



MIAMI
CITY
BALLET

Ballet for
Young People

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Student Guide

INTRODUCTION

Prepare to be enchanted by Miami City Ballet's reimagining of Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, transporting the mystical woodland lovers to the spellbinding underwater world of the Florida coast. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, choreographed by George Balanchine and set to the music of Felix Mendelssohn, is a ballet about the transforming power of love. This ballet is based on William Shakespeare's comedy about the romantic adventures and misadventures of two pairs of mortal lovers and the King and Queen of the Fairies.

Activities geared for grades 3–12

THE STORY OF *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

ACT I: AN ESTUARY AND UNDER THE SEA

Hermia and Lysander are in love, but Hermia is set to wed Demetrius. Demetrius seeks Hermia's affection. But Helena is madly in love with Demetrius.

In the ocean lives King Oberon and Queen Titania, rulers of the fairies. King Oberon enjoys mischief. He orders his sprite, Puck to create all sorts of romantic havoc within the mortal and fairy worlds. With the dust of a magic flower, Puck and Oberon cast spells on the lovers, making many follies and fumbles along the way.

Puck accidentally sprinkles the flower dust on Lysander and Demetrius, who both fall in love with Helena. This distresses Helena. She only has eyes for Demetrius. Now Hermia is also heartbroken.

Titania is lulled to sleep, and the spell is cast upon her, as Bottom (a wayward artisan whose head has been changed into that of a manatee) is brought to her chamber.

She wakes up and finds herself hysterically smitten with Bottom, whose only interest is to eat seagrass.

In the meantime, Demetrius and Lysander engage in an intense battle over the women.

Hippolyta, the fierce Queen of the Amazons leads a charge of warrior seahorses into the Court of Athens. The King of Athens, Theseus, is impressed by her prowess and the two are engaged to be wed.

Oberon and Puck set out to reverse the spells. The lovers are placed together while they slumber – Lysander with Hermia, and Demetrius with Helena. When they awake, they are in love with their intended partners and a triple wedding is planned.

ACT II: AT THE COURT OF THESEUS (THE CORAL CASTLE)

A grand wedding between Theseus and Hippolyta, Hermia and Lysander, and Helena and Demetrius ensues in a display of grand pageantry, dancing, and merriment.

Meanwhile in fairyland the spell on Titania is reversed, and King and Queen of the Fairies are in love once again.

As Puck leaves us to embrace the magic of love.

DO'S AND DONT'S



Arrive Early



Remember
Your Ticket



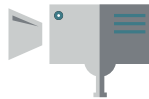
Silence Devices



Sit Quietly
& Stay Seated



No Food
or Drinks



No Recording
Equipment



No Flash
Photography



Enjoy The
Performance



Applaud For
The Dancers



TEAMWORK

All of these people work together to create a ballet performance!



CHOREOGRAPHER

Creates steps and movements that copy the rhythm and mood of music, which ballet dancers perform.



CONDUCTOR

Leads the orchestra, making sure that the musicians play their instruments at the same time.



DANCER

Learns the choreography many months before the actual performance in sessions called rehearsals to look perfect on stage.



COSTUME DESIGNER

Creates the costumes that are worn during performances.



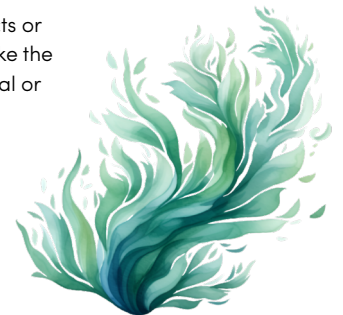
LIGHTING TECHNICIAN

Works with lights located high above the stage and in the wings of the curtains to create effects.



STAGEHAND

Moves props and scenery, which are objects or backdrops that are placed on stage to make the performance look like it is occurring in a real or imaginary location.



MEET THE CHARACTERS



HELENA

Lovesick. Utterly in love with Demetrius.



HERMIA

Arranged to marry Demetrius but in love with Lysander.



DEMETRIUS

Head over heels for Hermia but Helena clamors for his affection.



LYSANDER

Hopeless romantic in love with Hermia.



HIPPOLYTA

Queen of the Amazons. Fierce warrior who leads a charge of seahorses.



OVERON

The powerful King of the Fairies who seeks control over his queen, Titania.



TITANIA

The Queen of the Fairies, who is at odds with Oberon.



PUCK

Oberon's playful and mischievous assistant who loves to cause trouble.



THESEUS

Duke of Athens, falls in love with Hippolyta.



BOTTOM

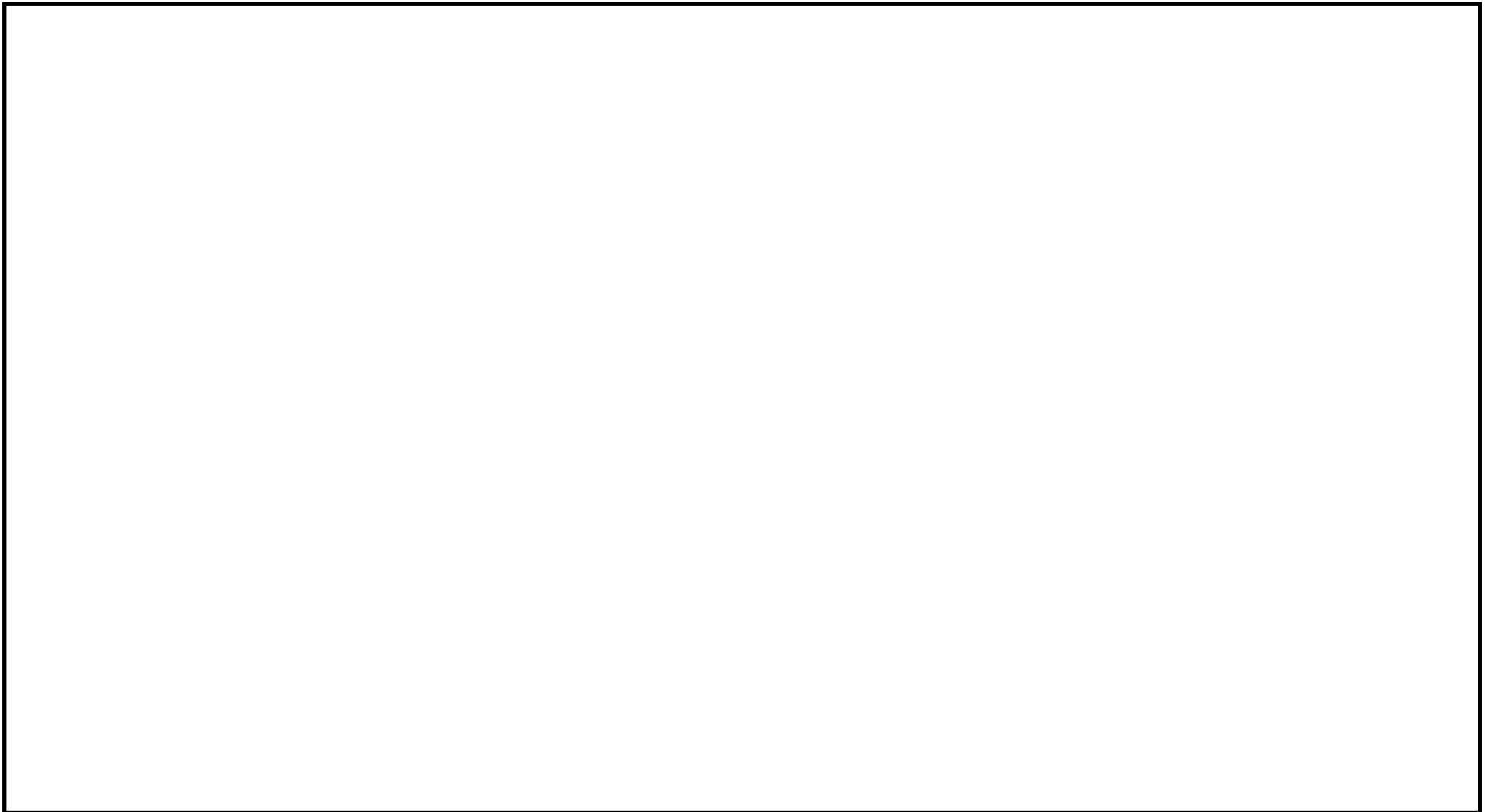
The wayward artisan who Puck casts a spell on, giving him the head of a manatee!

DRAW IT!

Use your imagination to create the magical underwater scene where the fairies and humans meet. What kind of trees, plants, or creatures would live in your magical world? Add as much detail as you want, and don't forget to include some fairies!

SHOW US YOUR CREATIONS!

Tag @miamicityballet



BALLET TERMINOLOGY



PAS DE DEUX:

A dance for two, often performed by a male and female dancer.



JETÉ:

A leap or jump across the stage.



ARABESQUE:

A pose in which the dancer stands on one leg, with the other leg extended behind.



PIROUETTE:

A complete turn or spin on one foot.



DID YOU KNOW?

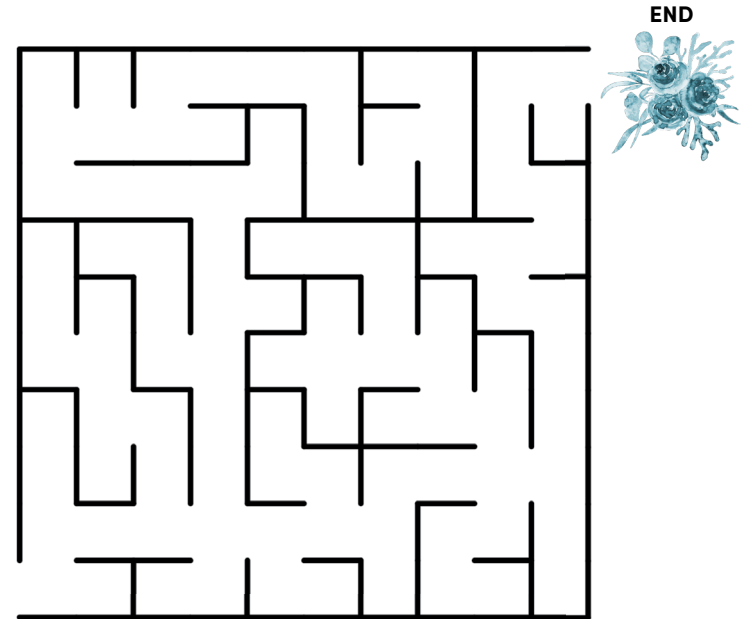
George Balanchine, one of the most famous choreographers in ballet, created this version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1962. He was inspired by Shakespeare's play and used Felix Mendelssohn's beautiful music to bring the story to life!

MAZE

Help Puck Find the Magical Flower! Puck has lost the magical flower that causes people to fall in love. Help Puck by finding the right path through the sea kelp forest to the flower in the maze below!



START



END



BALLET TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of ballet and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

What is the name of the King of the Fairies?

- A. Oberon
- B. Titania
- C. Puck

What magical creature causes trouble with a love potion?

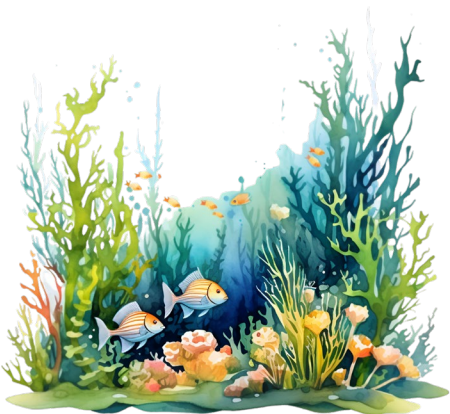
- A. Titania
- B. Puck
- C. Hermia

In ballet, how many positions of the feet are there?

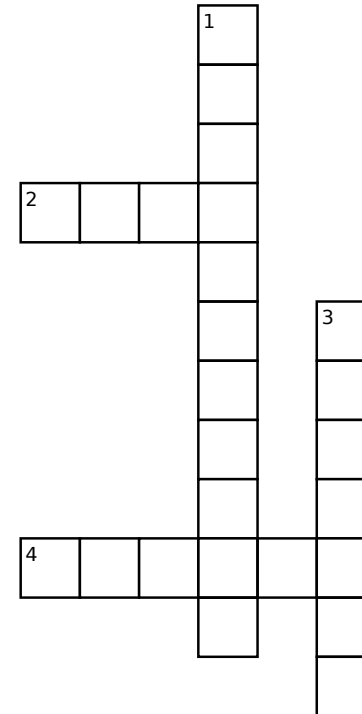
- A. Four
- B. Five
- C. Six

What language is most ballet terminology in?

- A. Russian
- B. French
- C. Latin



CROSSWORD



Down:

- 1. The playwright who wrote
A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 3. The Queen of the Fairies

Across:

- 2. Mischievous fairy who causes chaos
- 4. The King of the Fairies



LEARN MORE ABOUT MCB

Miami City Ballet is one of the top ballet companies in the U.S. Our dancers come from all over the world to perform amazing ballets like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Visit our website to discover more about ballet, classes, and performances near you!



BRING US TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

Visit us at miamicityballet.org/community

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Community Engagement programming at Miami City Ballet generously sponsored by The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at the Miami Foundation and the following funders: The Batchelor Foundation, Bank of America, Community Foundation of Broward, Heckscher Foundation for Children, Janet Traeger Salz Charitable Trust, The Kirk Foundation, Miami-Dade County, PNC Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, The Children's Trust, a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County, and the following Funds at the Community Foundation of Broward: Stephen A. and Ethel L. Keller Fund for the Miami City Ballet, Joseph S. and Louise B. Rumbaugh Fund, Jack Belt Memorial Fund, Drial Foundation Fund, and The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation Broward Community Fund.



Janet Traeger Salz
Charitable Trust



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MIAMI BEACH

Discover the Palm Beaches Florida





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