**Midsummer Night’s Dream Assignment**

For this optional, bonus assignment it is your task to get a ticket and see the John Abbott Production of *Midsummer Night’s Dream.* Keep your ticket and take selfies (not during the performance!) as evidence of your attendance.

Write a 500 word response that addresses at least two of the following questions.

1. Considering that Shakespeare was writing around 1600 CE, English has changed since his time. In the interests of seeing how it has changed, find and watch a reading of some of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* from about 1400 CE. Compare your ability to understand Chaucer and Shakespeare. Does hearing the texts spoken vs. only seeing them written change how well you understand them? Here is a three-minute excerpt you can use: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5QAV6lOCnQ

Warning NSFW.

2 a). If this is your first live Shakespeare performance discuss how this was life or unlike what you expected and what struck you about it.

OR 2 b). If this is not your first live Shakespeare performance, compare this play with another you have seen in terms of ideas and themes as well as the production/staging/performance.

3. What are some themes, ideas, story-telling techniques (such as love potions, a play within a play. etc.) that Shakespeare uses that we still see today? Give examples of shows/books/etc. that you know that remind you of things Shakespeare does in *MSND*.

4. If you were the director of a production of *Midsummer Night’s Dream* how would you stage it? What era? What culture? What aesthetic choices would you make to reinvent this classic?