production.

Jarrod Yuskauskas (Director): Jarrod (he/him) received his MFA from the Professional Actor Training program at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival/University of Alabama and BA in Theatre from DeSales. In twelve years as Director of Theatre at Moravian Academy he taught a five-course curriculum of Actor Training and Shakespeare analysis/performance and directed over thirty productions ranging from Shakespeare to Sondheim to Stoppard. As an actor he's been seen at Media Theatre (Annie with Wanda Sykes), BRAT, Philadelphia Shakespeare, Alabama Shakespeare, and locally at Pennsylvania Shakespeare, NCC Summer Theatre (Something Rotten-Nick, Footloose-Shaw, etc.), seven seasons at Muhlenberg Summer Theatre (Anything Goes-Lord Evelyn, My Fair Lady-Higgins, etc.), and Civic Theatre of Allentown (Assassins-Booth, Addams Family-Gomez, Young Frankenstein-Doctor, Annie-Rooster, SantaLand Diaries), where he can be seen this winter as Scrooge in their annual production of A Christmas Carol.

WE BELIEVE IN ANGELS

In the theater, an angel is a divine person who makes generous donations so theater can happen right here on earth. Support from our Angels has brought in professional designers and choreographers, supported our students competing in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and sponsored lectures by playwrights.



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