



Rehearsal Notes

RUMI, a young, over-zealous, would-be director, has just finished rehearsing a play with a group of young actors. The actors will be performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in a community hall at a future date. Rumi is giving notes to the group following their rehearsal.

RUMI: *(Clapping to get everyone's attention)* OK, everyone. That's great, just great. I know it's been a long day but I have some short notes on today's run through, so if you could grab a seat and pay attention, I'd appreciate it.

Wall, I think the Wall is coming across as a tiny bit flimsy. *(Demonstrating a wobbly wall)* What? It's heavy? OK — Props, is there something we can do to support Wall? Mortar? Hilarious! Sensible suggestions at our next practice please.

Titania, performance a little bit too gritty... perhaps we could aim for a bit more Queen of the Fairies and a little bit less Hell's Angels? Your father said what? No dear, no motorbikes on set. Think of the Risk Assessment. And while we're on the subject, I know Mum is Wardrobe, but a bit less of the leather waistcoats and tattoos would be appreciated, we aren't at the RSC! *(Laughs at own joke, which no one else gets)*

Pyramus and Thisbe, *(With great enthusiasm)* I am loving it! Just keep doing what you are doing, but remember to hold something back for opening night! You're going to be sensational!

Theseus, honestly, it's not as REGAL as I'd like to see. I realise it is hard when you are the youngest, but let's aim for Head of State *(Showing how it should be)* instead of grumpy toddler, alright?

'Fairies, in general, a bit heavy. You are light, airy, floaty, magical, mischievous!

Yes, Peaseblossom? Oh, could one of the adults take Peaseblossom to the toilet please? Where was I, oh yes...

Lysander and Demetrius, your argument scene is not in the least convincing. Where is the passion, the aggression? Where is the inner turmoil? More believable, more real, give me humanity, give me contrast. I beg your pardon? OK, well ask Mummy to explain it

later.

The Mechanicals (*Indicates who they are due to blank looks*) yes, that means you over there. We aren't quite getting the subtext in the humour. Can we work on that for next time? And also, be aware of our backs to the audience. I know there isn't one yet, you'll just have to use your imagination.

Moving on (*Walking across to another part of stage*) Oberon's crew. Could we get some focus in the crowd scenes PLEASE? It's a bit shambolic at the moment. Think of your motivation...

OK, some good work, but much still to do. That's all for now. We'll get there. Thanks for all your efforts and one final thing, let's all wish a very happy ninth birthday to our Bottom. He is now the oldest cast member! Altogether, 'Happy birthday to you, happy birthday...'

By Lynne C. Jones