

GRIGWARE REVIEWS

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review - A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream

CRITIC'S PICK

A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream

by William Shakespeare; music from Saturday Night Fever
Troubies at the Falcon Theatre through July 7

I have been reviewing the Troubadour Theatre Company for 12 years, and like fine wine, the troupe gets better and better with each passing gig. Artistic director/director/actor Matt Walker brings his cockeyed genius to every move, every pause - this man knows how to get - and milk - a laugh for all it's worth! I first saw ***A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream*** in 2001. Of course, I cannot remember if this version is different from that one, nor can I find the review I wrote. Suffice to say, the show is a moment.to.moment crowd-pleaser and will assuredly win over its new audiences and make them die-hard Troubie fans just as it did me those many years ago. Shakespeare set to the music of the Bee Gees and the film ***Saturday Night Fever*** - how can you miss? Those of us that lived through the 70s literally jived to that music and worshipped the film in which Travolta gave new meaning to disco dancing. Now onstage at the Falcon Theatre through July 7, the Troubies give it their best shot, which is kinda like casting Meryl Streep. They can't miss. Even if you've seen it before, even if it shows the silliest gag known to man, you will laugh, 'cause if you're getting old like me...you plain and simple won't remember whether it's new or not.



I'm beginning to sound like Norman Thayer Jr. in Ernest Thompson's *On Golden Pond*, and I'm not nearly that old, but, all kidding aside, the Troubies are always worth a night out. I won't waste time or space with the plot of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, as there are traditional versions out there you can see, and the mere mention of the characters' names should ring a bell, as most of you have at least read it in high school or college. The Troubies, as irreverent as they are, love the Bard and speak in verse and reenact the whole story, but *pray tell*, what you see is never traditional but their original satire with sight gags, pratfalls and tumbling - yes, some of the actors make their entrances jumping on a small trampoline or spring board rear stage. On to the cast... brilliant Walker as Peter Quince and Puck, Rick Batalla, chewing up the scenery as always as Bottom, Rob Nagle a dumbfaced Flute so deliciously funny in drag, Lisa Valenzuela, hysterical with her bag of oranges as Starveling, all adding overabundance to the Pyramus/Thisbe Wall scene, the highlight of Act II and as rehearsal in Act I. Matt Merchant makes a beefy Oberon with attitude and Monica Schneider is the beautiful Titania, and ever resourceful Beth Kennedy as Helena, Tyler King as Lysander, Katherine Malak as Hermia and Joseph Leo Bwarie as Demetrius. Nice to see him back after his long absence on the road with *Jersey Boys*. Malak and Kennedy are superb in their faceoff diva scenes. Kudos also to Morgan Rusler as Theseus, Mike Sulprizio, Suzanne Jolie Narbonne, Joseph Keane and Liz Beebe.

All your favorite tunes are here including: "Stayin' Alive", "Night Fever", "Jive Talkin'", "If I Can't Have



You", "How Deep Is Your Love", "More Than a Woman", "Disco Inferno" and "Should Be Dancin'" to the expert musicianship of Eric Heinly on drums, Kevin McCourt at the keyboard, Linda Taylor on guitar and Dana Decker on bass. Jeff McLaughlin's fun sets, Sharon McGunigle's funky costumes Jeremy Pivnick's psychedelic lighting all add vibrancy, and Molly Alvarez' choreography just rocks.

Go see **A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever**

Dream for the sheer fun of it, sing along to your favorite songs and get up and dance! *May long JIVE the Troubies!*

5 out of 5 stars

<http://www.falcontheatre.com/>



Posted by [Don Grigware](#) at 6:28 PM