



## PRESS RELEASE

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MATSENA PRODUCTIONS  
**The Royal Welsh College Collaborate with the Matsena  
Brothers to Create a New Adaption of *A Midsummer Night's  
Dream***

Wednesday 2nd February 2022  
For immediate release

12 February – 16 February  
Bute Theatre, RWCMD

The Royal Welsh College's Richard Burton Company presents *DREAM*, a promenade journey into the dark twisted world of Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A radical vision of this much-loved play, co-directed by Jonathan Munby and Anthony and Kel Matsena, and choreographed by the Matsena brothers, brings this classic comedy screaming into the 21st Century.

*DREAM* has been adapted by Jonathan Munby, RWCMD's Director of Drama Performance, who has just returned from his sell-out run directing *Wendy and Peter Pan* at the Leeds Playhouse. It's co-directed and choreographed by Anthony and Kel Matsena, bringing their own particular brand of inspirational collaboration to work with the final year actors and creatives in the rehearsal room.

This production centres on the gender power struggles within the play and highlights questions of identify, truth and trust, reflecting the themes that run across the College's Richard Burton Company season: *Mary Stuart* and *SHOOK* both look at gender roles, expectation, power and responsibility through a 21st century lens.

'We're taking a radical and contemporary approach to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, offering audiences an immersive promenade

production, leading them to the dark and twisted heart of the piece,' said Jonathan.

'What the Matsena's bring is a fresh, highly physical approach to the storytelling that will offer a visceral and high-octane experience.'

Zimbabwean born and Welsh-raised Anthony and Kel Matsena have built a name for themselves for their innovative and accessible approach to storytelling, aiming to connect with communities through dance, with their award-winning dance company, Matsena Productions.

"Working on Dream has been incredibly invigorating. Collaboration is at the heart of what we do & seeing creative elements clash with the technical elements to create a new world and language of expression has been so exciting," Kel explains. "Co-directing with the critically acclaimed Jonathan Munby has been a wonder & a joy for us both. His attention to detail is like no other & the three of us are singing from the same song sheet which is amplifying the message of the piece & allowing the students on stage & behind the scenes to flourish further everyday."

He continues: "Finding a way to make characters from the 16th Century exist in today's world whilst still respecting the fundamentals of this expertly written play has been thrilling. It has required bravery every step of the way and we couldn't have asked for a better cast for the task. The final year students have been refreshing in their approach to the work. They're at a stage in their careers where everything feels possible, therefore they're willing to dream and reimagine their relationship to Shakespeare."

Director **Jonathan Munby with Kel Matsena & Anthony Matsena**  
Adaptation **Jonathan Munby** from Shakespeare's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***  
Choreographers **Anthony Matsena & Kel Matsena**

**DREAM**

12 – 16 February

Bute Theatre

[www.rwcmd.ac.uk/events/dream](http://www.rwcmd.ac.uk/events/dream)

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