When I met my friend Daniel, who looked and sounded completely different from me, it helped me to fully embrace a part of myself, and to see how some prejudices are born out of an ignorance that comes from seeing only what the rest of us can see. I thought there was no point in trying to understand what was inside each of us. No matter how ‘new’ a concept to me—taught me that we are all different. Learning to adjust to someone else’s preference—whether it’s food or musical tastes or what language we speak—is easy. Someone once said that friendship is so much bigger than words. Our differences must be celebrated, not feared, and unique. Who you are is not defined by what the rest of us see, but rather by what is inside each of us. And if you have fear of accepting because of ignorance, then you must change. No matter how new a concept is, you must learn to live with it and appreciate it. I had fear of accepting because of ignorance. Their points of view and points of difference...
I just four days’ time, Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, will be wed to Theseus, Duke of Athens—the man who convinced her and the battlefields. As the soon anticipates their wedding, Theseus requires the Duke’s help with a family problem of his own. His daughter, Hermia, in love with Lysander, refuses to marry Demetrius—the father’s choice. Theseus presents her wish to choose from three choices: marry Demetrius, become a nun, or die. But instead, she chooses to flee with Lysander from Athens. Demetrius—betrayed by his former girlfriend, Helena—follows the couple in hot pursuit. And where Demetrius goes, so goes Helen. Hermia’s lovesick best friend.

In the woods they are right, when the fairy king and queen are having relationship problems of their own. Ruffled by Titania’s devotion to a young human boy, Oberon commands his fairy servant Puck to retrieve a magic flower that will make Titania fall madly in love with the first creature she next encounters—whatever it may be.

Observing Helena desperately pursue Demetrius through the woods, Oberon takes pity and commands Puck to mischief young Athenian man. Unbeknownst, from Puck’s parting point, one Athenian posts pretty much like another—and soon is amazed, not Demetrius, who falls head over heels for Helena. Hermia is not amused.

On that very same night, a troupe of amateur actors heads into the woods—Athenian workers rehearsing a play they hope to present on Theseus’s wedding day. Puck finds them there, and takes to heart the task of both as the perfect time match for his fairy Queen—two some shawls to dote upon this mortal, transformed by Puck into an ass. Love all around seems destined for disaster—until Theseus and Thesea step back in to set things right!
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

CAST

ADAM WESLEY BROWN (Hersey, Scott/Runaway)
ALYSSA BROWN (Nurse)
ANDREW L. SAENZ (Antigone)
CHRISTIANA CLARK (Hermia)
RICHARD COSTES (Lysander)
JARRETT KING (Egeus)
LAUREN MEYER (Thalia)
FAITH SERVANT (Hippolyta)
CHRISTOPHER SHERARD (Shepard)
LAURIE SHARPE (Gertrude)
PAUL STONE (Diogenes)
ADAM TRIMBULL (Nadir)

CREATIVE

JESS MCELROY

LAUREN NIGRI

MIKHAIL FIKSE

LUKE KORTZ

GREG HOFMANN

JERRY GALANT

KATHY WHITE

LAURA DURHAM

DENNIS J. CONNERS

ELIS AUSKASEN

SEAN FORTUNATO

JEREMY PETER JOHNSON

TRAVIS TURNER

SAMMY BROWN

AMIT SHARMA

JERRITT ROSS

EMILY WILSON

LISA KORIO

KEVIN JAY

GARY KARL

RICKY REED

JENNY O’DONNELL

NICK WHITE

ANGELA AUSTIN

JANET JACOBS

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Ever met someone new who made you wowed at how different their way of life was? Growing up, as a Caucasian farmer from rural Illinois, I was part of the racial majority of Latinos. Meeting my step-dad's family, I was among the minority, and I began to see the world in a different way. But the fear was that of acceptance because of ignorance. Their points of view and experiences opened up my world, and I started to be able to look at things from a different perspective. It made me realize that we are all different, no matter what name we pray to...or don't pray to.

For years I refused to acknowledge a part of myself. I grew up speaking Portuguese, but my parents and grandparents were born and raised in Brazil. They didn't speak English and I didn't learn how to until I was older. I was afraid of being judged or misunderstood. But meeting someone who was different from me helped me to fully embrace a part of myself, and to see how some prejudices are born out of ignorance that comes from not experiencing life outside our own bubbles. It made me realize that we are all different, and that's what makes the world so beautiful.