



# *English Studies in Latin America*

*422 Years of Fun:*

**Theatre Review of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the “Jornada de Enseñanza de Literatura en Inglés 2012”**

**Author:** Valentina Gutiérrez Lethaby

**Source:** *White Rabbit: English Studies in Latin America*, No. 4 (December 2012)

**ISSN:** 0719-0921

**Published by:** Facultad de Letras, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

---

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.

Your use of this work indicates your acceptance of these terms.





*422 Years of Fun:*  
**Theatre Review of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the “Jornada de Enseñanza de Literatura en Inglés 2012”**

Valentina Gutiérrez Lethaby<sup>1</sup>

*Midsummer Night's Dream* is a play written by William Shakespeare in the 1590s. Even though it was written several years ago, we cannot deny it keeps being as amusing, funny and surprising as it was, almost 422 years ago. Since it is a play performed all around the world, Universidad Católica de Chile could not miss it, and therefore, the past October 10<sup>th</sup> it was presented at Aulas Lassen, directed by Consuelo Gajardo, professor at the Letras department.

The story starts with Theseus, Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, who are willing to get married. The adventures begin with four unskilled actors, who try to prepare a suitable presentation for the wedding, and four young lovers, who are willing to change their fate in order to marry their soulmates. Nevertheless, the story gets confusing when the fairies that inhabit the forest, Titania, Oberon and Puck, try to manipulate them and complicate the situation, even more, with their mistakes.

The scenery made was functional and thoughtful. It did not change throughout the play and it consisted of three parts; on the left and on the right side of the stage there were folding screens, which helped the entrance and departure of the actors. In the middle of the stage there was a bed of flowers, which was essential for the story and where most of the plot took part. Furthermore, the

---

<sup>1</sup> First-year student of the English Literature and Linguistics program at Pontificia Universidad Católica.

lights, dimming, getting brighter and changing colours, helped the audience to get immersed into the play, giving life to the whole scenery.

The costumes worn by the actors were as vivid as the background. The modern touch brought the 1590s' play into the 2012. Bright colours, textures and make up combined with the light effects revived the show, preserving its original essence, which is something to be grateful of, as it did not deformed Shakespeare's original idea.

The actors' performance was astonishing. Even though it is a comedy and it is expected to be entertaining, it is not easy to make the public laugh, as it did. The creativity and confidence that the cast projected kept the audience alive, forgetting about the outcome, but enjoying every scene instead. In addition, this was accomplished by the director, who managed to use every part of the stage and made appeared and disappeared the characters from both sides of it, keeping the theatregoers alert and concentrated throughout the whole show.

History, society, cultures and people change in more than 400 years, but Shakespeare does not. The contemporaneous style, in language, jokes, costumes and scenery given to the play, were nothing but improvements, maintaining the primary spirit of it; romantic, spontaneous and classical, as only as one of the best play writers can be.