

S4K PlayPack



MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY JULIAN CHENERY, MATT GIMBLETT
(and William Shakespeare)



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SAMPLE SCRIPT

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Act 1, Scene 2

QUINCE is in his house preparing for the arrival of the other MECHANICALS. First to arrive is SNOOT, followed quickly by STARVELING, FLUTE and SNUG entering one-by-one and greeting QUINCE. Finally, in the grand manner, BOTTOM enters applauded by the others. He bows theatrically and sits in QUINCE's favourite chair **SL**. QUINCE has a bag containing scripts, for the others, and a list, which he reads from.

QUINCE Are we all met?

BOTTOM Take the register.

QUINCE Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver?

BOTTOM Ready! Name my part and proceed.

As he announces which part they are playing, QUINCE hands each actor a scroll with their words on.

QUINCE You, Nick Bottom, are down to play Pyramus!

BOTTOM What is Pyramus? A lover or a tyrant?

QUINCE A lover – that kills himself most gallantly for love.

BOTTOM *(boasting)* Oh yes – that's a part that'll take some playing.
Oh yes – only Bottom can do justice to Pyramus!

QUINCE Francis Flute, the bellows-mender?

FLUTE Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE You will play Thisbe.

FLUTE Thisbe! But Thisbe's a girl! Oh no. I can't play a girl.
Look – I've got a beard coming.

QUINCE You'll have to. You can always wear a mask to hide your face. And remember to speak with a high voice.

BOTTOM Hey – I could hide my face, and play Thisbe as well.
I'll speak with a hugely small voice, like this.

(As Pyramus) "Oh Thisbe, Thisbe!" *(Then as Thisbe)* "Ah Pyramus, my lover dear; it is I your Thisbe and lady dear."

QUINCE No! No! No! You must play Pyramus, and Flute you are Thisbe. Robin Starveling, the tailor?

STARVELING Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE Robin Starveling – you must play the moon. Tom Snout, the tinker?

SNOUT Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE You are the Wall. Snug the joiner will play the lion.

He doesn't give a script to Snug. SNUG comes up to Quince.

SNUG Have you got the lion's part all written down – because it takes me a long time to learn things, you know.

QUINCE Don't worry, Snug – just make it up. It's only roaring.

BOTTOM I know, I know! I'll play the lion as well. I will roar so loudly that the Duke will say "Let him roar again! Let him roar again!" ROAR!

QUINCE Don't be silly, Bottom. You'll frighten the ladies.

BOTTOM I'll roar softly, then – like a dove. (whispers) Roar.

QUINCE Bottom – no more roaring! You can play Pyramus, and only Pyramus.

BOTTOM sulks off to the other side of the room. The rest of the men push QUINCE over towards BOTTOM to make him patch things up.

QUINCE He is a sweet faced man... a handsome man... and only Bottom could play him.

BOTTOM milks the moment and then – at last to the relief of all – he agrees.

BOTTOM OK – I'll do it!

QUINCE So we've all got our parts?

ALL Yes, Peter Quince.

QUINCE Then go away and learn them well. We'll meet again in the wood tomorrow night at midnight. There we will rehearse the Most Lamentable Comedy and Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe!

They repeat their "Musketeers 'All for One'" fraternity handshake.

ALL Pyramus and Thisbe!

MUSIC #3 – SONG: PYRAMUS AND THISBE (The Mechanicals)

SNOUT I am the wall,
Five feet tall,
Straight and true, as you can see.
I'll play it long,
I can play it strong,
And that's why they've chosen me.
And tho' I'm just this tall – I am the wall.

STARVELING You'll see me soon,
I'm the Man up in the Moon,
Lantern lighting up the sky.
I'm too proud
To hide behind a cloud,
On my ladder way up high.
And I can sing in tune – I am the Moon.

ALL What a play, what a celebration!
What a thing to set before the Lord and Lady.
What a show, what an entertainment,
Pyramus and Thisbe, they'll applaud.
They'll shout for more and say,
"O what a play!"

BOTTOM Pyramus, I'll be,
Lover of Thisbe,
It's the best part in the show.
Only I can play it,
The lion I will slay it,
'Ere we go, now, 'ere we go!
I'm very infamous – I'm Pyramus!

FLUTE Why's it always me
That has to play Thisbe,
And all the other girlie parts?
Don't you think it's weird
When a woman wears a beard?
I suffer – but I do this for my art.
I'm very unhappy – I am Thisbe.

ALL What a play, what a celebration!
 What a thing to set before the Lord and Lady.
 What a show, what an entertainment,
 Pyramus and Thisbe, they'll applaud.
 They'll shout for more and say,
 "O what a play!"

SNUG Listen to my roars,
 Watch out for my claws,
 I'm the lion strong and proud!
 I'll eat Thisbe up, her
 Bones will be my supper,
 Then I'll shout out very loud...
 "You'd better stop your cry'ng – cos I'm the Lion!"

ALL What a play, what a celebration!
 What a thing to set before the Lord and Lady.
 What a show, what an entertainment,
 Pyramus and Thisbe, they'll applaud.
 They'll shout for more and say,
 "O what a play!"

SNOUT The Wall!
ALL (A Play!)
STARVELING The Moon!
ALL (A Play!)
BOTTOM Pyramus!
ALL (A Play!)
FLUTE Thisbe!
ALL (A Play!)
SNUG The Lion!
ALL (A Play!)
ALL A Play! A Play! A Play! A Play! A Play! – A... Play! – A... PLAY!

At the end of the song the MECHANICALS dance off.