

# A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTMARE

A FIASCO PLAYSET OF  
SHAKESPEAREAN  
PROPORTIONS

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# CREDITS

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# BOILERPLATE

This playset is an accessory for the *Fiasco* role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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# THE SCORE

## SETTING IN BRIEF

With only hours before the curtains go up the tyrant monarch has demanded a new play be performed tonight. You must take to the stage, create and debut a brand new play in the desperate hopes of keeping the sovereign's favor. If the performance does go well you may just keep your heads until tomorrow morning. Let's hope this night is more of a comedy than a tragedy.

## MOVIE / THEATRE NIGHT

*Time to dust off your school notes and get down to The Globe! If not, then movies such as Forbidden Planet, Ten Things I Hate About You, The Lion King and Romeo and Juliet should tell you that Shakespeare can be anything you want it to be!*

## ADDITIONAL SETUP/RULES

### IT'S ALL A BIT PRETENTIOUS!

The tilt table is made up of quotes and directions from Shakespeare's plays. This leaves them very open to interpretation. Use your imagination as to what they mean. As a group it is up to you what these tilts mean for your session. There are no wrong answers.

## TWO TABLES!







There are two tilts tables with this set. Depending on how your Fiasco is going, you can choose from either the tragedies or the comedies. If you have more of a tragicomedy on your hands then maybe choose one from both!

## TWICE THE AFTERMATH?







As well as a normal fiasco ending that decides how your play might end you may want to consider exploring what happens to the actors off stage after the curtain falls. A boring play is likely to end up with the ruler disgusted and gesturing towards the hangman's noose while a great play might see you knighted or better.

# PLAYERS...







## LOVERS

-  Unnatural / Unlawful
-  Star-crossed
-  Unrequited and object of affection
-  Compassionate / Carer and Cared for
-  Eloping / Hidden
-  Brotherly / Sisterly







## COURTLY

-  Imposter and impersonated
-  Servant and Lord or Lady
-  Wise Fool and Foolish King
-  Priest and Sinner (Confessor)
-  Bard and Muse
-  The real power and a sycophant







## FRIENDS

-  Brothers in arms
-  A knave and a wench
-  Share a secret
-  Friends, separated by power
-  The enemy of my enemy
-  Et tu...







## RIVALS

-  Former lovers
-  Heir apparents
-  Arch-Villain / Hero
-  Best friends, rival families
-  For wealth
-  For a lover's affections

## SUPERNATURAL

-  Metamorphosed and enchanter
-  Fated and seer
-  Cursed and curser
-  Human and mischievous fey
-  Specter and haunted
-  Bewitched and Beguiled







## FAMILY

-  Half-brothers or sisters
-  Wife and husband
-  Loving parent, troubled youth
-  Lost and separated identical twins
-  Incestuous
-  Brother and Sister-in-Law in conspiracy







...ON THE STAGE

# METHINKS I NEED...







## TO GET POWER

-  ... by controlling nature
-  ... by becoming free
-  ... by murder most foul
-  ... by seizing the throne
-  ... by manipulating others
-  ... by hanging on to it







## TO GET

-  "A horse! A Horse!"
-  "Your pound of flesh"
-  "The ring upon my finger"
-  "To bed by noon"
-  "Money in thy Purse"
-  "Thee to a nunnery!"







## TO OVERCOME

-  ... my madness
-  ... my visions
-  ... my family
-  ... my enemies
-  ... my loneliness
-  ... my fears







## 2 B OR NOT 2 B

-  ...a leader
-  ... a hero
-  ... a betrayer
-  ... a cheat
-  ... a good person
-  ... that is the question

## TO GET THE TRUTH

-  ... of what beguiles me
-  ... of who murdered my friend
-  ... of the plot against me
-  ... of this letter
-  ... of who I am
-  ... of who I love

## TO GET THE LOVE







-  ... of the people
-  ... of ones spouse
-  ... of a friend
-  ... of the gods
-  ... thyself
-  ... of ones parents

...ON THE STAGE



# SETS...







## THE CASTLE

-  ...the royal bedroom
-  ...the balcony
-  ...the battlements
-  ...the throne room
-  ...the gardens / orchard
-  ...the cells / prison

## THE CITY

-  ...the docks
-  ...the tavern
-  ...the streets
-  ...the market
-  ...the stables
-  ...under siege

## RELIGIOUS

-  ...the cloisters
-  ...the mausoleum
-  ...the church
-  ...the nunnery
-  ...sacred ground
-  ...a desecrated monument



## NATURAL

- ☐ ...in the woods
- ☐ ...on the heath
- ☐ ...in the cave
- ☐ ...on the coast / at sea
- ☐ ...in the swamp
- ☐ ...in the mist



## TIME

- ☐ ...in the dead of night
- ☐ ...during a storm
- ☐ ...a summer's day
- ☐ ...before a wedding
- ☐ ...after a funeral
- ☐ ...in a civil war









## SECRET

- ☐ ...a hidden passage
- ☐ ...a locked room
- ☐ ...the witches hut
- ☐ ...a house in the woods
- ☐ ...a place of solitude
- ☐ ...in the catacombs







...ON THE STAGE

# PROPS...







## MAGICAL

-  ... a wand
-  ... a cauldron
-  ... a love potion
-  ... a ghost
-  ... scale of dragon, tooth of wolf, nose of turk
-  ... a premonition / vision







## DANGEROUS

-  ... a slip of hemlock
-  ... a secret diary
-  ... a heavy crown
-  ... a cannibalistic pie
-  ... a goblet of ale
-  ... a dead body / a severed head







## COSTUMES

-  ... a lion costume / an asses head
-  ... a fake beard / wig
-  ... a gown of humility
-  ... a nuns habit
-  ... clothing of the opposite sex
-  ... a blindfold







## WEAPONS

-  ...a rapier wit
-  ...a bare bodkin (bloody dagger)
-  ...a canon
-  ...a gun
-  ...an army
-  ...a chariot

## VALUABLES

-  ...two identical love letters
-  ...a wedding ring
-  ...a golden fleece
-  ...false jewels / money
-  ...a bowl of wine
-  ...a musical instrument (a lute)

## DRAMATIC

-  ...an unfair contract
-  ...an amended will
-  ...proof of scandal
-  ...a lost letter
-  ...a marriage certificate
-  ...the skull of an old friend

...ON THE STAGE

# A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTMARE INSTA-SETUP

## RELATIONSHIPS ON THE STAGE

**For three players...**

- ✱ Lovers: Eloping Lovers
- ✱ Friends: Brothers in Arms
- ✱ Rivals: For a lover's affections

**For four players, add...**

- ✱ Supernatural: Human and Fey

**For five players, add...**

- ✱ Supernatural: Metamorphosed and Enchanter

## NEEDS ON THE STAGE

**For three players...**

- ✱ To Get the Truth: ...of who I love

**For four and five players, add...**

- ✱ To Get Power: ...by manipulating people

## OBJECTS ON THE STAGE

**For three or four players...**

- ✱ 1 Potion, 1 Wand

**For five players, add...**

- ✱ 1 Ring

## LOCATIONS ON THE STAGE

**For three, four, or five players...**

- ✱ The Woods, The Throne Room

# THE TILT: COMEDIES

## ▣ THE TEMPEST

- ▣ “Now I will believe that there are unicorns...”
- ▣ “Hell is empty and all the devils are here.”
- ▣ “O brave new world, that has such people in it!”
- ▣ “Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.”
- ▣ “We are such stuff as dreams are made on...”
- ▣ “Dead or alive? A fish. He smells like a fish,...”

## ▣ A MIDSUMMERS NIGHT'S DREAM

- ▣ “The course of true love never did run smooth.”
- ▣ “I’ll speak in a monstrous little voice”
- ▣ “Nay! Faith, let me not play a woman! I have a beard coming!”
- ▣ “Though she be but little, she is fierce”
- ▣ “Hot ice and wondrous strange snow”
- ▣ “Lovers to bed, ’tis almost fairy time”

## ▣ A WINTER'S TALE

- ▣ “I have drunk and seen the spider.”
- ▣ “...you have touch'd his queen Forbiddingly.”
- ▣ “O, that is entertainment”
- ▣ “Here come those I have done good to against my will”
- ▣ “What a fool honesty is.”
- ▣ “It is an heretic that makes the fire...”



## TWELFTH NIGHT

- ☐ “I was adored once too”
- ☐ “A spirit I am indeed”
- ☐ “How now? Even so quickly may one catch the plague”
- ☐ “Some are born great...”
- ☐ “Many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage”
- ☐ “I’ll be revenged on the whole pack of you”



## AS YOU LIKE: ADO ABOUT A SHREW

- ☐ “I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow, than a man swear he loves me.”
- ☐ “but I, and I am sunburnt. I may sit in a corner and cry,”
- ☐ “let me be vilely painted,...”
- ☐ “Time travels at different speeds for different people.”
- ☐ “Men have died from time to time...but not for love.”
- ☐ “All the world's a stage, ... men and women merely players”



## STAGE DIRECTION

- ☐ An Aside (Speak to the Audience)
- ☐ Play within a play
- ☐ "Exit, pursued by a bear.”
- ☐ “a bout of fighting across the stage”
- ☐ Within (the person or persons speaking are off stage)
- ☐ They kiss

# THE TILT: TRAGEDIES

## ▣ OTHELLO

- ▣ “For she had eyes and chose me”
- ▣ “Men in Rage strike those that wish them best”
- ▣ “No way but this, killing myself to die upon a kiss”
- ▣ “Put money in thy purse (weak)”
- ▣ “Do it not with poison (strangle ‘her’ in bed)”
- ▣ “O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-ey’d monster”

## ▣ KING LEAR

- ▣ “This cold night will turn us all to fools and madmen”
- ▣ “All dark and comfortless”
- ▣ “Jesters do oft prove profits”
- ▣ “As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods”
- ▣ “Love`s not love”
- ▣ “The Prince of darkness is a gentleman!”







## ▣ ROMEO AND JULIET

- ▣ “Parting is such sweet sorrow”
- ▣ “Thus with a kiss I die”
- ▣ “Don’t waste your love on somebody, who doesn't value it.”
- ▣ “These violent delights have violent ends”
- ▣ “Oh, I am fortunes fool”
- ▣ “My only love sprung from my only hate”











# MACBETH

-  “Something wicked this way comes”
-  “Fair is foul, and foul is fair, hover through fog and filthy air”
-  “Blood with have blood”
-  “Let Every man be master of his time”
-  “Fit to govern? No, not fit to live.”
-  "What, you egg?"









# HAMLET

-  “Though this be madness, yet there is method in it”
-  “The lady doth protest too much, methinks”
-  “I must be cruel only to be kind”
-  “the Devil hath power to assume a pleasing shape”
-  “the Play’s the Thing, wherein I’ll catch the conscience of the King”
-  “:O, that this too too solid flesh would melt”



# JULIUS CAESAR

-  “Cowards die many times before their deaths”
-  “Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war”
-  “Men at some time are masters of their fates”
-  “The Ides of March are come”.
-  “The evil that men do lives after them”
-  “It was Greek to me”