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C. Northcote plays magnificent Bottom

By MARY MAY

If Rita Davies as Titania manages to employ some faerie magic, or slightly more surgical glue, to secure a vital third of her costume, and a few other small technical difficulties are smoothed out by the time "A Midsummer Night's Dream" arrives in the Old Dining Hall tomorrow night, it should be a thoroughly enjoyable performance.

The play's out-of-town opening at Brock in St. Catherine's sent a disappointingly sparse audience home happy, and with good reason. Charlie Northcote presented a magnificent Bottom, a damned good ass, a memorable Pyramus. As Thisbe, Paul Rapsey demonstrated a fantastic falsetto, (which broke beautifully once), gravity-defying leaps, and a fine hairy chest; and Steve Meek is, as Peter Quince. All the Mechanicals form one of the very best things about the production.

The mortal lovers are pleasant enough, and Liz Pilacinski became a forceful Helena as the play devel-

oped Oberon and Titania — otherwise Jack Weatherall and Rita Davies are satisfyingly sensuous, as are their attendants. This is, one should not forget, a Gregory production: at one point Titania's attendants break into a belly dance. (The music for this, and the rest of the play was specially adapted for the production and generally managed to please, as did the lighting: a dappled forest effect was especially good.)

The one major contribution not mentioned so far is that of a non-Glendonian, Bob McDonald. Billed as "this year's Simpson's Award Winner", he turned in a tremendous performance as a green and bushy-haired Puck.

It is fitting that the two most memorable performances are those of Puck and Bottom: this Dream is above all else a happy one.

One only regrets that it has to occur in the make-shift facilities here rather than the rarefied atmosphere of Burton Auditorium.

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