episode 92: A Midsummer Night's ... Whatever the hell this is

Shannon Perry

OZ 9 MIDSUMMER BONUS - THE BIOSWAMP

NARRATOR

1

Amidst the foul and fetid winds of the bioswamp do we tod ay set our scene. Alack, for our writer's gaze hath fallen upon a once much-used and oft-curs'ed Riverside Shakespeare, and there twas an idea born.

N2

2

Tis a well-trod path and far from original, but English majors must perforce English maj, and so like Icarus, we all now build our wings and join her in her flight of fancy.

NARRATOR

3

Like foolish Icarus, we do not fear to fly too close to the sun. In our case, because the brightest things in this script are Bonnie's sun drawings which she, like the monks of old, hath doodled in the margins.

N2

4

With the 4th wall now reduced to grit and rubble, we draw aside the curtain upon our scene as star-crossed lovers tangle in the affairs of the fae folk, and vice versa, and mischief abounds.

NARRATOR

5

It is the hour of dusk in the bioswamp, and the fairies are busy lengthening the shadows, quieting the robin-ishy and meadowlarksy-type birds and awakening the owlish and sort-of-nightingaley in their turn.

N2

6

Not the egrets, though.

NARRATOR

7

T'would take a hammer to calm an egret. Hither comes the fair and comely Dr. Theo, whose voice doth charm all manner of rough beast, with the exception of the once-captain Jessie.

DR. THEO

8

O night both fierce and foul in which dark deeds oft are done, I welcome thee now to cover my blushes and cool my heated brow. For she loves me not. Fair Pipistrelle, it is your hour, for the sun, o'er jealous of your beauty, hath condemned you to the darkling hours. Whyfore then, do you not come to me here, wing' ed nymph of night, for you have captured my heart as sure as you [waving an arm in front of his face] capture these tiny bugs you dine upon?

SFX: hooves approach

GREG

9 [singing to himself]

DR. THEO

10

But hark, who comes to steal my solace? I shall hide me here behind this ... whatever the hell this is.

SFX: rustling swamp plants as he hides

GREG

11

Heard I some voice? Grrrrr. A
mushroom thief, tis sure, come to make
short shrift of my nightly labors and
steal away my prize. [calls out]
Knave, hath thou no morels? For I am
of good character, and morels have I
plenty though none for you. [to
himself] I must away and guard my
treasure; my hard work is for no
other's pleasure!

SFX: gallops away

DR. THEO

12

What care I for your feeble fungi, fellow? What care I for any worldly good when love hath extended a stealthy leg, tripped me and pitched me o'er, and stomped on my heart like a clumsy maid flattening her partner's toes at her first Gavotte? NARRATOR

Many hours hath this noble surgeon whiled away with lamentations and renting of garments, though not near enough renting, for said garments are still mostly whole, which is annoying.

N2

So vigorous his lamenting that e'en the fae folk have taken notice and do spy and playfully pelt him with fewmets, wormcast, spraints, and coprolite for his pains.

NARRATOR

Once more through a wormhole pass'ed we, so our crew are beguiled and shed their daily skins to wear another — hark how the jolly and sausage-scented Dr von Haber Zetzer doth come in the likeness and garb of the fairy King, pursuing his cool and scornful Queen.

N2

We're really gonna need to provide a transcript on this one.

NARRATOR

We always do.

N2

With footnotes.

NARRATOR

19 Let's make that your job.

SFX: Let's mark the entrances and exits of our "fairies" - Mrs S, Dr. vHZ, & Olivia - with some sort of shimmery sound.

MRS SHEFFIELD

Follow me not, tyrant of the heart, you'll make merry no more with mine.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

21 Tarry, rash wanton! Am I not thy lord?

MRS SHEFFIELD

Ha! Pullest thee the other one. If thou wishest to lord over someone, you

would do best to get a dog. Did I not spy thee "strumming thy lute" with a bar wench? And I mean that metaphorically.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

I heard the fingerquotes, danke.

Schiesse! Fair queen of the sprites, I would despair did I not see in thy jealousy some faint shadow of love.

MRS SHEFFIELD

24 Get thee over thyself.

25

26

27

28

29

DR. VON HABER ZETZER
Come now. Sit with me upon
this...whatever the hell this is, and
let me spin thee a tale of woe so
heavy with trials and pains as to
soften thy heart.

MRS SHEFFIELD

You couldst not soften this heart with a meat tenderizer. I myself hath daily soaked it in the acid and vinegar of grief and tears, which only served to toughen its fibres against thee. Thou hast done me dirty.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER
Tell me how I might win thee back again?

MRS SHEFFIELD

Show me some understanding of love.

Nay, pick me not a flower out of a
pile of alligator droppings, yuck, put
that down. Do some service unto love,
aid Cupid in his labours, not for thy
own sake but to attend on love.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER
On this ship? What service could I
render love here, for certain no one
would desire these dumpkofs to make
more copies of themselves?

MRS SHEFFIELD

Fear not babies in this show, for there are no sharks out here to jump, if thou catchest my meaning. Doth not

the swoony Dr. Theo, frozen here whilst we speak, torture the very trees with his protestations of love? Thou mightest start there.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER 31 And if I do him such service as to bring his belov'ed bat winging to his arms, what then, Lady? Wilt thou admit me then to thy heart....and thy bedchamber? Mmm? Mmm? MRS SHEFFIELD 32 One thing at a time, Romeo. DR. VON HABER ZETZER 33 Wrong play. MRS SHEFFIELD 34 Watch it. DR. VON HABER ZETZER 35 Sorry. MRS SHEFFIELD Wing'ed Pipistrelle's heart is already 36 a fair way down the path to love; a well-placed nudge shall set her feet a'right. See thou do well the task I've set thee and not fuckest it up. Fairies, attend on me here and witness the King's oath: to bring love to scientist and bat, for no service can

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

Auf Wiedersehen, mein Queen. When you awake, the deed shall be done!

SFX: The Queen buggers off.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

38 OLIFIA!!

37

NARRATOR

39 So the fairy king hath promised to beguile the hearts' compasses of both Pipistrelle and Dr. Theo so their true north is truly set at one another.

be better set than that!

	N2
40	But how is such a piece of business to be undertaken? Forsooth, both are shy as the cub reporter whose first story is set at a nudist colony.
41	NARRATOR No doubt the king will burden his favorite fae, the puckish Olivia, with the task. Hither comes she now.
42	N2 How can you tell? She's digital again.
43	NARRATOR Narrator the Second, hush thy uncivil tongue and just go with it.
44	N2 K.
45	OLIVIA You bellowed?
46	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Ach, pixie, thou didst take thy time.
47	OLIVIA Oh, bollocks. Another bloody wormhole.
	It's a good thing this is audio; those tights are doing you no favors.
48	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Jest on thy own time, sprite, I have work for you.
49	OLIVIA Ah! Some mischief? Something good this time, eh? Enough pulling stools out from under unsuspecting wenches' bottoms. Borrrring.
50	DR. VON HABER ZETZER No mischief now, we do the very work of Cupid himself.
51	OLIVIA That lazy little bastard? No. thank

That lazy little bastard? No, thank you. And next time you see him, could you remind him to reposition his sash? I don't need to see all his dangly

bits, thanks.

52	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Wilt thou not catch the spirit of the game and join us in some merry sport?
53	OLIVIA Do I have to sound like a twat?
54	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Fine. No.
55	OLIVIA Right. What's up?
56	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Divine Clara, Queen of the Fae, hath set me this task: to woo fair Pipistelle in the guise of good Dr. Theo, and thus win her to his heart.
57	OLIVIA Can't you just throw some little bugs on him? She's proper fond of gnats.
58	DR. VON HABER ZETZER A romantic are thee not, Olivia.
59	OLIVIA All right, all right. What do you want me to do?
60	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Find you some love-in-idleness flower and dribble 'pon the sleeping eyelid of the lady, so when next she wake, and cast eyes upon him, her heart will know the true depth of her affection for the loquacious logician.
61	OLIVIA "Loquacious logician"?! That's the pot calling the kettle wordy if ever I heard it. Look, the chances of there being that flower in this swamp are about 1-to-are you fricking kidding me, and even if I find something similar, it'll likely turn her into a newt. And I'm not gobbing into her eve. neither.

eye, neither.

62	DR. VON HABER ZETZER What witterest thou on about? I didn't tell you to spit in her eye.
63	OLIVIA Oooo, you did! "Dribble 'pon her sleeping eyelid." Sound familiar?
64	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Got in himmel, dribble the juice of the flower, you tiny- [thinks better of it]
65	OLIVIA [warning] Go on
66	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Enough! I am becalmed. Just figure it out. Ooo, and whilest thou ist at thy labours, save a bit of dribble for my Queen, and see she falls in love with something funny. I want to put it on Tik Tok.
67	OLIVIA Anything else? It's not like I have a ship to run or anything.
68	DR. VON HABER ZETZER No. I am sated. Off and see my will is done ere break of day.
69	OLIVIA Or what, exactly?
70	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Could you let me be king for five seconds?
71	OLIVIA Fine, go for it.
72	DR. VON HABER ZETZER See my will is done ere break of day, sprite, or such woe befall thee as eh oh, forget it. Just go. Farewell!

SFX: King exits.

OLIVIA

Righty ho. Love-in-idleness flower, eh? Seriously, the king has his noble head up his royal arse if he thinks there's any of that 'round here.

SFX: Greg approaches

GREG

(huge yawn) Faith, many an hour have I stood guard o'er my pale crop, but sleep creeps along my limbs like giant sloths, and I am near to falling from the weight. I shall secret myself behind ... whatever the hell this is, and rest till the cock crow again.

OLIVIA

Don't know what cock you're counting on, mate, but whilst you're snoozing, I think I might just check out your mushroom patch for something that'll work.

SFX: Olivia exits.

NARRATOR

For the last six pages hath poor Dr.
Theo worn out his time, frozen, still,
and forgotten. Now, un-enchanted at
last as our middling scribe remembers
he's still standing there, he wakes.

N2

77 "Middling" seems generous.

NARRATOR

78 Can't arque. Hush.

DR. THEO

Have I been in a dream? My legs do ache, and the moon is not where last I left her in the sky. I must to bed, but my chambers are far. I will rest me here awhile and dream of my sweet Pipistrelle.

N2

You know, in Shakespeare's day, "awhile" and "Pipistrelle" would've been close enough to count as a rhyme.

NARRATOR 81 TWO. 82 Just sayin'. This isn't easy, you know. NARRATOR 83 Tis no tale that does not contain some strife. So here comes another who woo'd a wife. Did you say "would" a wife or "wooed" 84 a wife? NARRATOR 85 That's the joke. It could be either. N2 86 Oh. (pause) So, "comedy" is a pretty loose term, then, right? COLIN 87 (to himself) At night doth my heart fly from my chest, and I follow it here, to this rank and irksome swamp, whence to cool my fruitless ardor in this deep and murky water. N2 88 Like taking a cold shower? NARRATOR 89 Sounds like it. COLIN 90 I shall no more set my heart at

I shall no more set my heart at anyone, for tis a recipe sure to yield despair. Leet, Albatros, wife — all have left me with no lover, spouse, or friend.

OLIVIA

Who's this? Oh lord. Sorry, mate, we're fresh out of potential sweethearts. Unless Joe really swabs your decks, I guess.

SFX: Julie calling from a distance.

92	JULIE Allllllbeeeeert. Allllllbeeeerrrrt!
93	OLIVIA Oh, yeah. Julie's been a bit grievey and mopey since Ben buggered off. Don't know about a love connection, but I reckon you both could use a friend.
SFX:	Julie coming closer.
94	JULIE Allllllbeeeeeert. Alllllllbeeeerrrrt! Oh! What devilment is here?
95	COLIN No devil but those bedeviled with insomnia. Pardon, fair lady; I intend no harm.
96	JULIE (suspicious) Faith, tis a strange hour to be abroad for honorable purposes.
97	COLIN And yet, here you are. And I.
98	JULIE Fair.
99	COLIN Are you she who nursemaids the alligrets?
100	JULIE Define "nursemaid."
101	COLIN No insult intended, lady; i'faith, I admire thee for thy bravery.
102	JULIE Oh. Well. Then thou art kind despite thy stormy looks.
103	COLIN You can see me?
104	JULIE Thanks to the moon tis not so dark

Art thou usually invisible?

COLIN

Uhhhhhh...Maybe? In truth, this night confounds me. I am all of a fog, my mind doth roll and swirl, and in clouds covers truths which would be plain in light of day. What bringst thou here?

JULIE

Same. Though I am more of mist than fog: my mind dampens joy and maketh the grass all slippery.

COLIN

107 I... see.... What cause hath life given you to seek solace here, in this dank and dreary place?

JULIE

My true love paves a path amongst the stars and cuts a course to home.

COLIN

109 Tis a deep cut, indeed.

JULIE

To the bone. And what of you? Why preferest thou the stagnant swamp to the warmth of hearth and home?

COLIN

My hearth and heart are cold, lady. For there are none to stoke the fires of either.

JULIE

Seek you warmth here? Faith, what might do for firewood is as green and sodden as ... Albert. And as likely to ignite.

COLIN

I seek not the smoldering embers of romance; a spark of friendship would warm me through.

JULIE

114 And I. What hast thou there?

115	COLIN Oh. A novel writ by a doctor I know.
116	JULIE Tis a hefty tome.
117	COLIN This is the first chapter.
118	JULIE Wow.
119	COLIN Wouldst thou sit beside me and read a page?
120	JULIE Oh, uhhhhhh. Wow. Be that the time? I should really-
121	COLIN (interrupting) You mistake me, lady. I read it only for the drowsiness it inspires.
122	JULIE Well, in that case
	SFX: Julie and Colin sit. Dr von Haber Zetzer appears
123	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Why do you tarry, sprite? Hath thou already completed thy task?
124	OLIVIA Seriously, this part of the galaxy has more bloody wormholes than a pile of compost. I'm watching these two.
125	DR. VON HABER ZETZER More star-cros't lovers?
126	OLIVIA Nah. Just two lonely people stumbling about in the dark.
127	DR. VON HABER ZETZER Ach. Tis easier to keep a stumble from becoming a fall when there's someone at your side to catch you, eh?

OLIVIA

Look, I know where this is headed, and you're very sweet or something, but do you have any idea how much work I have on my plate right now?

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

OLIVIA

OLIVIA

130 FINE. Back to the mushroom patch I go.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

Tis meet they grow in a fairy ring, eh?

OLIVIA

Oh yeah, that makes everything so. much. better.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

A piece of cake be these two, for already they drool and snore and slump to the ground.

OLIVIA

Seriously, you couldn't put people to sleep faster with that book if you hit them over the head with it.

SFX: two shimmers as Olivia and Dr vHZ depart.

NARRATOR

As the fae folk quit the scene to tend to their business, our fourth and final character doth step, clumsily, upon the stage.

PIPISTRELLE

Why do I linger? My appetite is sated, my eyelids grow heavy for want of sleep, and yet I remain in this dark and restless place. My wings are still, yet my fancy is full in flight, imagining such things as I dare not give voice to unless alone in the dark.

SFX: Olivia shimmers back.

OLIVIA

137 Ooooo, gossip. Go on....

PIPISTRELLE

With my sonar, I may detect all manner of hidden things, and yet am I helpless to ping the depths of the heart — mine own...or his.

OLIVIA

Ah, hell. Just gimme five minutes, will ya? I'm working on it.

PIPISTRELLE

In love, I am truly a bat: I am upside down and folded tight; every step is clumsy and near to a fall, but when I am beside him, my heart hath wings and is playful, spinning loops and soaring to new heights. Yet, is this love or only that magic by which he beguiles us all?

OLIVIA

141 Does it matter?

PIPISTRELLE

And truer to my purpose, what of him?
He holds his feelings so close in
check as to make a prisoner of his
heart. Truth, he is harder to read
than his own novel.

OLIVIA

143 Pfft. You've clearly never tried.

PIPISTRELLE

Aye me, I would snatch his love out the air if it flew by me, but I am a bat, not a woodpecker, and cannot pry it loose from such stern stuff as his heart be.

SFX: rustle of Pipi perching after Olivia's "just lie down."

OLIVIA

Yeah, all right. I'm on it. Just lie down or oh, yeah, hang upside down, whatever. Gonna be tricky stuffing a mushroom down you at that angle, but we'll get it sorted.

NARRATOR

Night hath rounded the corner towards morning, and the fae folk, their labours concluded, attend upon their queen and prepare her for slumber.

MRS SHEFFIELD

147 Duckweed! Wooly Sedge!

Editors: I'd like Sarah to use effects to differentiate the fairies a little. Can we make that work without messing up the sound design process?

DUCKWEED

148 Ready!

WOOLY SEDGE

And I! Here! I'm here! How may I be of service? Is there mischief afoot? A jape, a jest, a merry caper?

MRS SHEFFIELD

Wooly Sedge, calm thyself before I calm thee with a hammer. Horsetail!

HORSETAIL CATTAIL

151-152 Ready!

And I!

Wools! Step back a pace, you're getting hair in my mouth.

WOOLY SEDGE

MRS SHEFFIELD

154 Sorry!

MRS SHEFFIELD

I shall lie me here, atop ... whatever the hell this is. Peace, o'er love, is sweet and best. See that none come near to disturb my rest.

SFX: Dr. vHZ shimmers in.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

156 (softly) Olifia!

SFX: Olivia shimmers in.

OLIVIA

157 WHAT?

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

Shhhh!! Lookest thee here, sprite. My lady sleeps. But she is attended by her fairies, dammit.

Big snore from Mrs Sheffield.

DUCKWEED

159 Right. She's out. Anyone want to raid the swamp hooch and get lit?

WOOLY SEDGE

Ready! Me me me! Let us quaff deep and run amuck!

HORSETAIL CATTAIL

161-162 I'm in!

And I!

SFX: Four shimmers as the fairies run off.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

163 Excellent! See how soundly doth my lady snooze upon this... what the hell IS this thing, anyway?? Hath thou some potion to anoint her brow and turn her affection in a wholly unsuitable direction?

OLIVIA

164 Couldn't you just apologize for the bar wench and the ehhhh ... "lute strumming"?

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

Admit the truth? She'd roast my capons and feed them to me. No, sprite, I believe the truest way to win her back is to trick her into loving a bug or something and then humiliate her in front of her servants.

SFX: Squelchy sound (maybe reminiscent of LBF's decongestant?) for the potion.

OLIVIA

Riiiiight. (SFX: Squelch) OK, anointed with ointment. Anointment? That just sounds wrong.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

167 Go thee now, mischievous Olifia, and

find some base and vile creature. Bring it here so 'tis the first thing her eyes light upon when she awakes.

OLIVIA

Just so you know, this swamp is fresh out of love-in-idleness flowers, so I'm not entirely sure-

DR. VON HABER ZETZER

(interrupting, speaking to the sleeping Queen) Fare thee well and sleep thee well, my Queen, for tomorrow hast thou a big day.

SFX: He shimmers off.

OLIVIA

170 Right. OK. Warning delivered and ignored. As you do. I'm off to water a few others, as per direction. Do you have any idea how hard it is to juice a mushroom?

SFX: Olivia shimmers off. Pause. Shimmers back. Squelches! Also, Julie, I'll insert pauses; can you move Olivia's voice in space so we get the idea that there's some distance between them?

OLIVIA

171 Hang on, they're all scattered around here. Right. A drop for you, Dr. Theo; a dribble for you, Julie; some for you, Mz Pipi; and the soggy dregs for you, Colin. Now, don't all be looking at each other when you wake up, or we'll have some bonzo Weeping-Angels scenario to sort out, and I'm tired. AND I still have to go find something for the Queen to get jiggy with. Ooooo! Hang on, didn't I leave a zebra here somewhere? Crap. I'm out of potion. Welp, mate, looks like you get a whole shroom. (grunty noises of stuffing shroom down zebra throat) Good luck!

SFX: She shimmers out. Pause. She shimmers back.

OLIVIA

172 Screw this, I'm not waiting for

morning.

SFX: Rooster

	SIX. ROOSCEI
	OLIVIA
173	Huh. I guess we do have a cock.
174	NARRATOR And there our story we must conclude, But lest you think our ending rude
175	N2 A two-parter doth this be So join us again in our revelry.
176	NARRATOR Wilt the lovers and the friends
177	N2 Find their best and happy ends? Or will Olivia, the Oz 9's own Puck,
178	NARRATOR On purpose or by haps, up it fuck? Thou hast been listening to David S Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae Kevin Hall as Greg Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
179	N2 Eric Perry as Dr. von Haber Zetzer Shannon Perry as Olivia Chrisi Talyn Saje as Julie Tim Sherburn as Colin
180	NARRATOR Sarah Rhea Warner as Pipistrelle Bonnie Brantley as Duckweed, Wooly Sedge, Horsetail, and Cattail.
181	N2 I'faith, I'm Kyle Jones, your Narrator 2,
182	NARRATOR And whether thou likest it or not, I'm Chris Nadolny Gourley, your Narrator. Our music was writ by John Faley, and our artwork from the fevered brow of Lucas Elliott.

N2

Sarah Golding our dialogue did edit, and Shannon Perry our sound design'ed.

Lamentably, our story of Oz 9, much like the alien of old, did explode from the head of Shannon Perry and wreaketh much havoc upon a space ship.

NARRATOR

184 Know you now that Oz 9 doth hang about with many a rascally and ill-reputed tale amidst the Fable and Folly Network.

N2

Go thee hence to fable and folly dot com and there beguile your idle hours with true delights.

NARRATOR

186 Until next time, gentle Monkeys of Space, be well. Cast thine eyes upwards to the stars, but try not to step in the fewmets.