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Midsummer Night's What? - Free Outdoor Shakespeare in Queens

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One request I hear frequently is for more stuff about things to do with kids in Queens. Every time I hear it I think, "Yeah, I want that too!" Luckily, I discovered some free Shakespeare performances in Queens parks.

I took the brood to see free Shakespeare in Forest Park this evening. It was the first performance of Hip to Hip Theatre Company at the Forest Hills Bandstand. We got front and center seats which was great for my tween since she wanted to see it all. It was then that I realized my poor child knew very little about who Shakespeare was or what we were about to see, oops, too late for a lesson now.

The performance of *Midsummer Nights Dream* began punctually at 5pm and ran exactly 90 minutes, a very reasonable time for a play of this complexity. On a sparse stage in the middle of a bustling area of the park, the actors were able to put on a very entertaining version of the play and kept my tween completely entertained, not an easy task especially in poetry.

Afterward, I was finally able to explain what Shakespeare's plays were all about and why he was an important guy to know, my tween agreed. All in all we had a nice evening and I was pleasantly impressed that I myself was also able to follow the play since the last time I read Shakespeare was in 10th grade. We look forward to seeing more from Hip to Hip and William Shakespeare at future Queens venues all over Queens.