

Cobourg production combines 1850s Canada and a Shakespeare classic

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' runs Nov. 6 to 16

Tuesday, November 4, 2014



COBOURG -- Mike Chowns, Collen Lewis, Kirsty Bowles and Cathy Borowec play the Fairies in William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The Northumberland Players and Shakespeare Street Theatre production runs from November 6 to 16, with eight student performances and three public performances on November 8, 15 and 16. October 31, 2014. - Photo by Lana Missen

COBOURG -- A fresh take on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' hits the stage for a Northumberland Players first.

The Northumberland Players present Shakespeare's comedy at the Firehall Theatre Nov. 6 to 16. It is first Shakespearean production for the Northumberland Players.

A different take on an old story, the production is set in 1850s Canada. The story is a complex comedy set around Duke Theseus's wedding, four young lovers, a group of amateur actors, and the mishaps that occur when the city folk wander into the world of the unseen fairies.

The Firehall Theatre offers a great space presented in a semi-in-the-round style allowing actors to enter from all directions.

The unique production is a collaboration with Shakespeare Street Theatre's artistic director, Paula Worley. Ms. Worley founded the Shakespeare Street Theatre in 2009 in Northumberland. It has had a run of successful productions at The Capitol Theatre Port Hope, Showplace Performance Centre Peterborough, Northumberland County festivals and schools including C.R. Gummow School, Cobourg.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Northumberland Players and bring my direction to a production with such a well-respected theatre group," said Ms. Worley.

The Northumberland Players welcomes the opportunity to bring a Shakespeare play to the Firehall Theatre.

“Shakespeare is always wonderful entertainment but you need a director who understands it. Paula is that director,” said Jack Boyagian, artistic director of the Northumberland Players and show producer.

The production includes stunning handmade headpieces for the fairy characters created by Lisa Schnalzer–Missen, combined with the period costumes from Northumberland Players Cobourg Costume Centre.

Tickets can purchased through the Victoria Hall box office at 905-372-2210. Visit www.northumberlandplayers.ca more information on show dates and times.