

So like, wherefore art thou now groovy Titania?

by Nathan Weinman

The production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" put on by Prof. Mullaly's English 3170 class certainly was different than the Coles Notes which I studied while taking the play in high school. For those unfamiliar with the plot, the play concerns the star-crossed lovers syndrome.

These four misguided lovers played by Tina Buott, David Lord, Darren Elliot, and Erin Fellows were extremely convincing.

I especially enjoyed Tina, who played the desperate, yet passionate Helena. Tina also produced this show, so where she found the time to have a life on the side is beyond my comprehension. Great Job. The relationship between Darren Elliot, Lysander, and Erin Fellows, Hermia, was one of particular interest. Both did a terrific job of changing their emotions from passionate un-

equivocal love to deep hatred in a matter of seconds.

The cause of these misguided feelings is the fairy Puck, played by Joanna Doak. I felt that Joanna possessed a great stage presence because she was on stage for great periods of time and could only use her facial expressions to convey her thoughts to the audience. Very convincing, Joanna. The king of the fairies, played by John Powers was another enjoyable character. John spoke very well as the quick tempered Oberon.

Two characters whose presence was felt, despite having smaller parts, were Theseus and Moth. Theseus, Duke of Athens, was played by James

Miller. James has been in many productions with Theatre UNB and you may remember him as Ismail in last year's Moby Dick. James was very con-

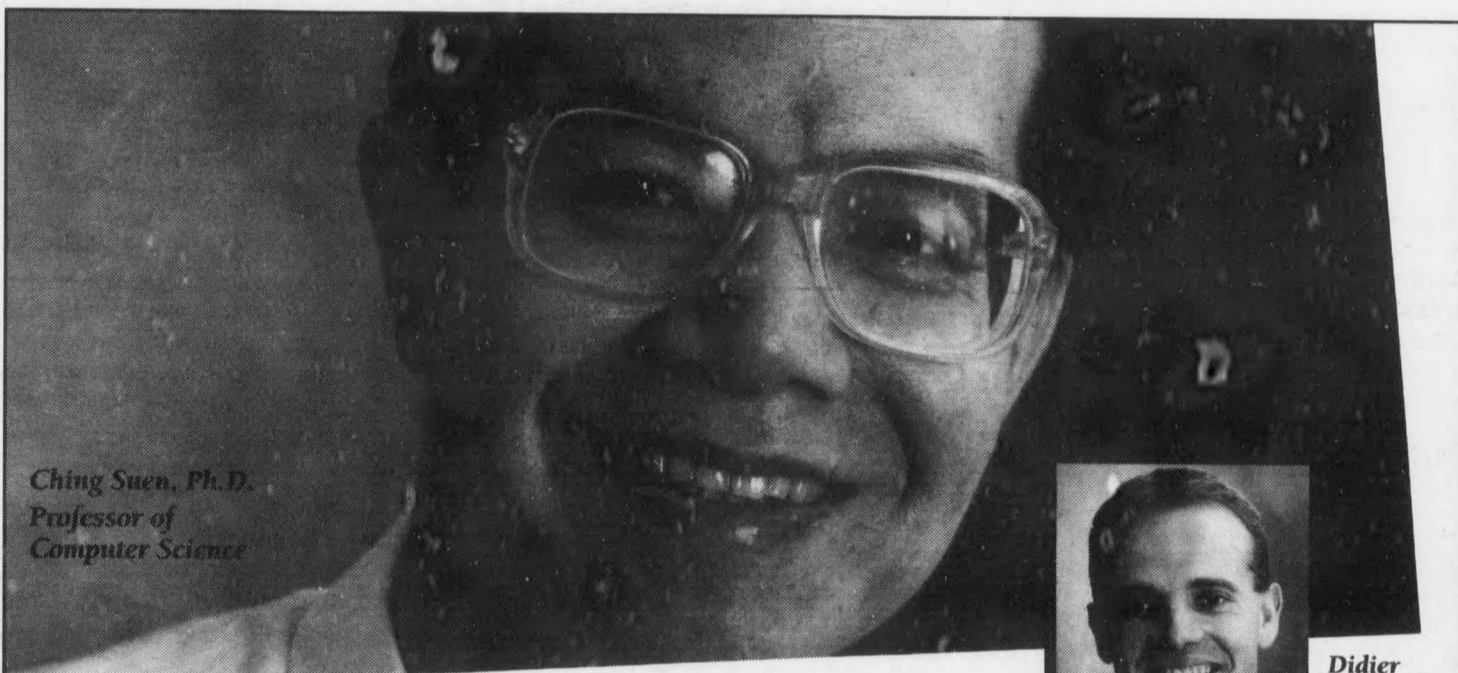
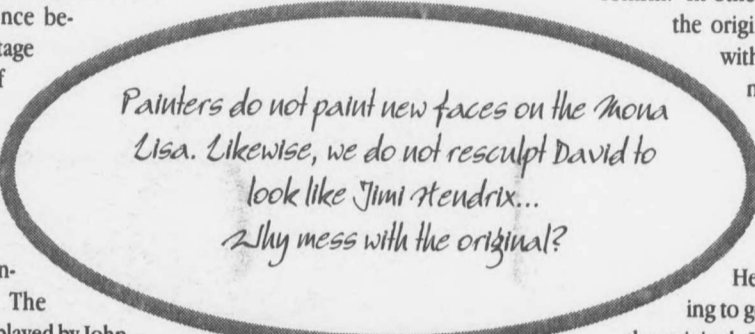
vincing and spoke eloquently. Another character who spoke brilliantly was Karrie McCarthy.

The only problem I had with the play was that the fairies were not exactly in Shakespearean dress. Nor were the characters. The play was set in the present with the fairies coming from the sixties. I don't have anything against that decade but what an anachronism. In other words, why change the original play? Why mess with genius? Painters do not paint new faces on the Mona Lisa. Likewise we do not resculpt Michael Angelo's David to look like Jimi Hendrix. What I am trying to get at is why mess with the original. I must admit though, that this is only my opinion and in general the Audience loved it.

There were also a couple of cameo appearances by two of our Profs here at UNB. The first and most notable was by Professor Gair who played Francis Flute, a bellows-mender. He was also

hilarious as Thespius at the end of the play. The other cameo was by Professor Scherf, who happens to teach the 2170 drama course here at UNB. She played one of the hippie/fairies named Cobweb. It is also my opinion that she extremely overacted. Maybe this was intentional, but I believe that it took away from the performance. The audience is smart enough to respond to subtleties, it doesn't need to be slapped in the face.

Finally I must give credit to Marc Lutz who played Nick Bottom. He is turned into an ass by Oberon but is oblivious of this fact. A very hilarious character indeed, but what I really enjoyed was the fact that his horse's grunt sounded exactly like Beevis and Butthead's laugh. Heh, Heh! All in All the show was quite good and very funny.



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