



WELCOME TO TODAY'S ACTIVITIES AT THE ATHENIAN CARE HOME

"With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come" William Shakespeare

Thank you for being with us here at the Atheneum Care Home, reputedly one of Devon's finest residential home for elders. Here you will meet our carer Mr Puck and gardener Mistress Nicky Bottom, home manager Theseus and regional manager Hippolyta, and do revel in the company of your fellow residents including Tania and Ron and longtime Athenian stalwarts Mrs Moth and Miss Cobweb. We hope you enjoy your stay with us and that all your dreams come true.



Living Room Theatre in partnership
with Crediton Arts Centre present
ALL IS MENDED

Our play today is a re-purposing of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, ingeniously crafted together with lines from some of his most famous plays. Written by Philip Robinson, Pippa Marriott and the Bard himself with contributions from our many care home co-creators. The "What A Day For A Daydream" voices you will hear are words spoken in our conversations with people in care homes in Crediton and Moretonhampstead, and with their families and carers. These words are voiced by Janet Hookway, Jenny Start, Kate Lock, Hannah Reynolds, Jim King, Rupert Grantham, Rita King, Eddie Holden, Nichola Weate, John Twitchin, Brana Thorn. Our director is Rachel Vowles, set & costume design by Lindy Yellowlees, producer Kate Lock, music & sound design Philip Robinson, with performers Gillie Stoneham, Philip Robinson, Cordelia the cat. Logistical magic by Jack Robson and Crediton Arts Centre.



And while we spoke of many things, fools and kings, this he said to me "The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return" from the song Nature Boy by Eden Ahbez



Shakespeare's "Dream" comedy with its mixture of magical fairies and down-to-earth characters has been reimagined into our play set in a care home. Indeed the experience of living through the Covid 19 pandemic has had many of the qualities of dreams. Everyone we spoke to about this project had a story to tell of getting old - don't we all? Stories that make us smile or cry. Our lives have narrative and we all hope to be the authors of our own, and in stories endings matter. The real stories you will see and hear today may be about us all, now, or to come.

For the last 15 months the **All Is Mended** team have been working in care homes in Devon: St Swithuns, Coppelia House and in the initial stages at Hillbrow. Pippa Marriott and Philip Robinson have listened, asked questions, explored experiences with those there and with their families too. Bridget Cordory came and made art with the residents. Together these experiences and connections have helped make this play, and also our book *A Little Bit of Magic - care home voices in a time of Covid*, and our art exhibition of residents' work *Old Hands @ Art*. Buy the book from us or from The Bookery in Crediton, and catch us touring the play and the art exhibition around Devon from Sept - to Dec 2021. Come and be away with the fairies.

For helping get All Is Mended up and running we gratefully thank Hugh Matthews online marketing, Annemarie Shillito fundraising, Jules Walker & Mark Saunders & Jo Ward for props & set help, Dee Lalljee & Andrew Davey at The Bookery for rehearsal space, Hedgerow Print for swift quality printing, Helen Shingler calligraphy, and for good advice: Rosemary Stephenson, Claire Marshall & Mair George, Ian Danby & Hannah Reynolds, Dr Sarah Griffiths, Ysella Sims, Mark Wallace, Vicky Frisby, Dr Catherine Charlwood, & Jennifer Reynolds for PR. Without participation from residents, family and staff at our care homes there would be no project, thank you.

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"Sweet dreams 'til sunbeams find you, sweet dreams that leave all worries far behind you, but in your dreams, whatever they be, dream a little dream of me" from the song Dream a Little Dream by Gus Kahn