

SCENE 22: OOPS!

The FAIRIES are all sitting together, laughing. PUCK enters.

PUCK: All sorted?

MUSTARDSEED: Yep.

PUCK: Any problems?

COBWEB: Nope.

PUCK: Great.

WILLOW: *(Nudging FOXGLOVE)* They're back again.

FOXGLOVE: This lot crack me up.

*The ACTORS enter, still carrying their stools and scripts.
They move slowly and hesitantly.*

QUINCE: We have to stop, Bottom, it's too foggy.

BOTTOM: We've got to find the right spot.

QUINCE: But we can't see anything!

BOTTOM: I'll have you know I have perfect sensory...

BOTTOM walks into a tree. He cries out in pain.

SNOUT: *(Surprised)* He just walked into a tree.

The other ACTORS begin to laugh.

BOTTOM: *(Angrily)* Who's laughing?!

QUINCE: *(Trying not to laugh)* No one.

BOTTOM: Someone is. I can hear sniggering.

SNOUT: Nope. You're barking up the wrong tree, Bottom.

SNUG snorts. The other ACTORS try to suppress their laughter.

SNUG: Oh, leaf him alone, Snout.

FLUTE: You're not being fir.

The ACTORS all laugh loudly.

BOTTOM: Oh, ha, ha. (*Pause*) Let's go.

SNOUT: Mind your step now, Bottom. We 'wooden' want you to hurt yourself again.

The ACTORS all laugh.

BOTTOM: Juveniles!

BOTTOM exits, carrying his stools and script. The other ACTORS all exit, following him, still laughing.

The FAIRIES all laugh.

PUCK: Brilliant!

MUSTARDSEED: Couldn't have happened to a nicer chap.

FOXGLOVE: He's such a pompous twit.

PUCK: (*Thoughtfully*) Isn't he...

MOTH: Here are the others.

DEMETRIUS runs on, pursued by HELENA. They are both out of breath but continue to run about aimlessly.

HELENA: Demetrius, wait!

DEMETRIUS: I have to find her. I have to kill him!

HELENA: But you can't see where you're going!

DEMETRIUS: Who cares?

DEMETRIUS and HELENA collide. HELENA grabs hold of him.

HELENA: (*Pleased*) Ooh, Demetrius!

DEMETRIUS pushes her away.

DEMETRIUS: Don't touch me!

DEMETRIUS runs off. He exits. HELENA chases after him.

HELENA: Come back! I want to bang into you again...!

HELENA exits. The FAIRIES all laugh.

PEASEBLOSSOM: These humans are seriously strange.

PUCK: What's he doing?

FOXGLOVE: Trying to escape that mad one.

PUCK: No, he should be asleep.

COBWEB: You mean...?

PUCK: I told you to keep an eye on the freaky one.

PEASEBLOSSOM: Oh, I knew something would go wrong!

MUSTARDSEED: We thought you meant the other one.

PUCK: It doesn't matter.

PEASEBLOSSOM: This is your fault for leaving us to it!

COBWEB: Peaseblossom...

PUCK: In fact, it's much better than I expected. Come on, let's go and watch.

PUCK and the FAIRIES all exit.

SCENE 23: A CRAZY KIND OF LOVE

LYSANDER and HERMIA lie sleeping.

PUCK and the FAIRIES enter. They hide, sniggering quietly.

HELENA enters. She sees LYSANDER's prone body.

HELENA: (Whispering) Lysander.

LYSANDER doesn't stir. The FAIRIES all snigger.

(Louder) Lysander!

LYSANDER doesn't stir.

Oh no, are you dead?!

HELENA nudges LYSANDER with her toe.

LYSANDER doesn't stir.

Has Demetrius killed you?

HELENA gives LYSANDER's body a kick. LYSANDER cries out and wakes up.

Apparently not.

LYSANDER: Who...?

LYSANDER stands up, rubbing the spot where HELENA kicked him.

LYSANDER: Helena, my beloved.

HELENA: I'm... (She takes a step backwards) Did you say Helena?

LYSANDER: Yes, yes, Helena, whose beauty is unbounded.

HELENA takes another step backwards. She looks around (as if for a camera). The FAIRIES snigger.

HELENA: No, you've got it all wrong. You love Hermia.

LYSANDER: Who?

HELENA: Hermia. Light of your life. Remember?

LYSANDER: (Dreamily) Your eyes are like sapphires. Your lips like rubies.