

## A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream



The Troubadour Theatre Company "the Troubies," currently housed at the comfortable Falcon Theatre in Toluca Lake, has an on-going, once-or-twice-a-year deal with the Falcon people: give us the space and we'll sell out a short run of goofy play-making, mixing Shakespeare with tumblers, improvisation, famous songwriters material, less the proverbial kitchen sink.

Their latest creation highlights the company's strengths, taking "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and mating it to the Bee Gee's musical heritage, hence the title "A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream," is fabulous theatre. Dicey mating, perhaps, but their offspring is amusing, even witty, with terrific dancing (choreography by Molly Alvarez), singing, classically-trained acting (the Bard's verse is clearly articulated), and an over-all sense of bubble-gum fun.

The audience opening night was in full swing (Troubie groupies – a scary but ultimately benign notion), helping the actors sell the fun. And amazing fun it is – not as if it were some sophomoric event (see how clever we are!), but with full-on professionalism, from the bright costuming of Sharon McGunigle and Robert Arturo Ramirez's sound lighting design, to the effervescent four-piece band (headed by drummer Eric Heinly), Jeremy Pivnick's exuberant lighting design, and so on, all over-seen by director/company co-founder Matt Walker.

Now, this is clearly not everyone's cuppa-tea, but it's clever theatre, gloriously thought-through, witty sometimes and wondrously goofy other times, with somethin' for everyone, classical theatre-geeks to those looking for uplifting entertainment. And clearly the more one brings to the event, the more one takes out of it. Trust it.

While every single one of the performers (musicians included) shine, some of the top-shiners included Mr. Walker as Puck and the rustic, Quince; Rob Nagle as another rustic, Flute; Beth Kennedy as the hapless Helena; Katherine Malak as Hermia; the master of improvisation, Rick Bataila as Nick Bottom; the glory-voiced Morgan Rusler as Duke Theses; and the dance collective, The Faerie's: Liz Beebe, Joseph Leo Bwarie (also plays Demetrius), Joseph Keane, Tyler King (also plays Lysander), Suzanne Jolie Narbonne, Mike Sulprizio and Lisa Valenzuela.

This is more than just a great time; it is a smack-down funny great time, full of surprises, energy and wonderful dance and song. All-in-all, worth every penny you spend on tickets, gasoline, and time. Go, if you can get tickets.

*A Midsummer Saturday Night's Fever Dream* plays through July 7th, 2013, at the Falcon Theatre, 4253 Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91505. Tickets: 818.955.8101 or at [www.FalconTheatre.com](http://www.FalconTheatre.com).