

'I HAVE HAD A MOST RARE VISION'

**A Midsummer Night's Dream
by Medina College
appraised by Lauren Brewer**



I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to you, Medina College, for your magnificent film adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of the 2022 Shakespeare Schools Film Festival. It was a fantastic production, and I'd like to mention here a few aspects that I really loved!

I really enjoyed how you took the magical world of the play and created a concept that felt relevant to you. Your vlog style film really opened up so many opportunities for clever shots and editing and brought Shakespeare right in to the 21st century! I loved how you updated the relationship between Theseus and Hermia, suggesting that the reason Hermia cannot be with Lysander is a matter of social hierarchy. Perfect for your prom-related dilemmas!

From their opening scene, the mechanicals made a merry troupe. Bottom was suitably assured in his performance abilities, Flute convincingly irritated by the casting process and poor old Peter Quince had the real challenge of whipping them all into shape! You handled the comic timing with great confidence, resulting in a very memorable and engaging production at the end.

The plotting and pranking of the play were brilliantly captured through your creative concept. I loved how you shot moments as if you were spying, 'spilling the tea' to keep us up to date on all the gossip. One of my favourite examples of this was Titania confessing her new found love for Bottom via Instagram story, much to the distress of those around her. All of the fairy magic, especially Puck's misdemeanours, were handled with great humour and caused some impressive arguments between the lovers. Everyone fully committed to the relationships between their characters, managing to channel love, frustration and confusion in equal parts.

The vlog was a fabulous and effective narrative device. I loved how you played with its cinematic potential, like when you 'ran out of battery' so updated us by text. I was a real fan of the candid comments made through this, tying the immortal words of Shakespeare 'Lord, what fools these mortals be,' to your own reflections that 'It's all a bit peak tbh.' You added a really contemporary humour to the play which made it feel fresh and exciting! Puck's epilogue was the perfect ending – maybe in many ways the modern day selfie is our equivalent to the monologue. Here's hoping your own prom will be slightly less chaotic than that of Hermia, Lysander, Helena and Demetrius!

This was a creative and contemporary A Midsummer Night's Dream from an engaging ensemble.

We have been so impressed by your brilliant commitment and fearless creativity; it's been a joy to have you involved in the project this year. We hope that you and your teachers are feeling incredibly proud of all your achievements.

I look forward to welcoming Medina College back to the Festival next year!

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