



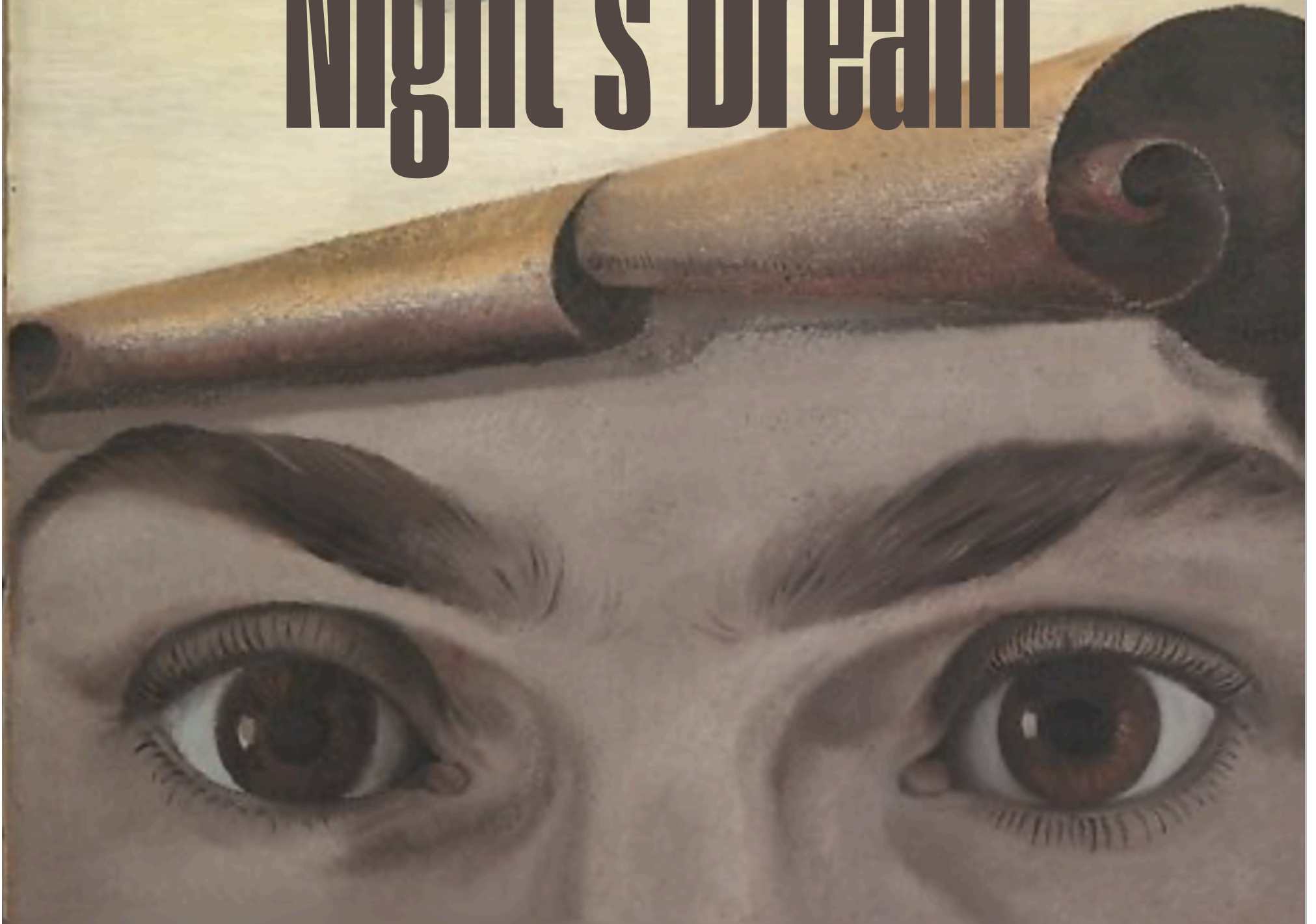
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC AND THEATRE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

2025-26
Season

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE PRESENTS

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A Midsummer Night's Dream



ARENA THEATRE

MARCH 4 TO 8

WEDNESDAY AT 8PM

THURSDAY AT 8PM

FRIDAY AT 3PM

SATURDAY AT 2PM & 8PM

SUNDAY AT 2PM

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL SCHANTZ



FOR INFO & TICKETS

Advance Tickets: \$20 general public/\$15 students, seniors, & UAlbany faculty-staff

Day of Show Tickets: \$25 general public/\$20 students, seniors, & UAlbany faculty-staff

Info: ⁽⁵¹⁸⁾ 442-3995

WWW.ALBANY.EDU/PAC

UAlbany Theatre
Department of Music & Theatre
College of Arts and Sciences
presents

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

by

William Shakespeare

Directed by

Michael Schantz

Scenic Design

Beck Clark

Costume Design

Anne Croteau

Lighting Design

Evan Anderson

Technical Direction

John Knapp

Stage Manager

Heavenlee Gonzalez

*This production is made possible with the generous support of The John Orser '55
Theatrical Endowment.*

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I always balked at *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was never one of my favorites — I never understood it. I probably still don't to a certain extent. But through this process, I find myself falling in love with it. And much like the experience of love, it is coming with some precariousness, as the team and I try to “figure it out.” If you're lucky, there is always a sense of falling when you're making a play, and that you don't quite know if you'll be safely caught. This play really asks for some surrender — surrender to the irrational, to the absurd. These are challenging human experiences to give over to, especially when there is such a premium placed on logic and control in our world.

I try not to approach plays from a terribly intellectual place, but from a guttural and visceral one. And though we've explored the play here through a sort of cerebral lens, linking its themes of irrationality and transformation (among others) to the Surrealist and Dada art movements, ultimately, it is the emotional landscape of the play that I am most concerned with --the inner transformative journeys of the characters, and the ordeals they must all undergo.

These ordeals unfold in an interwoven latticework of events inside a forest, which may or may not be a psychological forest of sorts. It is interesting to consider that these transformations occur inside of a dream, where I believe many of our transformations happen — behind our backs, as we wrestle with powerful unwieldy forces within ourselves.

Gender power dynamics, the irrationality of love, mistaken identity, mischief, absurdity... all of these collide and collapse into each other as the characters descend deeper into the dark night, only to emerge rebirthed and reordered, wondering if it was all a dream.

And we are left to consider the place dreams have in our lives; whether life itself is a dream, and how unnerving the suggestion is that if we perhaps listened more intently and surrendered to our irrational dreams, we might find something new and transformative.