

IMAGE TO APPEAR HERE

The best loved of Shakespeare's so-called Middle Comedies, *The Dream* (as it is affectionately known in theatre circles) was the Bard's contribution to "midsummer madness", and its dream-like landscape, hilarious multi-level plotting, and charming characters are favourites of theatre-goers the world over. The play moves effortlessly from the human world to the intriguing fairy world of the midnight forest, and seems to make this interchange natural and inevitable. The human lovers – Helena, Demetrius, Lysander and Hermia - bring their disputes and deceits, as well as their longings, into the world of the Fairy King and Queen, Oberon and Titania, whose own sparring reflects the disharmony amongst their human counterparts. In the process the play delivers some engaging insights into love in all its guises, with a little bit of magic thrown in. Add to this already volatile situation a band of yokels ("hempen homespuns," as the cheeky sprite Puck calls them) who come into the forest to rehearse a play to be performed, fittingly, at a wedding, and you have further fuel for Shakespeare's gorgeous portrayal of all the strands of human behaviour. Like all good comedies, *The Dream* begins with division in the world, and ends in sublime harmony, thoroughly enchanting the audience along the way. We enjoy the trickery and mischief set loose by the characters, safe in the assurance that no great harm will come to any of them.

Evenings at 7.30pm

June 19 | 20 | 21

Adult \$20.00 | Concession \$10.00 *

Beckett Theatre, The Malthouse

Bookings: +61 3 9685 5111 www.malthousetheatre.com.au

* Booking fees may be charged by the ticket agent, in addition to the ticket price above