

MIAMI
CITY
BALLET

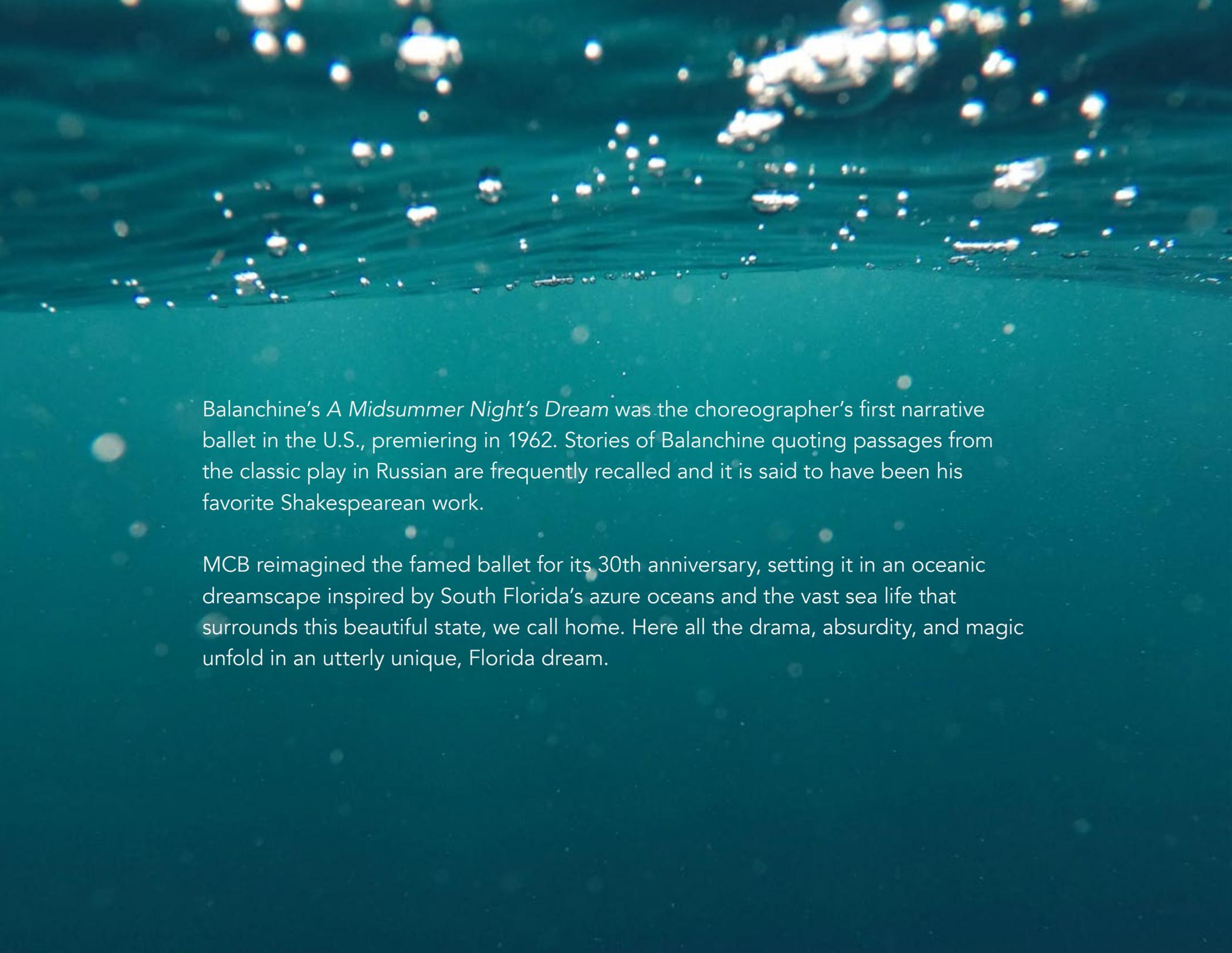


A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

ONLINE PREMIERE
Oct 14

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND
Until Oct 31

Below the surface, a sea of supernatural mischief, magic,
fairy royalty, and entangled lovers

An underwater photograph showing sunlight filtering through the water, creating a shimmering, ethereal atmosphere. The water is a deep teal color, and the light rays create a bokeh effect of bright, out-of-focus spots. The overall mood is serene and dreamlike.

Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was the choreographer's first narrative ballet in the U.S., premiering in 1962. Stories of Balanchine quoting passages from the classic play in Russian are frequently recalled and it is said to have been his favorite Shakespearean work.

MCB reimagined the famed ballet for its 30th anniversary, setting it in an oceanic dreamscape inspired by South Florida's azure oceans and the vast sea life that surrounds this beautiful state, we call home. Here all the drama, absurdity, and magic unfold in an utterly unique, Florida dream.

MEET THE CHARACTERS



HELENA

Lovesick. Utterly in love with Demetrius.



HERMIA

Arranged to wed Demetrius but in love with Lysander.



LYSANDER

Hopeless romantic in love with Hermia.



DEMETRIUS

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



PUCK

Oberon's servant and jester. A fun-loving, mischief-making sprite.



TITANIA

Queen of the Fairies. Wife of Oberon. A force of nature, though not immune to the powerful flower dust.



OBERON

King of the Fairies. Husband of Titania. A smidge devious. A smidge tenderhearted.



BOTTOM

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



HIPPOLYTA

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



THESEUS

Duke of Athens, falls in love with Hippolyta.

ACT I

At an estuary on a Midsummer Eve



The butterflies are causing a fluttery ruckus as Puck greets Oberon, King of the Fairies.



Titania, Oberon's wife, joins with her changeling (a human boy) and cavalier by her side. Titania and Oberon are squabbling over the changeling. Oberon wants the boy as his page, but Titania wants him all to herself.



Briefly, we meet the Athenian humans – Hermia, who is madly in love with Lysander...



...and Helena and Demetrius. Helena is madly in love with Demetrius but he cruelly shoos her away.



Oberon sends Puck into a sea kelp forest to find a magic flower that causes one to fall asleep. When woken, you're instantly in love with the first thing you see.



Lysander and Hermia lovingly dance together while Demetrius continues to shun Helena's advances and boldly courts Hermia.



Puck sprinkles the magic flower dust on Lysander! Uh, oh. Now, Lysander is infatuated with Helena. Hermia walks in on Lysander, much to her chagrin.



Helena can't believe her fate. She does not love Lysander. She loves Demetrius. But Demetrius still wants Hermia. Puck, in an effort to fix the situation, sprinkles the flower dust on Demetrius. Helena comes upon the sleeping Demetrius and when he awakes, he only has eyes for Helena. Now Hermia is heartbroken.



Meanwhile, at Oberon's instruction, Puck turns the head of a wayward artisan named Bottom into that of a docile manatee.



Puck leads Bottom into Titania's chamber while the devious Oberon sprinkles his wife with flower dust. When she awakes, she finds herself smitten with Bottom, who is, for the most part, only concerned with eating seagrass.



Next, we meet the mighty Queen of the Amazons and her warrior seahorses. Clearly, she's had enough of the shenanigans! It's time to set things straight.



The spells are reversed. Oberon restores order. The blundering Bottom is restored to his human form. Demetrius and Lysander, after having quarreled, are matched together in loving harmony: Hermia with Lysander and Helena with Demetrius.



Theseus, knowing a good woman when he sees one, is engaged to Hippolyta and a triple wedding is planned.

ACT II

At the Court of Theseus



Time for weddings (and Mendelsohn's famous Wedding March!) At the Duke's palace (the Coral Castle), jubilant celebrations ensue with pageantry and dancing.



When the wedding party subsides and the mortal revelers retire, we return to the Kingdom of Fairies where Oberon and Titania are happily together again.



Puck cleans up the remnants of his (and Oberon's) messes and all is right, once again.

Credits

CHOREOGRAPHY BY **GEORGE BALANCHINE**

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MUSIC BY **FELIX MENDELSSOHN***

STAGED BY **SANDRA JENNINGS**

SCENIC PROJECTIONS, PROPERTIES, AND COSTUME DESIGNS BY

MICHELE OKA DONER

LIGHTING DESIGN BY **JOHN HALL**

PROJECTION DESIGNS BY **WENDALL HARRINGTON**

DRAMATURGY BY **TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY**

**Overture and Incidental Music to A Midsummer Night's Dream, op. 21 and 61 (1826, 1842);
Overtures to Athalie, op. 74 (1845), The Fair Melusine op. 32 (1833), The First Walpurgis Night, op.
60; Symphony No. 9 for strings; Overture to Son and Stranger, op. 89 (1829)*

Photos: MCB dancers in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Photo © Alexander Iziliev.

Underwater Photo Shoot © Alberto Oviedo.

**Underwater photo costumes, courtesy of Haydée Morales, are not based on Michele Oka Doner's
original designs for A Midsummer Night's Dream.*



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