# Nicholas Hytner’s immersive Midsummer Night’s Dream captivates London theatre audiences



Nicholas Hytner’s revival of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Bridge Theatre in London is set to enchant audiences once more, highlighting the play's timeless charm while infusing it with contemporary flair. Running until 20 August, this promenade production immerses attendees in the action, effectively transforming the theatrical experience into a vibrant spectacle. Hytner’s distinctive approach, which has garnered acclaim in past projects, ensures that Shakespeare's romantic comedy retains its whimsical essence while appealing to modern sensibilities.

The new cast features notable talents such as Susannah Fielding as the enchanting Titania and Emmanuel Akwafo, who takes on the beloved, bumbling character of Bottom. Critics have lauded the performances, with many praising the way the production balances humour with depth, creating a joyous atmosphere that resonates with diverse audiences. Time Out commended the play for its engaging performances and inventive staging, characterising it as both an "energetic" and "joyously OTT" rendition.

In addition to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, the summer cultural calendar brims with other noteworthy events. At the Bristol Old Vic, audiences can catch *How to Win Against History*, an audacious musical detailing the extravagant life of the 5th Marquess of Anglesey. This whimsical tale, featuring tales of ludicrous opulence cut short by untimely demise, offers both laughter and reflection while showcasing flashy costumes that are sure to delight.

Across the country, festivals such as the Manchester International Festival and Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance promise an exciting array of artistic experiences. The Manchester event, running from 3 to 20 July, features a series of free performances alongside new plays and creative adaptations, including a ballet based on Christopher Isherwood’s *A Single Man*. Meanwhile, Billingham's festival, commemorating its 60th year, invites over 250 performers from around the globe to showcase traditional dances, creating a rich tapestry of cultural exchanges.

The artistic offerings extend into the cinematic realm, with the Edinburgh International Film Festival taking centre stage from 14 to 20 August. This year’s programme promises an exciting lineup of international premieres alongside screenings that welcome audiences from all walks of life through pay-what-you-can initiatives. Among the anticipated films is a new release from director Ben Wheatley, guaranteed to draw attention for its daring narrative style.

On the music front, the summer is replete with electrifying performances including the expansive Love Supreme jazz festival in July and a highly anticipated co-headlining stadium tour by Kendrick Lamar and SZA, kicking off in Glasgow. With such a diverse and vibrant array of events, the UK’s cultural landscape this summer offers something for everyone, ensuring a season filled with enchantment and discovery.

The summer art scene is further underscored by exhibitions like Jenny Saville’s retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery, presenting her raw, visceral approach to figurative painting. Saville, celebrated for her contributions to contemporary art, continues to push boundaries, and this exhibition promises to be a definitive exploration of her powerful oeuvre.

As summer unfolds, theatre enthusiasts, music lovers, and art aficionados alike are encouraged to engage with the rich tapestry of experiences on offer. This carefully curated selection of events serves not only as a gateway to exceptional entertainment but also as an invitation to immerse oneself in the collective cultural spirit of the season.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[4]](https://www.theartsdesk.com/theatre/midsummer-nights-dream-bridge-theatre-review-%E2%80%93-gender-juggling-romp)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[3]](https://www.timeout.com/london/theatre/a-midsummer-nights-dream-review-1), [[6]](https://www.londontheatredirect.com/news/bridge-theatre-into-the-woods-midsummer-nights-dream)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[5]](https://www.theatremonkey.com/shows/bridge-theatre/2025-2025/midsummer-nights-dream)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[6]](https://www.londontheatredirect.com/news/bridge-theatre-into-the-woods-midsummer-nights-dream)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[5]](https://www.theatremonkey.com/shows/bridge-theatre/2025-2025/midsummer-nights-dream)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[6]](https://www.londontheatredirect.com/news/bridge-theatre-into-the-woods-midsummer-nights-dream)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment), [[4]](https://www.theartsdesk.com/theatre/midsummer-nights-dream-bridge-theatre-review-%E2%80%93-gender-juggling-romp)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/jun/01/from-van-gogh-to-superman-keep-cool-with-our-guide-to-the-summers-best-arts-and-entertainment> - This article from The Guardian provides a comprehensive guide to the best arts and entertainment events for the summer of 2025. It covers a wide range of activities, including theatre productions, music festivals, art exhibitions, and film releases. The piece highlights notable events such as the revival of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream' at the Bridge Theatre in London, the 'How to Win Against History' musical at Bristol Old Vic, and various music festivals and art exhibitions across the UK. The guide aims to help readers plan their summer cultural activities by offering detailed information on each event, including dates, venues, and ticketing details.
3. <https://www.timeout.com/london/theatre/a-midsummer-nights-dream-review-1> - Time Out's review of the 2025 revival of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream' at the Bridge Theatre in London praises the production for its immersive and energetic approach. Directed by Nicholas Hytner, the play is described as a 'joyously OTT, genderfluid' rendition that effectively engages the audience. The review highlights the performances of the cast, including JJ Feild as Oberon/Theseus, Susannah Fielding as Titania/Hippolyta, Emmanuel Akwafo as Bottom, and David Moorst as Puck/Philostrate. The production is noted for its inventive staging and the ability to bring Shakespeare's comedy to life in a contemporary setting.
4. <https://www.theartsdesk.com/theatre/midsummer-nights-dream-bridge-theatre-review-%E2%80%93-gender-juggling-romp> - The Arts Desk's review of the 2025 production of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream' at the Bridge Theatre commends the play for its 'gender-juggling' and 'romp' qualities. The review emphasizes the modern and dynamic twist on Shakespeare's classic play, highlighting the performances of Kit Young as Lysander and Isis Hainsworth as Hermia. The production is praised for its ability to reinvent the rural setting as a rock festival, capturing the carnivalesque spirit of the play. The review concludes that the production is both entertaining and thought-provoking, offering a fresh perspective on the classic comedy.
5. <https://www.theatremonkey.com/shows/bridge-theatre/2025-2025/midsummer-nights-dream> - Theatremonkey provides detailed information about the 2025 revival of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream' at the Bridge Theatre in London. The review discusses the immersive nature of the production, with audience members part of the action. It highlights the performances of David Moorst as Puck and the acrobatic work of the fairies, noting the spectacular nature of the staging. The review also mentions the performances of Tessa Bonham Jones as Helena and Isis Hainsworth as Hermia, praising their portrayals. The production is described as fun and engaging, with a solid four-star rating.
6. <https://www.londontheatredirect.com/news/bridge-theatre-into-the-woods-midsummer-nights-dream> - London Theatre Direct announces the 2025 season at the Bridge Theatre, featuring 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream' and 'Into the Woods'. The article highlights the immersive nature of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream', transforming the theatre into a dreamlike forest and enveloping the audience in the magical misadventures of four young lovers and a group of amateur actors. The production is noted for its inventive staging, with fairies and queens swinging above the audience. The cast includes JJ Feild as Oberon/Theseus and Susannah Fielding as Titania/Hippolyta. The revival runs from May 31 to August 23, 2025.
7. <https://www.london-theatreland.co.uk/shows/bridge-theatre/a-midsummer-nights-dream> - London Theatreland provides information about the 2025 production of 'A Midsummer Night’s Dream' at the Bridge Theatre in London. The page includes reviews from critics and audience members, highlighting the performances of the cast, including Oberon (Padraic Delaney), Puck (Gavin Fowler), and Helena (Katherine Kingsley). Audience reviews praise the modern delivery of Shakespearean language and the exceptional performances of the cast. The page also provides details about the performance schedule and ticket prices, assisting readers in planning their visit to the theatre.