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THE SYNETIC THEATER PRODUCTION OF *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* RETURNS FOR MARYLAND AUDIENCES

Olney Theatre Center introduces Maryland audiences to Synetic's thrilling, kinetic performances with one of their most acclaimed, groundbreaking productions

Olney, MD — June 23, 2025 — The Synetic Theater production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, winner of two Helen Hayes Awards, comes to Olney Theatre Center from July 17 - August 10, 2025, on the Roberts Mainstage. This playful adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by **Ben Cunis** and **Paata Tsikurishvili**, features Synetic's trademark wordless storytelling.

Interested press are invited to attend the opening night performance on Saturday, July 19, at 8:00 pm—email sstraub@olneytheatre.org to reserve two tickets.

Tickets cost \$41 - \$101 and are available at olneytheatre.org or by calling the box office (301-924-3400).

Synetic Theatre, described by the *Washington Post* as “the region’s premier troupe for physical theater,” has been thrilling DC audiences since its artistic debut in 2001. Now, its acclaimed adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* returns for Maryland audiences at Olney Theatre Center. Directed and choreographed by company co-founders **Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili**, the production originally premiered in 2010 and received nine Helen Hayes Award nominations, winning Outstanding Resident Play and Outstanding Ensemble. It has since been remounted in 2013, 2015, and 2022, and toured internationally at Mexico’s 2014 Festival Internacional.

In his 2022 *Washington Post* review, critic Thomas Floyd raved about the production, declaring, “**Synetic reimagines one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays with wordless elegance.**”

“I’ve wanted to bring Synetic’s work to Olney Theatre ever since I saw this production of *Midsummer* in 2009,” says Olney Theatre Center’s Artistic Director, Jason Loewith.

“Using only movement, music and the simplest of scenographic tools, the Synetic company rendered a more touching, funny, romantic and irreverent *Midsummer* than I’d

ever seen, even without Shakespeare's famous words. I'm proud to share their artistic genius with our community."

The featured cast includes **Stella Bunch** (Puck), **Rachel Small** (Titania), **Philip Fletcher** (Oberon), **Kim-Anh Nguyen** (Hippolyta), **Chris Galindo** (Theseus/Snug), **Camille Pivetta** (Helena), **Jacob Thomson** (Demetrius), **Tony Amante** (Lysander), **Irinka Kavsadze** (Hermia), **Emma Ruckh** (Peaseblossom), **Kaitlyn Shifflett** (Flute/Fairy), **Irakli Kavsadze** (Bottom/Egeus), **Koki Lortkipanidze** (Starveling), **Vato Tsikurishvili** (Quince), **Lev Belolipetski** (Snout), and **Aaron Kan** (Verges).

The creative team is joined by **Koki Lortkipanidze** (Original Music and Sound Design), **Anastasia Rurikov Simes** (Original Set, Costumes, and Properties Design), **Andrew Griffin** (Lighting Design), **Channing Tucker** (Associate Costume Designer), and **Dean Leong** (Associate Lighting Designer).

Production photos available upon request.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

The Synetic Theater production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

By William Shakespeare

Adapted by Ben Cunis and Paata Tsikurishvili

Directed by Paata Tsikurishvili

Choreographed by Irina Tsikurishvili

Original Music and Sound Design by Koki Lortkipanidze

Original Set, Costumes, and Properties Design by Anastasia Rurikov Simes

Lighting Design by Andrew Griffin

Associate Costume Designer Channing Tucker

Associate Lighting Designer Dean Leong

Dates, Location, Tickets

July 17 - August 10, 2025

Roberts Mainstage

Olney Theatre Center

2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

Olney, MD 20832

Tickets: \$41 - \$101 available at olneytheatre.org and 301-924-3400

Performance Schedule

Wednesdays through Saturdays evenings at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 1:30 pm.

Special Curtain time on Saturday, July 19, at 8:00 pm for Invite-Only Opening

Accessible Performances

Audio-Described Performance – Wednesday, July 23 at 7:30 pm

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals and reimaginings of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than eight decades, Olney Theatre Center has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC, region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia de Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best-educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now, the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non-profit organizations, and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

Olney Theatre Center employs 40 full-time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 early career apprentices and players, and more than 400 professional artists annually. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org/history

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