

TH-JS-II-13-R

The Supernatural

A theme present in A Midsummer Night's Dream is the idea of a supernatural element. Magic is the element that is most prevalent throughout. The fairies have magic that could make two humans fall in love, or tear that very love apart. As for the humans, the only magic they know is that of love. They know that love can unite a nation, or be the cause of its demise. The greatest tool this play has to show the force of the supernatural is through perspective. Each character views the mischief going on in their own way. Oberon attempted to help Helena by putting a potion in Demetrius' eyes to make him love her, but Puck ruined the mission and put the potion in Lysander's eyes instead. Although Oberon thought he was doing a good thing for two travelers, Helena thought it was a cruel joke being played against her. While the lovers are the most affected by the magic going on around them, they have no idea what's going on. It is safe to say they hate the situation they are in. Magic is deemed good or evil depending on the person it changes.

With the use of scenery, lights, costumes, and makeup, A Midsummer Night's Dream will move its setting into the world of Dante Alighieri's epic poem, Inferno. This concept came to mind when it was decided to elevate the entire play into a supernatural realm. While analyzing the play more thoroughly, similar characters in the two began to stand out. Oberon and Titania are the king and queen of the fairies and take the role as the protectors of the forest. These two are like Hades, the protector of the Inferno. Puck, the mischievous fairy, is very similar to Virgil, the guide who takes Dante through the Inferno. The fairies who roam the forest watching over all who enter are similar to the overseers of hell. The setting will take place in four main places. The story will begin in Athens, where Hermia learns if she does not marry Demetrius her father will have her put to death or force her to live the remainder of her life as a nun. This is a problem because she is very much in love with Lysander, who is very much in love with her. Going against her father's wishes, she and Lysander make plans to flee through the forest to his aunt's house right outside of Athens to be betrothed. Hermia tells her close friend Helena about their plan

who in turn betrays her and tells Demetrius in a last effort to win his love. Demetrius decides to follow the lovers through the forest in hopes of finding them in time. Little did they know this is where it all would go wrong. When Demetrius and Helena enter the forest they stumble upon the gate of hell where Oberon watches in secret. Hermia and Lysander have already made their way inside and through limbo to the burning forest of the lustful. Demetrius attempts to follow, but he cannot get Helena off his tail. He threatens to leave her there if she does not leave him alone, but she does not give in. Oberon sees this and sends Puck on a mission to make Demetrius love Helena, but this plan goes horribly wrong. After both sets of the Athenian children enter the burning forest and they lay down to rest, Puck sets out on his mission. Instead of affecting Demetrius' eyes with the magic love potion, he gets Lysander's eyes instead.

The concept for the costumes are based around the paintings and sculpture works that have been inspired by Inferno. The characters will have very intricate costumes. For the fairies their costumes will be very woodland themed. They will have somewhat devilish wings to signify them as the overseers of the underworld. The idea is to make these costumes seem like they have been plucked from the trees of the burning forest of the lustful. The four Athenian children will have drab clothing. They will be very strict to the time period, but will slowly progress to be slightly more modern by the end of the play. This will be accomplished by layers and gradual shifts in fabric color. Titania and Oberon will have the most elaborate of all. They will take on the role of Hades. They will both have large pointy wings and a head piece that will have horns. For Titania a long black dress that is made to look on fire will be appropriate. Oberon will have a costume made up of vines and thorns.

The makeup design will focus around the following colors: reds, greens, blacks, blues, and browns. It is meant so only the fairies, Titania and Oberon will have over the top makeup because they are the supernatural. The Athenian children will have natural stage makeup. There will only be enough to enhance their features so they are not whitewashed by the harsh lighting. This will include foundation, blush, eyeliner, mascara, and a slight tint of the lips with lipstick. The fairies will have enhanced features

with the use of prosthetics. Their eyebrow bone will be made to come out farther, their cheek bones will be made to be higher, and their ears will be pointed. They will have a greenish colored face.