

A Midsummer-Night's Wedding [Abridged]

Cambridge. An Apartment in the Palace of JEREMY and ANGELA.

Manager of Mirth (Jeremy to Lynn, to begin entertainment)

JK: Come now; what masques, what dances shall we have,
To wear away this long age of three hours
Between our after-supper and bed-time?
Where is our usual manager of mirth?
What revels are in hand? Is there no play,
To ease the anguish of a torturing hour?
Call Philostrate.

LN: Here, mighty Theseus.

JK: Say, what abridgment have you for this evening?
What masque? What music? How shall we beguile
The lazy time, if not with some delight?

LN: There is a brief how many sports are ripe;
Make choice of which your highness will see first.
[*Gives a paper. JK unrolls the scroll and reads.*]

Tai Chi Sword (David Kessler)

JK: *The battle with the Centaurs, to be sung
By an Athenian eunuch to the harp.*
A battle, yea, but no harp-singing: that have I told my
love,
In glory of my kinsman Hercules.

(SWORD)

Drinking Song (SMSS) OR Song (Pam Kessler)

LN: Make choice of which your highness will see next.

JK: *The riot of the tipsy Bacchanals,
Tearing the **midnight** singer in their rage.
That is an old device; and it was play'd
When I from Thebes came last a conqueror.*

(SONG)

Funny Story (Kessler Family)

Recorder Consort (Michael Yoder & Vanessa Layne)

LN: Make choice of which your highness will see next.

JK: *The thrice three Muses mourning for the death
Of Learning, late deceas'd in SCA.
That is some satire keen and critical,
Con-sorting with a nuptial ceremony.*

(RECORDERS)

Mummers Play (Morris Folk)

LN: Make choice of which your highness will see next.

JK: *A tedious brief scene of young **Saint Jeremy**
And his love **Fair Angela**; very tragical mirth.
Merry and tragical! tedious and brief!
That is, hot ice and wonderous strange snow.
How shall we find the concord of this discord?*

LN: A play there is, my lord, some ten words long,
Which is as brief as I have known a play;
But by ten words, my lord, it is too long,
Which makes it tedious; for in all the play
There is not one word apt, one player fitted.

(MUMMERS PLAY)

Renaissance Dance (Michael Bergman and Patri Pugliese)

LN: Will it please you to see the epilogue, or to hear a
Bergomask dance between two of our company?

JK: No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no excuse. But
come, your Bergomask: let your epilogue alone. [*A dance.*]

(DANCE)

Puck's Closing Speech (Lynn to Angela & Jeremy)

LN: If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended,
That you have but slumber'd here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend:
If you pardon, we will mend.
And, as I'm an honest Puck,
If we have unearned luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long;
Else the Puck a liar call:
So, good night unto you all.
Give me your hands, if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

(APPLAUSE)

Benedick's Closing Speech (Jeremy to Patri)

JK: Come, come, we are friends. Let's have a dance **now** we are married, that we may lighten our own hearts and our wives' heels.

(DANCING FOR ALL)