

*The University of Utah Department of Theatre presents*



# MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY William Shakespeare  
DIRECTOR Robert Scott Smith

October 25-November 3, 2024  
Studio 115



The University of Utah Department of Theatre Presents

# A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

## BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Lighting Designer

**Z. HARVEY**

Stage Manager

**PAIGE LINFORD**

Director

**ROBERT SCOTT SMITH**

Assistant Director

**EMILY TATUM**

1st Asst. Stage Manager

**SIERRA LOERTSCHER**

2nd Asst. Stage Manager

**SKYLER LEMELLE**

Production Assistant

**KELLY FRY**

Producer

**CHRIS DUVAL**

### CONTENT ADVISORY

*Loud voices and shouting, loud noises.*

*Language of violence, sexual references and innuendo, and misogyny.*

*We have made intentional edits to remove the racist language from the original script.*

*Discussion and depiction of suicide happen during the rehearsing and performing a play-within-a-play, "The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe". In this story romantic love leads to a double suicide. It is performed by the actors using a foam sword to depict the act and stylized in a purposeful way intended to provoke mirth in the onstage audience.*

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*This production is 95 minutes and will be performed without an intermission. Video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited..*



*American Sign Language interpretation will be provided during the 2nd Friday evening performance and talkback for every show.*

# COMPANY

CHARLEY HOLT.....	Lysander
ELAIA ECHEVERRIA.....	Demetrius
JACK ANDERSON.....	Hermia
GABE ROOT.....	Helena
GUILLERMO OVIEDO.....	Hippolyta/Titania
ZOE SEARE.....	Theseus/Oberon
MORGAN CHAMPINE.....	Egeus/Robin Starveling/Moonshine
JASON HOGUE.....	Philostrate/1st Fairy
KATHLEEN WILLIAMS.....	Puck
ANDY LUO.....	Cobweb
BRETTE CRANE.....	Mustardseed
LUKE WIMMER.....	Moth
RYAN TOPF.....	Peaseblossom
LAUREL MORGAN.....	Nick Bottom/Pyramus
ELLA MEI WILLIAMSON.....	Peter Quince/Content Advisory
ADRI CUMMING .....	Francis Flute/Thisbe
MEIGEN SALAZAR.....	Snug/Lion
OLIVIA KERBY.....	Tom Snout/Wall

# SPECIAL THANKS

Theatre Teaching BFA students, Penny Caywood,  
Samantha Briggs, Bryce Romleski, Do’nel Ault,  
Taylor Smedley, Laurel Morgan, Arika Schockmel,  
Halee Rasmussen , Michael Horejsi, Jennifer  
Jackson, and William Shakespeare

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am at home when I am in an empty theatre; it's where stories come alive and imagination takes flight. It's the place where anything is possible with a little bit of magic and hard work.

So, when we selected *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for a touring production, its magical world felt like the perfect fit. We wanted to captivate audiences at local junior and high schools, while also creating a work that could evolve into a main stage production. The challenge: make a piece adaptable for any setting—a cafeteria, a proscenium, or a thrust stage—and ensure the heart of the story remained intact.

Drawing inspiration from abandoned theaters—spaces with just a ghost light or a few forgotten props—we built a production where the mechanicals, who put on their own play within the play, lead us into the magical world. Fitting since they embody the spirit of putting on theater with whatever is available.

After taking the tour across the Wasatch Front, the show has now transitioned to Studio 115. We deepened the acting work, added lights, sound, and additional costumes that weren't possible on tour, allowing us to embrace the full theatrical experience and tailor it to a new space and new audiences.

This production also explores new possibilities with gender-swapped casting, without changing pronouns, embracing Shakespeare's original fluidity in performance. It's a reminder of how theater can break the rules and reflect the world around us.

Working with our assistant director, Emily Tatum, has been a highlight of the process. Her choreography and staging have brought fresh energy to the production, and I'm excited to see where her career takes her next.

We hope this production entertains, inspires, and lets you see Shakespeare's timeless story in a new way.

— **ROBERT SCOTT SMITH**



# COMPANY & CREATIVE TEAM

## CAST

**CHARLEY HOLT** (Lysander) is a current junior in the ATP. She is originally from St. George, Utah and graduated from Utah Arts Academy. Her most recent role was Christina Mundy U/S in the U's *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Studio 115). She is a proud recipient of the Victor Jory Scholarship and the Richard T. and Conna Brown Scholarship.

**ELAIA ECHEVERRIA** (Demetrius) is excited for her first show with the University of Utah. She is a recent transfer from Salt Lake Community College and is currently a junior in the ATP. Recent credits also include: The Proprietor in *Assassins*, Maddox in *Melissa Leilani Larsons' The Post Office* (Original Cast) at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, & Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Directing credits include: Director - *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl (SLCC Blackbox); Assistant Director - *Pride and Prejudice* (The Grand Theatre). Alongside her family, she would like to thank Tally, Miles, and Luke. "Eskerrik asko nire familiari esker guztiaren bidez laguntzeagatik! Maite zaitut!"

**JACK ANDERSON** (Hermia) is a junior in the MTP from Santa Clarita, California. Recent roles include Albert in *Newsies* (Sundance Mountain Resort), Spongebob SquarePants in YTU's Production

of *The Spongebob Musical Jr.* (Kingsbury Hall), a Swing in *Cabaret* (Babcock), and a Swing for *In Pieces: A New Musical* (Babcock). Before attending the University of Utah, he has also performed in many other local theatre productions at ESCAPE Theatre in Santa Clarita. He would like to thank his family and friends for encouraging him to keep up his dedication to his work and for all of their love and support over the years.

**GABE ROOT** (Helena): is a junior in the ATP. Last year, Gabe performed as Luke in the U's production of *The Lightning Thief* (Babcock Theatre). Recently they have also been seen in *The Post Office* at the Great Salt Lake Fringe (Thakurda), *The Grand Theatre's Fate?* (Mercer), OPPA's *The Laramie Project* (Various Roles), and OPPA's Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Christopher). Gabe would like to thank his family and theatre community for their continuing support. Gabe is a proud recipient of the Utah Fine Arts Flagship Scholarship.

**GUILLERMO OVIEDO** (Hippolyta/Titania) is a senior in the MTP and also an electrical engineering major. Previous University credits include Hans in *Cabaret* (Babcock Theatre) and Swing in *Into the Woods* (Babcock). Guillermo has performed in *A Christmas Carol* (OMT), *Kiss me Kate* (Centerpoint) and various fringe productions. He would like to thank his family for supporting him and all his endeavors

**ZOE SEARE** (Theseus/Oberon): is a current senior in the Theatre Teaching BFA program at the U. Zoe is also a member of the Theatre Teaching Students' Coterie and is currently a member of their Prospective Students Committee. Recently at the University, she was the Assistant Director and Somebody for *Everybody* (Babcock Theatre). Previous credits include: *Beauty and the Beast* as Silly Girl/Dance Ensemble (Star Theatre Oceanside). She enjoys teaching and working with kids, and is currently student teaching in Canyons District. Zoe would like to thank her parents for always being her biggest supporters! Enjoy the show!

**MORGAN CHAMPINE** (Egeus/Robin Starveling/Moonshine) was born and raised in Utah. They are a junior studying English. Some of their recent productions include *Hamlet*, *The Laramie Project*, *Oklahoma!*, and *The Crucible*. They have recently written the plays *Corralis* and *Halley's Comet*. They are also the opinion Editor for *The Daily Utah Chronicle*.

**JASON HOGUE** (Philostrate/1st Fairy) is a sophomore in the ATP from Salt Lake City. His previous credits include The Father in *Eurydice*, Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*, and Sam in *Mamma Mia!*. He would like to thank his parents and friends for always supporting him. He is a proud recipient of the Fine Arts Utah Flagship scholarship.

**KATHLEEN WILLIAMS** (Puck) was born and raised in Huntsville, Texas. She is a junior in the ATP and was most recently the understudy for Rose Mundy in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Studio 115) and in the ensemble of YTU's *Seussical* (Kingsbury Hall). She also enjoys writing and is working toward a minor in Arabic. Kathleen is a recipient of the Libby S. Hunter Theatre Scholarship.

**ANDY LUO** (Cobweb) grew up in small town Kanab, Utah. He is a sophomore in the ATP. Andy made his university debut as Larry the Lobster/Ensemble in *The Spongebob Musical Jr.* (Kingsbury Hall). Andy had a blast working alongside the University of Utah's Youth Program. Now, he is ecstatic to perform as Cobweb in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He would like to thank his friends and mentors back in Kanab for being supportive and awesome.

**BRETTE CRANE** (Mustardseed) is a sophomore in the ATP program. He is from Santa Clarita, California and is participating in his first production here at the University of Utah. He was a part of the West Ranch High School Theatre program from 2021-2023 and won district-wide awards in both 2022 and 2023. He is a double-major, also studying evolutionary zoology through the B.U.S. program. Brette would like to thank his brother for his endless encouragement and academic support. He is a proud Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) scholarship recipient.



**LUKE T. WIMMER** (Moth) was raised in Pleasant Grove, Utah. He is a sophomore in the ATP. His favorite credits include Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Gordon in *Laughing Stock*, and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. Luke would like to thank his parents for supporting him in his artistic endeavors.

**RYAN TOPF** (Peaseblossom) is a sophomore in the computer science and the APT, and is from College Station, Texas. Last year Ryan was a part of Youth Theatre at the U's production of *The SpongeBob Musical Jr.* as Old Man Jenkins. Ryan has worked extensively with the Theatre Company of Bryan-College Station. His past roles include Race in *Newsies*, Carlos in *Descendants*, and Grandma in *The Addams Family*. He thanks his mom for supporting his academic and artistic pursuits.

**LAUREL MORGAN** (Nick Bottom/Pyramus) is currently in her senior year pursuing a BFA in the ATP at the University of Utah. She has recently been seen on the Babcock stage as Ariel in *The Tempest*, Bartley in *The Old Man and the Old Moon* as well as serving as the Dramaturg for *The Sweet Science of Bruising*. Laurel also performs in theatrical productions all around the Salt Lake Valley, most recently as a swing in *Close Encounters in the Beehive* (Salt Lake Acting Company), Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice* (The Grand Theatre), and Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Parker Theatre). Laurel is a proud recipient of a Theatre

Department Scholarship. She would like to extend her gratitude to her professors and mentors for their continued investment in her growth as a theatre artist.

**ELLA MEI WILLIAMSON** (Peter Quince/Content Advisory) is a junior in the MTP and a Seattle native. Her most recent credits include Assistant choreographer/Electric Skate #3 in *The Spongebob Musical Jr.* (Youth Theatre at the U). The White Rabbit in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (University of Utah), and Christopher Robin in *Winnie the Pooh* (New Muses Theatre). Ella Mei is an assistant teacher at Youth Theatre at the U and a proud alum of Blue Dog Dance Studio. She would like to thank her friends, family, professors, and her partner for their endless love and support!

**ADRI CUMMING** (Francis Flute/Thisbe) is a sophomore in the ATP. Her previous credits include *The Sweet Science of Bruising* (Anna Lamb), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet Van De Graaff), and *The Book of Will* (Rebecca Hemings). She is thrilled to be part of this production and can't wait for many more!

**MEIGEN SALAZAR** (Snug/Lion) is a lifelong actor who is excited to start her journey in the ATP program here at the U! She has a deep love for Shakespeare and enjoys talking about it endlessly to anyone who will listen (willfully or not). She's had the opportunity to be in much of Shakespeare's work; from playing Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, to Lady Macbeth, Isabella in *Measure*



for *Measure*, and even playing Puck in a separate production of *Midsummer* many years prior. She enjoys watching movies, writing, occasional ice-skating, playing with her dog, and making sure that her banana bread is cooked all the way. She's grateful to those in her life who support her throughout, and to anyone involved in making *A Midsummer Night's Dream* a great experience and her first production here at the U!

**OLIVIA KERBY** (Tom Snout/Wall) is thrilled to be making her debut at the U in this production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As a first-year student here, she is excited to join the vibrant theatre community at the U. Previously, Olivia has performed as Emma Goldman in *Assassins: The Musical* and as Mrs. Alexander in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their amazing support and encouragement!

## CREATIVE TEAM

**ROBERT SCOTT SMITH** (Director) Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Flying Bobcat Theatrical Laboratory, Associate Professor and Head of the Actor Training Program at the University of Utah. Directing credits include *The View Upstairs* by Max Vernon with Good Company; *Everybody, As You Like It*, *Tartuffe* adaptation by Ranjit Bolt,

*Big Love* by Charles Mee, and an All-Female Production of *Hamlet* with the U of U Department of Theatre; SLAC's New Play Sounding Series reading of *Reykjavik* by Steve Yockey; and PLAN-B Script-in-Hand series reading of *Quarter Horse* by Rob Tennant. Recent work with FBTL includes *Liminal* by Troy Deutsch in 2022; with the Great Salt Lake Fringe 2021, and *Strangers: a homo's odyssey* by Tom Roche (Outstanding Solo Performance). Past projects include a collaboration with Ririe-Woodbury *Allegory* (2020 Re-Imagined) and *Live Creature and Ethereal Things* (2019); in 2016 the World Premiere of *Climbing with Tigers*; in September 2014 *Lost in the Woods*; in May 2015 collaborated with choreographer Charlotte Boye-Christensen, NOW-ID and NYC Playwright Troy Deutsch to create FEAST a site-specific performance at The Great Saltair.

**EMILY TATUM** is currently a Senior in the ATP and is thrilled to be the Assistant Director for this production. Recent credits include *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Alice, Studio 115), *The Tempest* (Gonzalo, Babcock Theatre) and *As You Like It* (Audrey/Rosalind U/S, Studio 115). Later this season, she is so excited to appear as Lizzie Bennet in *You On the Moors Now* in Babcock Theatre. She would like to express her endless gratitude to the Actor Training Program and the incredible company of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for all of their joy, teamwork, and talent. Enjoy the show!



**CHRIS DUVAL** (Producer) Chris DuVal is currently serving as chair in the Department of Theatre. He has worked as an AEA actor, director, fight director or guest instructor at regional theatres and training programs across the country, including 20 years at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. DuVal is a Certified Teacher and Fight Director with the Society of American Fight Directors, a Master Instructor with Dueling Arts International, holds a 2nd-degree black belt in Aikido, and authored “Stage Combat Arts,” published by Bloomsbury Methuen.

**PAIGE LINFORD** (Stage Manager) is a senior in the Stage Management Program at the University of Utah. Paige has worked on a variety of shows for the University including, *The Book Club Play* (Babcock) and *Somewhere: A Primer For The End Of Days* (Studio 115). *Into The Woods* (Babcock) She is enthusiastic about what the future brings within the University of Utah’s Theatre department. Paige would like to thank her family for their continued support.

**SIERRA LOERTSCHER** (1st Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior pursuing a BFA in Stage Management. She started working in theatre at Taylorsville High School as a member of the pit orchestra and stage crew. At the U, she has worked in YTU’s *Seussical* (Crew), *Town Hall* (Production Asst.), and YTU’s *SpongeBob the Musical* (Asst. Stage Manager). She has also

helped Sandbox Theatre Company with *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Asst. Stage Manager), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Stage Manager), and *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Stage Manager). Sierra has ushered with Utah First Credit Union Amphitheater for 22 shows.

**SKYLER LEMELLE** (2nd Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior in the Stage Management program. He started his Theatre career at Juan Diego High School as a Lighting Designer and Sound Technician, which eventually led him into Stage Management. Past credits include: *The Verge* (SM), *Footloose* (SM), *ALICE: U of U Opera* (ASM), *The Lightning Thief* (ASM) *Guys And Dolls* (ASM), and *The Curious Incident* (ASM). He would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support, without them he would not have been able to pursue the things he loves.

**KELLY FRY** (Production Assistant) is a second year pursuing a Stage Management Certificate as well as graphic design and illustration here at the U. This will be her first production officially apart of the Stage Management program. Previously Kelly has managed for two of her highschool productions of *Ladder Leading Back* and *The Addams Family* in the Chicagoland area. She has also participated in run crew for both this past season’s production’s of *The Lightning Thief* and *Into the Woods*.



**Z. HARVEY** is a Senior in the ATP. He has been passionate about acting since he was a seventh grader at Union Middle School. He continued acting all through high school. At Hillcrest, he was able to explore both acting and the technical side of theatre. He is excited and very grateful for the opportunity to explore the tech in this production. He is also excited to continue his education and for what the future has in store.



Photo: Todd Collins



# PRODUCTION STAFF & ADVISORS

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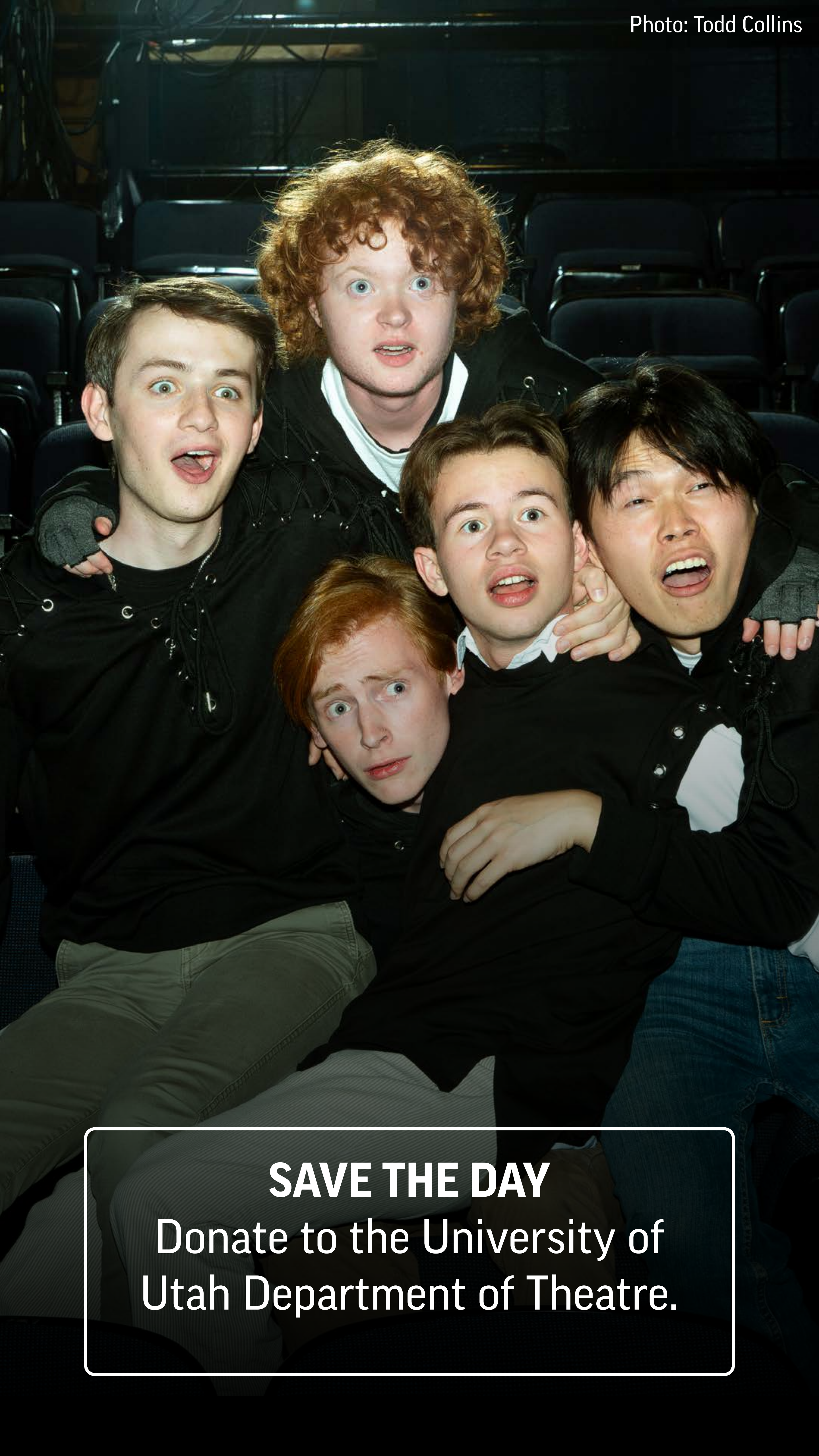
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A grand piano is shown in a light blue, semi-transparent style, overlaid on a dark blue background. A French flag (blue, white, and red vertical stripes) is draped over the piano, extending across the top of the image.

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By Joshua Harmon  
October 25—November 9, 2024



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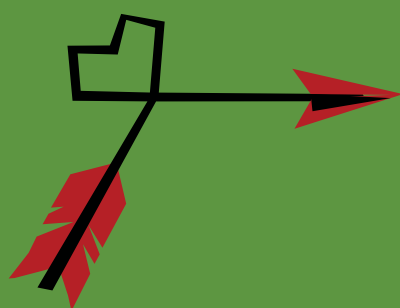




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**2024**



**THE HEART OF ROBIN HOOD**

SEPTEMBER 17 –  
OCTOBER 7



**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

OCTOBER 25 –  
NOVEMBER 3



**SPRING AWAKENING**

NOVEMBER 8 – 17

**2025**



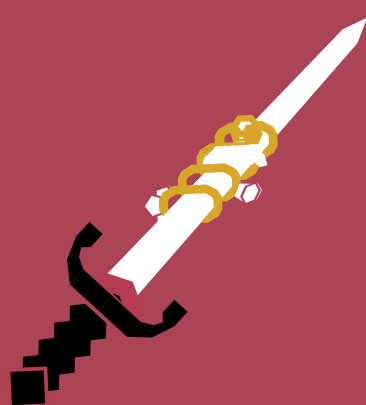
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