



**BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE
ARCHIVE**

PRESS RELEASE

The Athens Rep: A Midsummer Night's Dream & The Two Noble Kinsmen
2014

Directors: Jessica Aimone and Charlene V. Smith

Artistic Director: Charlene V. Smith
Resident Dramaturg: Claire Kimball

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Scripts in Word document format and scene charts in Excel are available for open source use and adaptation. You are also welcome to consult BST's script edits and doubling tracks for research or production. This page and other identifying markers should not be removed from PDF files.

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Brave Spirits Theatre Performs *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* in repertory.

PRESS NIGHT: Sunday, November 16th. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* @ 3pm; *The Two Noble Kinsmen* @ 8pm.

Anacostia Arts Center

1231 Good Hope Road, SE, Washington, DC 20020

For press tickets, please contact bravespiritstheatre@gmail.com.

CONTACT

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and THE TWO NOBLE KINSMEN

Brave Spirits Theatre is proud to announce the opening of its first year-round season, beginning with a repertory of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Shakespeare and John Fletcher's *The Two Noble Kinsmen*.

BST pairs the well-loved comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the rarely produced *The Two Noble Kinsmen* to interrogate to what lengths we will go for love and what happens to those who get left behind. Though *Midsummer* was written early in Shakespeare's career and *Kinsmen* was a much later collaboration with Fletcher, both stories are set in the realm of Theseus, who, days before his marriage to Hippolyta, must decide how to manage two young men rivaling for the attentions of one woman.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a perennial audience favorite, despite Samuel Pepys's infamous dismissal of the work as "the most insipid ridiculous play ever." Indeed, audiences have found much to rejoice at within the ridiculous frivolity that is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. With fairies, magical potions, runaways in the forest, and mythological characters, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* adds up to a evening of sheer entertainment.

The Two Noble Kinsmen is likely to be new to most audience members. Based on a tale from Chaucer, *Kinsmen* follows the changing fortunes of two best friends, Arcite and Palamon, who fall in love with Hippolyta's sister, Emilia. With a more melancholic tone than *Dream*, the twists of *Kinsmen's* plot will keep the audience guessing.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is directed by Jessica Aimone, fresh off of Pinky Swear Productions' hit *Tiny House Plays*. *Washington City Paper* called *Tiny House Plays* "a fascinating five-show compendium of extremely cozy theater." Aimone last tackled Shakespeare in the sold out 2011 Capital Fringe hit *Macbeth*, produced by Push/Pull Theater Company. The *Going Out Guide* praised *Macbeth* as "clever, lightning-quick, and all about taking risks."

BST Artistic Director Charlene V. Smith returns to the director's chair for *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, after playing Juliet in last summer's *Romeo and Juliet*. She previously directed BST's *Richard III*, a production *Shakespeareances.com* touted for its "clarity of vision and superb talent."

A Midsummer Night's Dream and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* will perform Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at 8pm, and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3pm, from November 14th – December 7th. Press performances are on Sunday, November 16th. The performances will take place at the Anacostia Arts Center, located at 1231 Good Hope Road, SE, Washington, DC 20020 (www.anacostiaartscenter.com). Tickets are \$20 each. On Saturdays and Sundays discounted combination tickets to both plays are available for \$30. Tickets are on sale at www.ticketriver.com/event/12758.

The cast is made up of actors from across the DC region with extensive experience in Shakespeare and early modern drama. They have worked with the Folger Theatre, Annapolis Shakespeare Company, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Taffety Punk, and Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, among others. Returning to BST for the repertory are Jenna Berk and Ian Blackwell Rogers. Performing with us for the first time are Joshua D. Brown, Jacqueline Chenault, Kelly Elliott, Renana Fox, Amber Gibson, Carolyn Kashner, Willem Krumich, Ben Lauer, David Mavricos, Zach Roberts, and Anderson Wells. The production also includes lighting design by Jason Aufdem-Brinke, costume design by Melissa Huggins, and puppetry design by Genevieve Beller.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays at 8pm

Saturdays and Sundays at 3pm

Special Industry Night performances on Monday, November 24 (*MND*) and Monday, December 1 (*TNK*) for theatre professionals. Tickets to these two performances are \$15.

Friday, November 14th @ 8pm -- **Opening Night:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Saturday, November 15th @ 3pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Saturday, November 15th @ 8pm -- **Opening Night:** *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

Sunday, November 16th @ 3pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Sunday, November 16th @ 8pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

Friday, November 21st @ 8pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

Saturday, November 22nd @ 3pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

Saturday, November 22nd @ 8pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Sunday, November 23rd @ 3pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

Sunday, November 23rd @ 8pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Monday, November 24th @ 8pm -- **Industry Night:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Friday, November 28th @ 8pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Saturday, November 29th @ 3pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Saturday, November 29th @ 8pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
Sunday, November 30th @ 3pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Sunday, November 30th @ 8pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
Monday, December 1st @ 8pm -- **Industry Night:** *The Two Noble Kinsmen*

Friday, December 5th @ 8pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
Saturday, December 6th @ 3pm -- *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
Saturday, December 6th @ 8pm -- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Sunday, December 7th @ 3pm -- **Closing Night:** *The Two Noble Kinsmen*
Sunday, December 7th @ 8pm -- **Closing Night:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

ABOUT BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE

Founded in 2011, Brave Spirits Theatre is dedicated to plays from the era of verse and violence which contrast the baseness of humanity with the elegance of poetry. By staging dark, visceral, intimate productions of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, we strive to tear down the perception of these plays as proper and intellectual and instead use them to explore the boundaries of acceptable human behavior. BST will complete its 2014-2015 season with a production of *Arden of Faversham* in the spring.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Jessica Aimone (Director *A Midsummer Night's Dream*): DIRECTING: *Tiny House Plays*, *Cabaret XXX: Everybody F*cking Dies*, *Killing Women* at Pinky Swear Productions. *Macbeth* at Push/Pull Theater Company. ACTING: *Big Love* at The Hub Theater, *The Violet Hour* and *Holiday* at 1st Stage; *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It* and *The Liar* at Theater of Monmouth; *Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Love's Labours Lost* at the American Shakespeare Center. TRAINING: BA in Acting from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. BA in Art and Visual Technology from George Mason University.

Charlene V. Smith (Director *The Two Noble Kinsmen*) DIRECTING: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Co-Director), *Richard III* at Brave Spirits Theatre; *Richard II* at Mary Baldwin College S&P (MFA production); *The Comedy of Errors* (Assistant Director) at the Baltimore Shakespeare Factory; *The Spanish Tragedy* (Director) at Rude Mechanicals; *A Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Assistant Director) at Virginia Shakespeare Festival. ACTING: *Dr. Faustus* (Dr. Faustus), *Margaret: A Tyger's Heart* (Margaret of Anjou), *Macbeth* (Macduff) at Mary Baldwin College S&P; *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Silvia, Lucetta, Outlaw) at Brave Spirits; *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice) at Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. TRAINING: London Dramatic Academy; BA in Theatre and English from the College of William and Mary, Phi Beta Kappa; MLitt and MFA in Shakespeare in Performance from Mary Baldwin College in partnership with the American Shakespeare Center. www.charlenevsmith.com.