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Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park announces 2021 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Group seeks \$20,000 in public support for summer production and expanded community offerings

"I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream..." —A Midsummer Night's Dream

PITTSFIELD, MA – On New Year's Day, Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park announced that the title of their next production will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In a Facebook Live streaming announcement, the board of directors of Pittsfield Shakespeare announced plans to stage Shakespeare's fantastical comedy on the First Street Common in Pittsfield in the summer of 2021.

"This year has given us all cause for reflection," said artistic director Enrico Spada. "We wanted to give our audiences something joyful and full of heart this year, which is why we will be returning to our roots with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*—which was our first production seven years ago."

"I love that we're doing *Midsummer*," said board member and actor Patrick J Toole. "There's so many fantastic, hilarious, and moving parts." Board member and Pittsfield native Brittany Nicholson stated, "I'm really looking forward to it because it's magical and whimsical, light-hearted and fun."

The board of directors recently announced the beginning of a fundraising campaign, continuing into the new year, with a goal of \$20,000 in donations from individuals to support the production. Board member Maizy Broderick-Scarpa stated, "We've taken this time to really revisit what our goals, values, and priorities are and how we can reflect that both in what we're offering and our fundraising priorities."

The campaign has so far reached 20% of its goal, and will continue until that goal is met (to be supplemented by foundational, state, and business support.) With its ambitious goal, the company intends to prioritize more equitable pay for its actors as well as creating better access opportunities for audiences, including virtual streaming options for those who can't make it to the live show.

Full dates and artistic staff for the production will be announced at a later date. As safety for the actors and audience is paramount, the company is still creating contingency plans if a full live show is not possible in the summer due to pandemic restrictions. Actors who are interested in auditioning for the production should email auditions@pittsfieldshakespeare.org to be notified when submissions will be accepted.

To learn more about Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park and to donate, visit www.pittsfieldshakespeare.org. Follow Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park on Facebook ([facebook.com/pittsfieldshake](https://www.facebook.com/pittsfieldshake)) to join virtual events and stay up-to-date on PSP news and the campaign's progress.

ABOUT PITTSFIELD SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Launched in the summer of 2014, Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park presents fully-produced performances of Shakespeare's plays under the evening sky for free to the public. Thousands of people have enjoyed its productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2014), *Romeo and Juliet* (2015), *The Tempest* (2016), *Twelfth Night* (2017), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (2019).

For photos of past shows visit <http://www.pittsfieldshakespeare.org/photos>

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