MND Vignettes

Time:

The play is 7.45 minutes

Scenes and Characters to remove:

We are removing Lysander, Hermia, Helena, Demetrius, Moonshine, Wall,

Roles:

Hippolyta: Hailey

Theseus: Hailey

Titania: Hailey

Pyramus: Avery

Puck: Avery

Thisbe: Brianna

Oberon: Brianna

Philostrate: Simran

Quince: Simran

Lion: Stuffy

Props:

Hippolyta: Dress

Theseus: Crown

Titania: Fairy wings

Pyramus: Sword, jacket, hair tied back

Puck: Devil horns, hair down

Thisbe: Dress and shawl (cardboard blood drips)

Oberon: Leaf crown and/or staff

Philostrate: Scroll and glasses

Quince: Mustache and/or hat

* A stuffed lion
* Projector slides
* Sound effects from phone (roar, trumpet)

Script:

*[Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, PHILOSTRATE]*

**HIPPOLYTA**

Theseus these lovers are telling a strange story

**THESEUS**

Yes, stranger than true, I would never believe these tales

**HIPPOLYTA**

But their stories all line up and it's so consistent

**THESEUS**

Come here Philostrate, what events are planned

To fill the three hours before we can smash?

Where is our manager of mirth?

**PHILOSTRATE**

I’m here.

**THESEUS**

What’s on the table for tonight?

**PHILOSTRATE**

Here is a short list of your options:

Choose what you want to see.*[Giving a paper]*

**THESEUS**

[Reads] **'The battle with the Centaurs, to be sung**

**By an Eunuch with a harp.'**

Not that one, I already told it to Hippolyta. *[Reads]*

**'The riot of the tipsy Bacchanals,**

**Tearing the Thracian singer in their rage.'**

It is old and I have already seen it, no. *[Reads]*

**'The Muses mourning for the death**

**Of Learning.'**

That is some satire, keen and critical,

It is not fit for a wedding.*[Reads]*

**'A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus**

**And his love Thisbe; very tragical mirth.'**

Merry and tragical! tedious and brief!

That is, hot ice and wondrous strange snow.

How can this play be so contradictory?

**PHILOSTRATE**

But my lord, the play is so short - it’s only ten lines long!

And It’s also a tragedy

Would that not be a bad omen?

**THESEUS**

Who’s play is this?

**PHILOSTRATE**

**Hard-handed men that work in Athens here.**

**THESEUS**

**And we will hear it.**

**PHILOSTRATE**

**No, my noble lord;**

**It is not for you: I have heard it over,**

**And it is nothing, nothing in the world;**

**Unless you can find sport in their intents,**

**Extremely stretch'd and conn'd with cruel pain,**

**To do you service.**

**THESEUS**

We will see that play;

Bring them in and sit down.

*[Exit PHILOSTRATE ]*

*[Projector slide change to theater]*

**HIPPOLYTA**

He said they’re terrible at acting.

**THESEUS**

Since we are so kind and they are just mechanicals we will ignore their mistakes and just enjoy the play.

*Re-enter PHILOSTRATE*

**PHILOSTRATE**

Please, your grace, the person reciting the prologue is ready.

**THESEUS**

**Let him approach.**

*[Trumpet sound 17 on Avery’s phone plays]*

***[Enter QUINCE for the Prologue]***

**Prologue/QUINCE**

**If we offend, it is with our good will.**

**That you should think, we come not to offend,**

**But with good will. To show our simple skill,**

**That is the true beginning of our end.**

**Consider then we come but in despite.**

**We do not come as minding to contest you,**

This is not for entertaining you.

We are ready to make you feel sorry.  You’re likely to know

Everything that we present to you today.

**THESEUS**

He speaks oddly. He didn’t know where to stop. If you speak, speak with proper grammar jeez.

**HIPPOLYTA**

He recited that prologue like a child learning to play

A musical instrument - he knows how to make a sound,

But not how to play music

**THESEUS**

Who is next?

*[Enter Pyramus and Thisbe]*

**Prologue/QUINCE**

**Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show;**

**But wonder on, till truth make all things plain.**

**This man is Pyramus, if you would know;**

**This beauteous lady Thisbe is certain.**

There is a wall that separates these two lovers,

But they have a plan to meet at Ninus’ tomb by moonshine to make love,

Their plans are foiled by the grisly lion, who scares away poor Thisbe.

[Exeunt Thisbe and Pyramus

As she runs, Thisbe drops her shawl and the lion stains it with its bloody mouth.

Pyramus arrives and upon seeing Thisbe’s bloody scarf,

Thinks the lion has killed her, and simply cannot deal with his grief.

**Whereat, with blade, with bloody blameful blade,**

**He bravely broach'd is boiling bloody breast;**

And Thisbe stabs herself as soon as she sees her lover’s corpse.

*[projector slide change to garden] [Enter Pyramus]*

**PYRAMUS**

Oh grim looking night! I fear that Thisbe forgot her promise.

**What see I? No Thisbe do I see.**

**O wicked wall, through whom I see no bliss!**

**Cursed be thy stones for thus deceiving me!**

**THESEUS**

**The wall, methinks, being sensible, should curse again.**

**PYRAMUS**

Sir, no he shouldn’t. 'Deceiving me'

is Thisbe's cue to enter and then I will spy on her through the wall. You will see it will go just as I say, look here she comes

*[Enter Thisbe]*

**THISBE**

**O wall, full often hast thou heard my moans, For parting my fair Pyramus and me! My cherry lips have often kiss'd thy stones, Thy stones with lime and hair knit up in thee.**

**PYRAMUS**

I hear something and now I will look through the chink to spy so I can hear Thisbe. Thisbe!

**THISBE**

Is that my love Pyramus?

**PYRAMUS**

I am your lover and, like Limander, I will stay with you.

**THISBE**

And I will love you like Helen, until the Fates kill me.

**PYRAMUS**

Not even Shafalus was as faithful to Procrus as I am to you.

**THISBE**

And I am as faithful to you as Shafalus is to Procrus

**PYRAMUS**

**O kiss me through the hole of this vile wall!**

**THISBE**

I'm kissing the wall, not your lips.

**PYRAMUS**

Will you meet me at Ninny’s tomb straight away?

**THISBE**

Come life or death, I will be there.  *[Exeunt Pyramus and Thisbe]*

**HIPPOLYTA**

**This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.**

**THESEUS**

Both the best and worst plays are good if you use your imagination to fill in the plot

**HIPPOLYTA**

It’s your imagination then and not theirs.

**THESEUS**

If we think of them as they think of themselves then they are first class actors. Now watch.

*[Enter Thisbe] [projector slide change to tomb]*

**THISBE**

This is old Ninny's tomb. Where is my love?

**LION**

[Roaring Lion sound effect 6 on Avery’s phone] [*Thisbe screams and runs off, leaving her shawl.]*

**PHILOSTRATE**

**Well roared, Lion.**

**THESEUS**

**Well run, Thisbe.**

*[The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit]*

**HIPPOLYTA**

And so the lion vanished.

**THESEUS**

And then came Pyramus.

*[Enter Pyramus]*

**PYRAMUS**

Wait what is that? Oh dear, Thisbe’s shawl is stained with blood. Furies come crush, kill, and punish who has hurt her!

**THESEUS**

This passion, and the death of a dear friend, would go near to make a man look sad.

**HIPPOLYTA**

**Beshrew my heart, but I pity the man.**

**PYRAMUS**

Lions murdered my lover!

Out, sword, and wound Pyramus in the heart *[Stabs himself]* **Thus die I, thus, thus, thus. Now am I dead, Now am I fled; Moon take thy flight:Now die, die, die. *[Dies]***

**HIPPOLYTA**

If the moon goes away how will she find Pyramus dead?

**THESEUS**

She’ll find him by starlight. Here she comes. Her cries will end the play.

*[Re-enter Thisbe]*

**HIPPOLYTA**

Pyramus is no one to cry over. I hope this is quick.

**THISBE**

My love, are you asleep?

Wake up, wake up!

Pyramus, wake up?

Are you dead? [KICK]

Oh no, you are dead

**Tongue, not a word:**

**Come, trusty sword;**

**Come, blade, my breast imbrue: *[Stabs herself]* And, farewell, friends; Thus Thisbe ends: Adieu, adieu, adieu. *[Dies]***

**THESEUS**

The Lion is left to bury the dead.

[projector slide change back to theater]

**HIPPOLYTA**

The acting was dreadful.

**BOTTOM**

[Starting up] Would you like to hear the epilogue, or perhaps see a Bergomask dance between two of us?

**THESEUS**

**No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no excuse.**

**Never excuse; and so it is, truly; and very notably discharged.** Lovers off to bed.

*[Exeunt] [Enter PUCK] [projector slide change to enchanted forest]*

**PUCK**

Us fairies n**ow are frolic: not a mouse shall disturb this hallow'd house: I am sent with broom before, to sweep the dust behind the door.**

*[Enter OBERON and TITANIA with their train]*

**OBERON**

The house’s fire will give us the perfect light.

Fairies and elves join me in singing and dancing to a song I made.

**TITANIA**

Rehearse your song and make it pretty. We’ll join hands and sing.

*Song and dance*

**OBERON**

**Now, until the break of day,**

**Through this house each fairy stray.**

**Ever shall in safety rest.**

**Trip away; make no stay;**

**Meet me all by break of day.**

*[Exeunt OBERON, TITANIA, and train]*

**PUCK**

**If we shadows have offended,**

**Think but this, and all is mended,**

**That you have but slumber'd here**

**While these visions did appear.**

**And this weak and idle theme,**

**No more yielding but a dream,**

**Gentles, do not reprehend:**

**if you pardon, we will mend:**

**And, as I am an honest Puck,**

**If we have unearned luck**

**Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,**

**We will make amends ere long;**

**Else the Puck a liar call;**

**So, good night unto you all.**

**Give me your hands, if we be friends,**

**And Robin shall restore amends.**

*[End!]*