WHERE
Octagon Theatre

WHEN
Thursday 15 – Friday 23 February

The performance lasts for
1 hour 30 minutes with no interval
Performed in Korean with English surtitles

Characters in order of appearance

Duduri (Dot’s little brother)  Jin Lee, Seoung-Yong Han
Hang (in love with Beok)    Seong-Hwan Lee
Beok (in love with Hang)    Jee-Young Kim
Loo (in love with Beok)     Jeong-Sun Lee
Ik (Beok’s friend; in love with Roo) Young-A Kim
Gabi (Dot’s husband; a philanderer) Jun-Ho Kim
Dot (chief of the Dokkebi)  Sun-Hee Park
Ajumi (herb collector)     So-Young Park

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH ASIANOW PRODUCERS
SYNOPSIS

It’s a midsummer’s night and the Dokkebi (fairies from Korean mythical folklore), who love dancing and singing, are having a big party.

In the story Hang has fallen in love with Beok, but Beok’s father is forcing her to marry Loo, so they decide to run away together and secretly get married.

Beok accidentally tells her best friend Ik of their plan. Ik is in love with Loo, but Loo is in love with Beok. Ik decides to tell Loo of Beok’s secret in the hope that he will give up his love for Beok but instead he sets off into the forest to find the runaway lovers.

Meanwhile, in the world of the Dokkebi, Dot (the Queen of all the fairies) has a plan to fix her husband Gabi, the Dokkebi King who is constantly chasing girls. She enlists Puck (split into twins) to find the magical plant that will help her succeed.

Along the way the twins meet Bottom: here a superstitious old woman called Ajumi, who has spent her life wandering the forest collecting herbs. Fearful of the spirits of the forest she tries to protect herself and makes an offering to the Gods, but she cannot escape Puck’s mischief.

Yohangza invites you to enjoy the infectious fun!

TIPS

Dokkebi (Puck) are similar to sprites and goblins in Western fairy tales. Dokkebi come out after sunset and disappear before sunrise and – except for the one or two horns on their heads – resemble human beings, complete with human foibles and affections. Dokkebi always like to sing and dance, to drink and to tease people, but one thing Dokkebi can’t stand is the smell of urine.

Ajumi (Bottom) is a feisty woman wandering the forest collecting herbs to sell at market. The pot of gold at the end of her rainbow is to find the almost-mythic thousand-year-old ginseng plant, thus assuring wealth and happiness for the rest of her life. Is this the night she will find it?
PROFILE OF THE COMPANY

Visual Theatre Company Yohangza Yohangza is a South Korean theatre company founded in 1997 by director/writer Jung Ung Yang. Yohangza performances have struck a chord with audiences, both Korean and international, and this energetic and young theatre company is quickly gaining a name for itself. Recently Yohangza's director/writer won South Korea's Best Young Playwright of the Year Award, and in September 2003 Yohangza was awarded Best Production at the Cairo International Festival of Experimental Theatre. In November 2003 the company toured Japan with its unique version of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and in 2006 this same production was invited to the Barbican Theatre and won the Grand Prix in the Gdańsk Shakespeare Festival, Poland.

Distinctly Korean in flavour, Yohangza’s work presents an exciting collision of the past and the present: a reworking of existing Korean styles and themes infused with contemporary elements and driven by a thirst for experimentation.

The result is a compelling and fresh mix of energetic dance, voice and percussion interwoven with stories of Korean folklore, mythology and history. Each piece is a sensory and aesthetic journey drawing us to both past and future, and always strongly connected with Korea’s identity and spirit.

Director Jung-Ung Yang

Born in 1968 in Seoul, Korea, Jung-Ung Yang studied creative writing at the Seoul Institute of the Arts. After working in Korea as a playwright, director and actor, he joined the Lasenkan International Theatre Company, based in Spain, gaining an international approach to non-traditional dance and theatre.

Jung-Ung established the Yohangza Theatre Company (Yohangza means voyager in Korean) with a group of young actors in Seoul in 1997, finding his own theatrical world by experimenting with physicality, image and space. After writing and directing Daughters of the Ground, Romeo and Juliet and Chairs, he received first local, and then international recognition, with a first place award at the Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre in 2003 for Yohangza’s production Karma. Jung-Ung Yang won South Korea’s Best Young Playwright of the Year Award in 2003, and, since then, has continued to blend imaginative and original text with theatrical aspects of dance and music, always combined with a characteristic Korean mis-en-scene and beauty of form.

CAST PROFILES

Hang (Lysander): Seoung-Hwan Lee

Beok (Hermia): Jee-Young Kim

Ik (Helena): Young-A Kim
Studied theatre at the Seoul Institute of the Arts, Seoul. Performed in Cooking, Separation Mask, On The Road, Magic Concert of Heoun Bo Choi, TATO and Gospel.

Ajumi (Bottom): So-Young Park
Studied drama at Myong Ji University. Performed in Mi Shil, Mac Beth – The Illusion, Karma, A Good Girl in Seoul, Yes Man, No Man, and A Midsommer Night’s Dream.

Dot (Oberon): Sun-Hee Park

Kabi (Titania): Jun-Ho Kim
Studied at the Department of Theatre & Film in Dan Kook University, Seoul and currently majoring in acting at the postgraduate school of the Korean National University of Arts, Korea. Awarded Best Actor at the 13th Busan Theatre Festival. Performed in Chunhyung, World of the Fire, Koguryo Blues, Man of Knife, Eternal Empire, King Jeongjo 1796, Woyzeck and Some Accident.

Duduri (Puck): Jin Lee

Duduri (Puck): Seong-Yong Han
Graduated from the Department of Music at Keoung Min University, Korea. Performed in Jesus Christ Superstar, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, and Carmen.
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The Stage

Saturday 24 Feb – Sun 4 March, His Majesty’s Theatre