

A Modern Twist on Shakespeare's Classic: A Midsummer Night's Dream at Deutsches Theater Göttingen

Shakespeare's plays are renowned for their timeless themes such as love, tragedy, power, and manipulation. Their timelessness can be resonated with their complexity, giving us the chance to retell the stories in many different ways. On the 27th of February my English course attended the theatre in Göttingen to watch William Shakespeare's greatest comedy 'A midsummer night's dream' directed by Paul Stebbing and performed by the American Drama Group.

The play definitely helped to better understand the rather difficult language of Shakespeare and effectively prepared us for reading the play.

An essential aspect which underlines my statement was the creative staging. The actors convincingly portrayed their roles while performing a midsummer night's dream by using excessive body language to underline their words, making it easier to follow the story. The use of modern slang and German words added a unique twist to the classic dialogue. Some might say that the theatrical gestures were sometimes over the top, but we think it helped to not only get a better view of the characters' personalities, when Puck got off the stage to interact with the audience for example, it also emphasized the comedic aspect of the play.

The visual impressions created the mystical atmosphere by using different light and sound effects, making the play more dramatic as well as highlighting the feelings of each situation, with the actors themselves providing live singing.

During the 90 minutes of the play the main props were two small boxes and a big one as well as a tree in the background. The minimalist stage design successfully highlighted the actors' performances and the play's themes. This gave the play a special touch while keeping it simple enough to not distract the audience from the storytelling.

It can be hard to follow the story if you go into the play without any background information because of all the different plots which are happening between the characters. I would recommend taking a look beforehand into the play, ensuring a more engaging experience.

Overall, the production was both entertaining and educational, making it a valuable experience for students preparing to read Shakespeare.