

# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

## Stated Preparation and Rehearsal Expectations

**PREPARATION:** Consider this “homework” in preparation for your role(s) and rehearsal.

1. **First, read the play out loud.** Read the damn play. Read the original play. Read it like you mean it. Read the Sparknotes... then read the whole play again. Sleep with the play, research the play, get to know it more intimately than anyone else in the world ever has. Most importantly, read it **out loud!** Hear yourself speak the words. Hear every single possibility and nuance the words have to offer. When we begin rehearsal, I recommend reading the adaptation start to finish every day. Explicitly: **read the play out loud.**

(Suggestion: While reading out loud, break or pause at the punctuation, not the line break!)

2. **Next, scan the text for stressed and unstressed words.** Scansion is a technique of text analysis you have probably encountered in Playscript Analysis and Interpretation or Acting Styles. If this is not a technique you are familiar with, please seek out fellow actors or resources for assistance.
3. **Paraphrase the text word-for-word** in the same structure. This will help us achieve clear communication and specificity. In parallel structure, write out your close substitution – not just the gist!
4. **Choose and use operative key words judiciously.** This is a vital step in shaping and coloring the text. Judiciously for our purposes will mean one word per line in verse, and one word for each punctuation mark in prose.

~ Adapted from notes on Shakespeare preparation by Richard Glockner

- **DON'T** get into a pattern of speaking, **DON'T** marry decisions that you can't change later.
- **DO** come into rehearsal making choices, and **DO** expect to motivate/justify choices given to you.
- Be **prepared** and **collaborative**. Bring your whole and professional self to this work. Together, we will create a performance we can all be proud of and have fun doing it!

**REHEARSAL:** Expectations of behavior and work-ethic in and outside rehearsal.

- Have: your script, a pencil, water, familiarity of rehearsal content, and character choices (no cold reading).
- Dress appropriately for rehearsal content. Rehearsals will be physical and may be indoors or outside.
- As rehearsal costumes are available, arrive early to put them on before rehearsal begins.
- Conduct your own self-actualized warm-up before rehearsal and be ready to begin rehearsal on time.
- Please leave electronic devices on vibrate or off in a coat pocket or purse offstage.
- Wait to ask a question until direction is completed or as invited. Don't be afraid to ask for clarity.
- Write down all notes and blocking. Expect the question, “what did you do...” and be ready with an answer. We must be able to recreate choices until they are set.
- Avoid sidebar conversations on stage. If you space out, fess up and ask the director or SM for clarity.
- Try everything asked of you *and then* share your “informed” hesitation.
- The script may be changed and lines reassigned at any time. Understand such a choice is not personal.
- Actors may be expected to arrive earlier or stay later than calls originally published in the rehearsal schedule in order to accommodate changes to rehearsal content or load-in/out of the space.
- Breaks, as announced, will be assured. They will also be prompt both in their call and in their return.
- **Bring commitment based on a work ethic of active engagement at all times.** The *work* of rehearsal – participation in the creative process and willingness for constant improvement and refinement – is where the *fun* of performance and process originates.
- Keep a healthy balance and perspective. Keep open communication and transparency.
- Keep a healthy body and mind. Exercise, Water, Sleep.

~ Some adaptation from Stated Rehearsal Expectations by Patrick Elkins-Zeglarski