

*A  
Midsummer  
Night's  
Dream*

AT HARTWOOD ACRES

Behind the Scenes of *A  
Midsummer Night's  
Dream* with  
PBT Costumier  
Janet Marie Groom

Artist: Marisa Grywalski  
All photographs: Kelly Perkovich

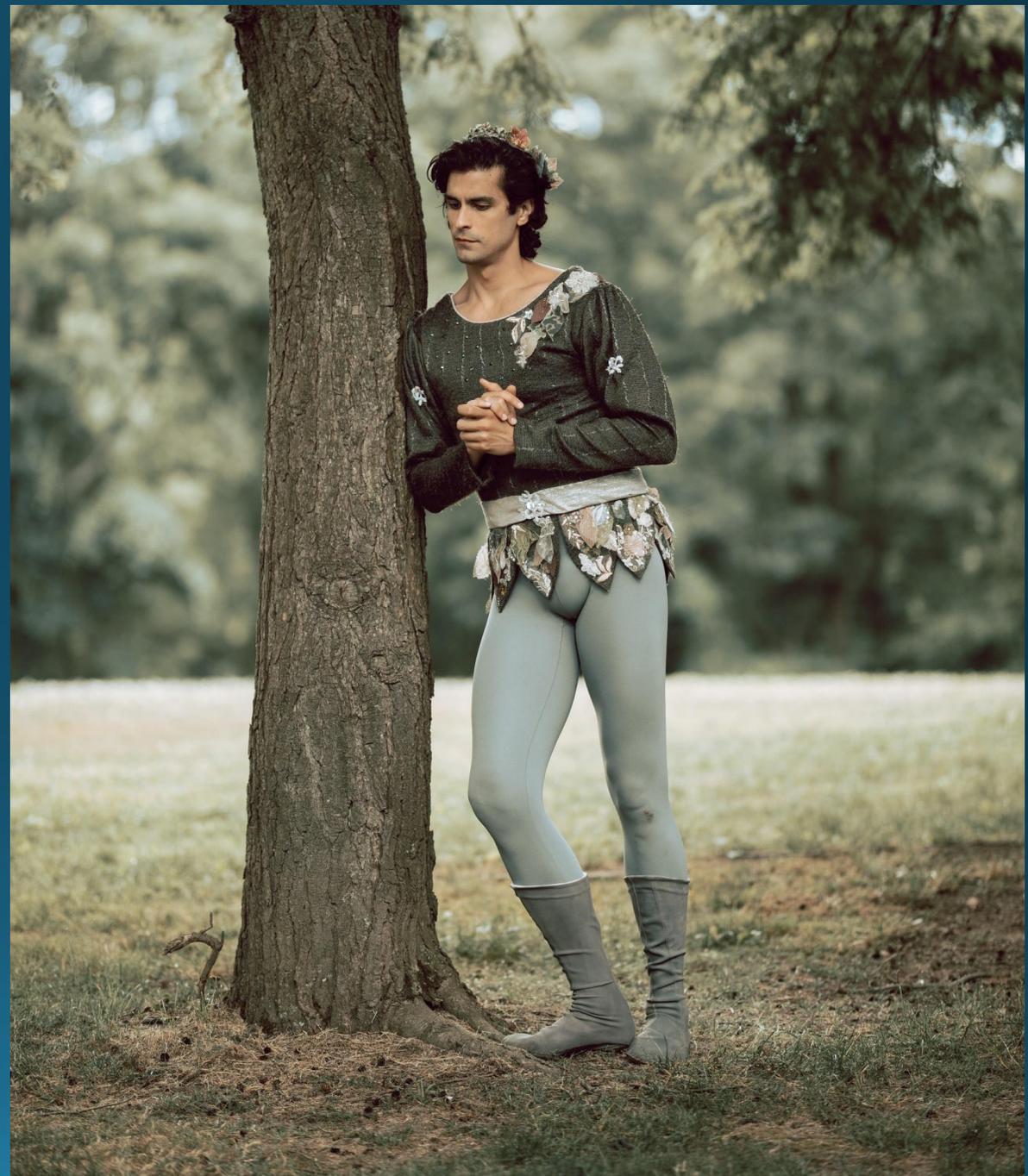


The costumes and accessories for PBT's new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are a dreamy blend of old and new! PBT Costumier Janet Marie Groom and her team built a few costumes from scratch and repurposed the rest from PBT's existing storehouse of costumes. Scroll through to learn about the magic- and resourcefulness- that went into the production's costumes!

While PBT has performed other versions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the past, those productions, including costumes, were rented from another ballet company.

For PBT's new production, Ms. Groom and her team combed through the thousands of costumes PBT has built for hundreds of other ballets. There was nothing already in PBT's collection that was exactly right for Oberon, so Ms. Groom and her team built his costume from scratch. Ms. Groom designed most of what you'll see in the performance.

Artist: Alejandro Diaz





Titania's costume includes elements from several different ballets. The skirt was borrowed from *Coppelia* (Swanhilda, Act 3), while the bodice was used in PBT's 2016 production of *Giselle* (Wili, Act 2). Titania's headpiece was borrowed from *Tchaikovsky Fantasy* (and was worn upside down in *Midsummer!*). Finally, the bodice trim and sleeves were added especially for this production.

Artist: Marisa Grywalski



The Fairy Cohort's flowy, chiffon-skirted dresses were borrowed from *Anything Goes*, a Derek Deane ballet that had its world premiere at PBT in 2006.

Artists: Gabrielle Thurlow, JoAnna Schmidt, Hannah Carter, Alexandra Kochis, Amanda Cochrane



The light pink ombre-dyed tutus worn by the fairies were originally built for *Mozart and Bizet*, choreographed by Company Principal Dancer Yoshiaki Nakano for Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School's 2019 Pre-professional Showcase.

Artist: Danielle Downey



The fairies' hair wreaths were found in the costume shop's existing collection of accessories.

Artist: Victoria Watford

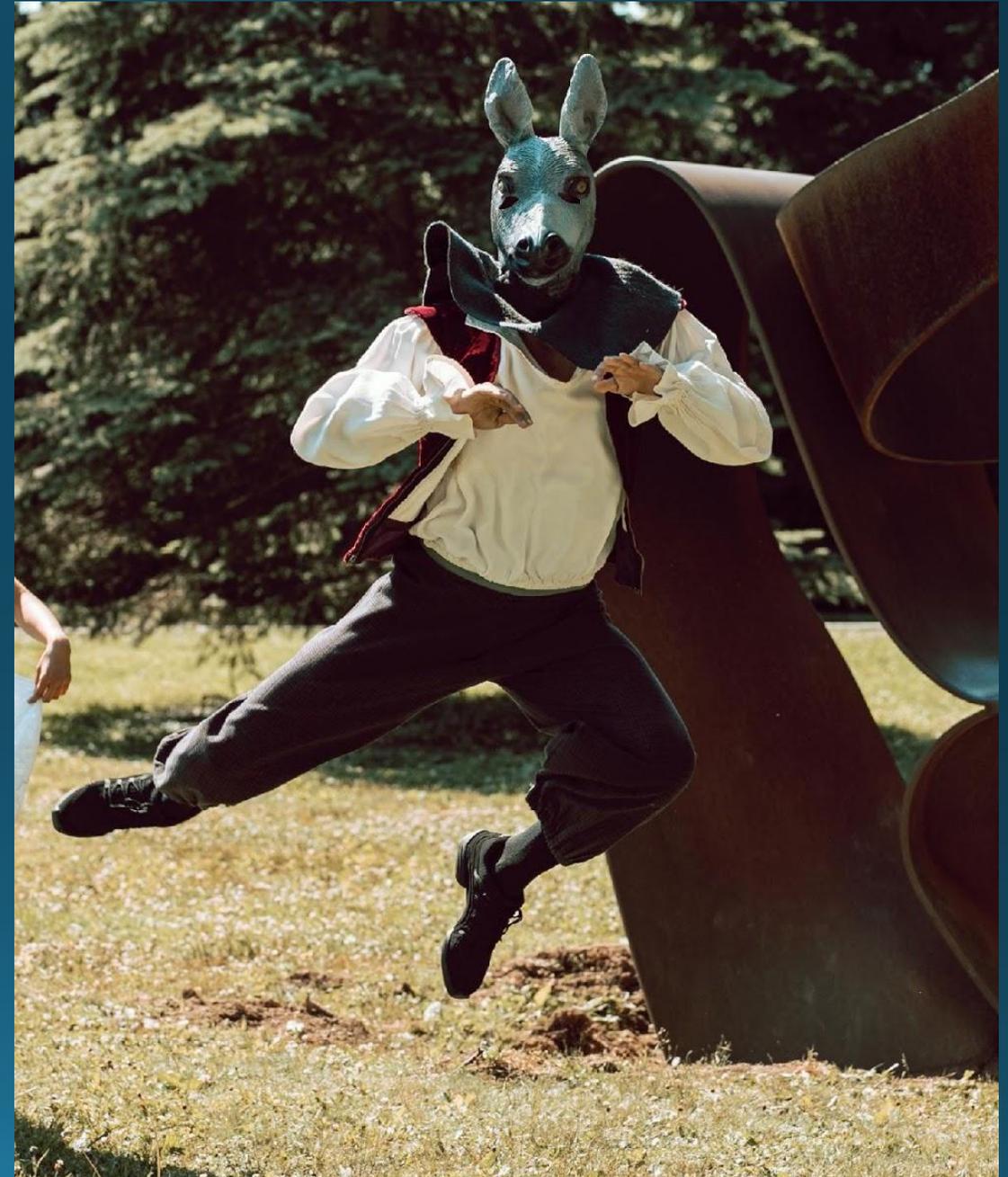


Ms. Groom borrowed wings for the fairies from a 1970s production of *Giselle*, though they were not used in the final production (dancers instead positioned their hands behind their backs to look like wings). They are made of silk organza and decorated with jeweled stones, and the costume shop team hand-colored them to match the colors of the *Midsummer* dresses.

For the production, women wore Keds shoes and ballet slippers- no pointe shoes in the forest! Men wore ballet slippers and dance sneakers.

Artist: Hannah Carter

Donkey/Bottom's vest was originally made for *Mendelssohn*, a ballet choreographed by Bruce Wells. The donkey heads, one each for the two dancers portraying the role, are new, and were purchased online.



Artist: Alejandro Diaz



Puck's woodland leotard was built especially for this production and hand-decorated by Ms. Groom. His horns had been custom-made for PBT for a past (rented) production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Artist: Masahiro Haneji

The costumes for Puck's Fairy Cohort were borrowed from Dwight Rhoden's *Simon Said*, and the costume shop team decorated them with artificial ferns and ivy.



Artist: William Moore

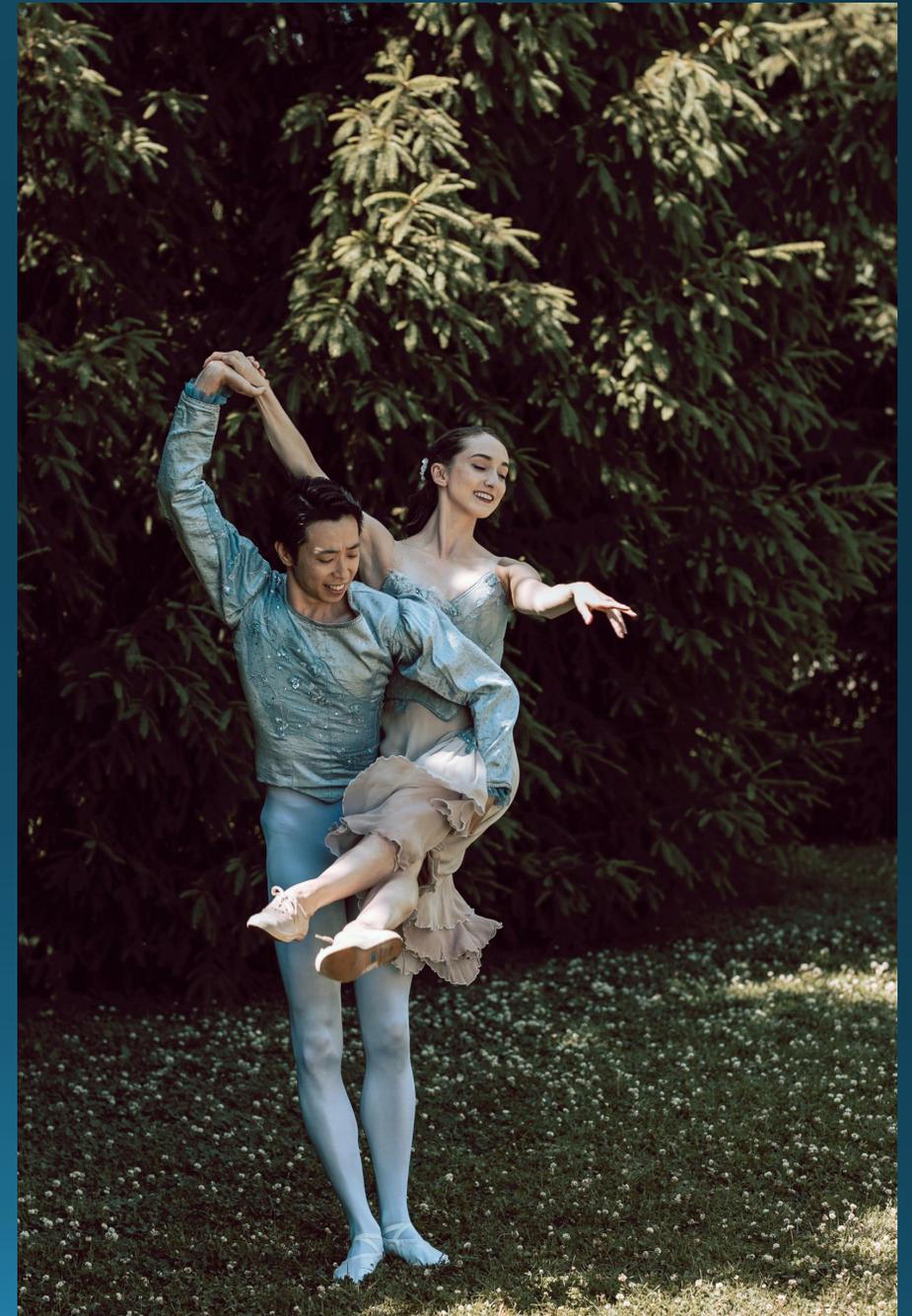


Helena's costume was originally created for PBT's production of *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, while Demetrius' costume was borrowed from from *Allegro Brillante*, both ballets by George Balanchine.

Artists: Diana Yohe and Joseph Parr

Ms. Groom originally built Lysander's and Hermia's costumes a few years ago, though not for a production. These costumes were used for a marketing photo shoot and happened to work perfectly in *Midsummer*.

Artists: Jessica McCann and Yoshiaki Nakano



There are plenty of kids in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! The costume shop team built the children's costumes especially for this performance (except for the girls' headpieces, which were borrowed from PBT School).

And finally, the Actor characters' costumes (not pictured) were originally built for a long-ago production of *Petrushka*.



Artists: Ronan Annegarn and Alejandro Diaz