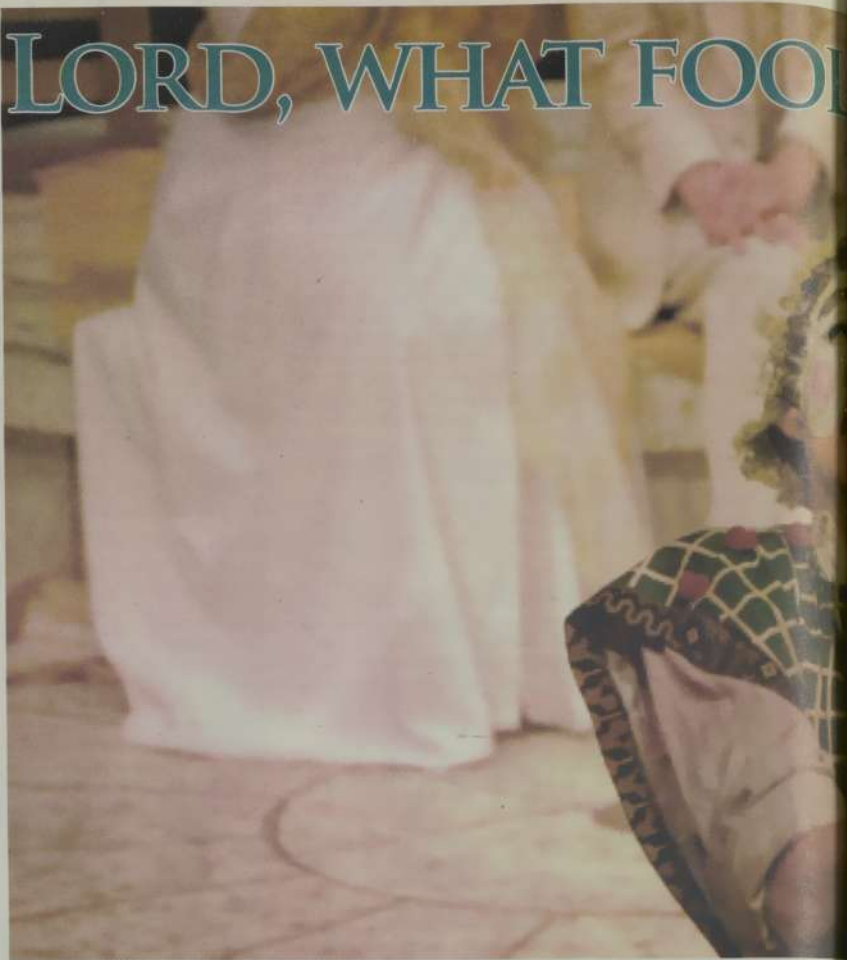


# LORD, WHAT FOOL



2



By Kayla Calloway  
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Prepare to have your perception of William Shakespeare shattered. The theater department of Clackamas Community College is currently showing a production of the bard's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and it will do just that. Far from the traditional Elizabethan style, director Michael Gerber's vision included Southern belles and a witch doctor.

I walked into Osterman Theatre with high expectations, as I had been in my high school's production of "Midsummer" my senior year as the notorious Puck. Right off the bat, those expectations were met.

The play opens a little differently than it traditionally has in the past. Music plays and the characters enter and exit the stage, dancing in and out of sight. Then the first scene starts. For those who are not familiar with "Midsummer," it is one of the great Shakespearian comedies, telling the story of four lovers: the couple Hermia and Lysander and the singles Demetrius (who happens to be in love with Hermia) and Helena (who loves Demetrius). Hermia's father does not approve of Lysander and forces his daughter to either choose Demetrius or suffer the penalty of death. Instead, the two flee Athens, ending only Hermia's childhood friend, Helena, who then informs Demetrius of their plans. All four wind up in the forest behind Athens, where fairies rule.

The king and queen of the fairies, Oberon and Titania, are currently having a spat over an Indian boy. This rift causes Oberon to take some mischievous action against his queen, enlisting the help of his trusted servant, Puck.

That's just the start of my favorite play.

In Gerber's production, the Athenians are all Southern gents and ladies, hillbillies are the motley crew of players and the fairies are Cajun, with the exception of Puck, who is wild and animalistic, and Oberon, who is a witch doctor of sorts.



3

