

Ever True

by

Mickey Bolmer

(2 acts, 16, comedy)

the Midsummer-night's Dream  
lovers  
now parents  
children: 5 the mechanicals  
one a son just met  
3 babies with colic the fairies  
Ed who said no Puck  
old king and queen  
an old cloth diaper  
the magic  
a moonlit night on a mountain lake  
the next day  
a former lover  
a friend  
at the end  
kites fly

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Characters

Marilyn Gardner  
Kate Market  
Old Ron  
Tiana  
Lynn Market (2.5 months)  
Ward Gardner (2.5 months)  
Ed Gardner (2.5 months)  
Jack Gardner

Amy Gardner (6)  
Sarah Gardner (11)  
Elie Gardner (16)  
Beth Gardner (16)  
Bill Market  
Tom Mott (18)  
Blyth Mott  
Peter (18)

Set

The mountains, a summer cottage on a lake, the kind with one large downstairs room, bedrooms on the second floor, and a large porch on the front. The porch comes out onto steps down to a wide lawn that slopes to the lake. A dock thrusts into the lake. All that is needed are the steps, the door to the porch, the lawn, and the dock.

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Prologue

(in spaces other than the main set)

MARILYN

(kitchen wall phone with a long cord. Dials Kate who has a cell phone with caller ID)

KATE

M!

(Marilyn hangs up)

M? M?!

(Kate redials)

Answer your phone! M!

MARILYN

(Picks up and hangs up before speaking.)

My name is Marilyn.

KATE

(dials and Marilyn answers.)

M! M, I need you! M? Why did you call me?

MARILYN

You, Katie, called me.

KATE

Nobody's called me Katie since Mrs. Stanley's sixth grade.

MARILYN

You stamped your foot  
said

"My name is Kate.

"I will be Kate and only Kate."

KATE

Oh, sounds just like me, M, oh, M, I'm pregnant! Due June second. M, say something.

MARILYN

Too late

KATE

What?

MARILYN

You'll know  
soon enough

MARILYN (cont.)

Twin boys  
the first week in June.

KATE

No, a baby girl, I think I'll call her Lynn. Oh, M!, you mean we're pregnant together!

MARILYN

You may be  
Me  
I'm  
knocked up.

KATE

What?

MARILYN

Usual  
right after  
Pope sanctioned unprotected rhythmic marital intercourse  
one  
of  
Jack's busy sperm  
pushed into one  
of  
one  
let's see  
that makes it  
Elie and Beth,  
Joanie,  
Sarah,  
Amy,  
and now  
faulty  
what?  
egg?  
sperm?  
early division  
twin boys  
Ed and Ward

KATE

Joanie?

MARILYN  
died  
Katie

KATE  
M, I'm so happy!

MARILYN  
Well  
be  
well

(black out)  
(thunder Enter Old Ron and Tiana separately)

OLD RON  
(searching)  
Mine. Mine. Mine!

TIANA  
Oh dear, I do believe we've, well, you've drifted, have been drifting,

OLD RON  
Puck!

TIANA  
What, Old Ron, did you say?

OLD RON  
Puck! you Tiana!

TIANA  
Watch your mouth, old man! Used to be such a gentleman, now, how long before?, before what? drifting hope, just hopeless. You do have to love him, mind or no mind, or do you? Where were we, ah yes, darling, drifting on a raft, a river, dawn's early electrons, photons, fission, fusion, bang, or was it just a bank we banged upon, big bang on the bank, still so much to say, light alone, well, true, I was doing most of the talking,

OLD RON  
Mine!

TIANA  
still, of the morning, always right on cue,

OLD RON

Mine.

TIANA

(also looking for "it" and finds Ed/Puck in a bush)

Hello, Puck, what are you doing here, just the right way to begin a new day, play, welcome, welcome happy

OLD RON

Puck?

TIANA

Oh, no dear, new dawn, new morning, just right for

OLD RON

Mine, Mother, mine!

TIANA

a new beginning, a little play to brighten a new day.

OLD RON

Mine! Time? Mine!

TIANA

Go on dear, lost his...such a dear, well, don't mind him, or me, blathering on, not very bright, but, I do know people, people who, what, when, why, each person, herself, now, of course, how and where spring? have you wondered? looked? Now in my day, show after show, everything worked out, just great, top of the world, couldn't be happier, thank you for asking, life just a bowl of cherries, and the men, now the men, well maybe round cherry redness mesmerizes'em, pop, pit, gullet, men, always stickin in their two cents worth, shovin their oar right in, messin with the works and, there it is, pop, pit, gullet, nothing ever right ever again, for men life's a bowl a cherries, roll, roll, roll out the barrel, and never mind the barrels left bob bob bobbing in their wake, sixteen pregnancies, two miscarriages, two children buried

(She finds Ward and Lynn huddled together in a bush)

ah

OLD RON

(Lightning and thunder, rain if you want)

Puck! Mine!

ED/PUCK

(Old Ron has him by the ear. Ed/Puck gets away.)

No!