

'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

WPCC to present performance in new outdoor theater

Western Piedmont Community College's Drama 120 group boasts the largest cast yet assembled for a college production here in the players' upcoming "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The William Shakespeare comedy, which will be the first play in the college's new outdoor Rifle Range Theatre, is scheduled for Thursdy, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 14-17, at 7 p.m.

In addition to the evening of family fantasy will be a musical pre-show, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Louise White, coordinator of the WPCC Writing Program, who is serving as music director for the production, has planned 15 minutes of Elizabethan madrigals.

Cast members for the show, co-sponsored by WPCC Drama 120 and the Burke Arts Council, include:

Scott Massey as Theseus, Duke of Athens; Bethany Ball as Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons; Louise White as Philostrate, Master of the Revels; and Milton Rodriguez as Theseus' father.

Hermia, a maiden in love with Lysander, is to be played by Katie Stephan, and Lysander, a youth in lover with Hermia, will be played by Arvis Boughman.

Demetrius, Lysander's rival for Hermia's hand, will be played by Jeff Chester, and Helena, a maiden in love with Demetrius, by Linda Old-Payne.

Other cast members include David McGee as Oberon, king of the fairies; Toby Stephan and Puck, Oberon's henchman; Dewanna Thomas as Titania, queen of the fairies and the following as Titania's fairy train: Kathy Heald, Barbara Dorman, Lewis Dorman, Kathy McKinney and Laura McKinney.

James Chapman plays Peter Quince, a carpenter; Greg Young as Nick Bottom, a weaver; Pat Harton as Francis Flute, a bellows-mender; James Pearson as Tom Snout, a tinker; Jamie Jamison as Snug, a joiner; and Bob Devries as Robin Starveling, a tailor.

Kevin Reis and Todd McKinney are extras and stage hands.

The production, under the direction of Cheryl Oxford, is being made possible, in part, by a Grassroots Grant from the N.C. Arts Council.

Although the new Rifle Range Theatre provides some seating, theater-goers are also asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs in order to enjoy the outdoor surroundings, under three large chestnut trees, near the college firing range. The Rifle Range Theatre is easily accessible from the college's Parking Lot Three. Closer parking also will be available for the handicapped and the elderly.

Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. They are available in advance from the Jailhouse Gallery and at the college; call Karen McDade at the gallery, 433-7282, or Louise White at the college, 437-8688, Ext. 2324.

Rain date is Monday, July 18.

In addition, before the Friday performance, the college's Student Government Association will host a chicken barbecue at the WPCC pond from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the

event of rain, the chicken dinner will be held on the breezeway between the Moore and Patton buildings.

Tickets for the chicken barbecue are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12. They may be obtained from Larry Garrison in WPCC's Building G, Room 120, or by calling 437-8688, Ext. 2277. Members of the SGA also are selling tickets.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" was Shakespeare's 12th play. Some experts believe that with its masque-like scenes of fairydom and the bridal poem at the close, the play was likely written not for the stage, but for a courtly wedding of Shakespeare's day.

Written in the mid-1590s, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is said to have been drawn from Chaucer's "Knight's Tale" and the widespread fairy lore of western Europe at the time. It contains mischief, merry-making, fantasy, and the foibles of love, song, dance and revelry.



Greg Young, Dewanna Thomas and Lewis Dorman in forest scene.



Elizabethan madrigal singers will perform before the play.