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## Daydream

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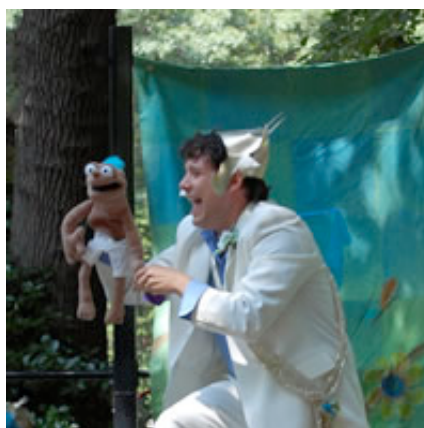
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This is from the press materials: "This is the third annual production of PLG Arts' production of



Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Daydream*, adapted for children of all ages, from pre-school on up. A group of construction workers come to rehearse a play in Prospect Park's Imagination Playground and stumble into a battle between the King and Queen of the Fairies. Magic, puppets, hard hats & safety vests—what more could any Brooklyn kid want? (Those from other boroughs welcome!) Don't forget to stick around afterwards for the free children's activity or bring your kids' bathing suits for a splash in the dragon fountain after the play. Note: seating is on the ground."

*Pictured: Sean Kenin in a scene from Daydream*

### nytheatre.com review

**Matthew Freeman** · July 5, 2008

In the summer, productions of Shakespeare cover New York City's parks like a February blizzard. In Central Park, you're just as likely to find an actor spouting iambic pentameter as you are to see someone throwing a frisbee to her dog. But few of the many productions have the unique charm of *Daydream*, a children's theatre adaptation of

### VENUE

Prospect Park's  
Imagination  
Playground, Ocean  
Avenue between  
Lincoln Rd & Parkside  
Ave

### OPENED

June 28, 2008

### CLOSES

July 20, 2008

### PERFORMANCES

Sat at 11am; Sun at  
3pm

### RUNNING TIME

1 hour  
No intermission

### TICKETS

FREE  
718-393-7733

### MORE INFO

**Company's official  
website**

### CAST

Amy Chang, Laura  
Frenzer, Sean Kenin,  
Lynda Kennedy, T.  
Scott Lilly, Siobhan  
O'Neill, Orlando  
Powers

### AUTHOR

William Shakespeare

### DIRECTOR

Rohana Elias-Reyes

### PRODUCING COMPANY

PLG Arts

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***A Midsummer Night's Dream***, currently

running Saturday and Sunday afternoons in Prospect Park's Imagination Playground.

*Daydream*, directed by Rohana Elias-Reyes, is the perfect way to enjoy cultural activities as an active parent. The production is outdoors, fast moving, smartly put together, and seems to have a knack for what it is that keeps kids happy. By getting rid of the lovers, and focusing on the Faeries and the Mechanicals (here recast as Brooklyn construction workers), *Daydream* leaves only the best of the comedy and magic. It's economical without feeling reduced.

The adaptation is smart, but the direction makes excellent use of the park's surroundings and some adorable puppets, voiced onstage by the actors themselves. When Oberon and Puck have a conversation, it's the versatile Sean Kenin playing both parts deftly. When Titania is asking a young fairy to sing her to sleep, actress Siobhan O'Neil lies down, puts her puppet in the air, and sings to herself. It's charming, and the children loved it. Puppets seem to appear out of nowhere, at precisely the right time. The music is familiar and lively.

The Mechanicals, though, are the heart of *Daydream* and they are fantastic. Orlando Powers makes Bottom a bright-eyed and enthusiastic guy, always in motion, always having a fabulous time. As his other half in the play-within-the-play, Laura Frenzer gives a hilarious performance as Flute. Their death scene together (always a chance for hams to lay it on thick) seems to fit the children's theatre mold like a glove: silly, perfectly timed, over-the-top. It's also great (for outdoor Shakespeare aficionados) to see founding Gorilla Rep member Lynda Kennedy performing Snug the Joiner in a signature performance.

This is can't miss children's theatre that Shakespeare lovers will truly appreciate.

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