

# Outdoor performances of Midsummer's Night Dream set to begin tonight

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YAHOO! BUZZ



PETERSBURG - It's the perfect play for summer, and the perfect place to have it.

Starting tonight, William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be performed at Battersea plantation in the West End of the city.

Sycamore Rouge Creative Director kb saine said that the nonprofit theater began planning for the play to be performed at the historic manor about a year ago. "We started speaking to Battersea Foundation and chose this play based on the location," saine said. "We also chose the play because it would work equally well indoors or outdoors in case we couldn't perform there."



Saine described the play as the perfect summer play and right for the location too. "It takes place during the summer and in a place full of magic," she said. "What better place to have it than Battersea."

Tempy Barbru, executive director, of the Battersea Foundation said that she too is hopeful that a performance at the manor will become an annual event. "What a wonderful thing," she said. "We're hoping that everyone has a marvelous time." Barbru said that she envisions Battersea as one day becoming a resource akin to a community gathering place for such events and already the board has begun the discussion for that to happen.

Image Gallery for Outdoor performances of Midsummer's Night Dream set to begin tonight



For the public, things do get a little better. The performances, which will be held each Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. will be free.

Saine said that making the shows free is a big risk and endeavor for Sycamore Rouge and the theater's board. "But our greatest expectation is that we will reach more people with what we do," she added. Saine said that the theater was founded with the mission of providing the community with professional theater productions.

Saine admitted that the theater has hit the professional target, but has been working hard to reach the community.

The grounds open at 6:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to bring picnic dinners, blankets and lawn chairs. Performances begin at 8 p.m. A variety of food and beverages (wine, beer, soft drinks) will be sold to benefit Sycamore Rouge and the Battersea Foundation.

Groups are welcome. Please call Sycamore Rouge in advance so any special needs can be accommodated.

Historic Battersea is located at 1289 Upper Appomattox St. in Petersburg.

- For more information, call 804-957-5707, ext. 106.

- F.M. Wiggins may be reached at 732-3456, ext. 3254 or fwiggins@progress-index.com.

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