

Notables

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A handpicked group of theatrical collaborators came together to bring William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to life to benefit the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens.



Fairies enchant Gardens for a 'Dream'

They say those who don't believe in magic will never find it.

Thanks to the vision of artistic director Trent Stephens, the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens brought magic to life during a strolling production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The 60-minute enchantment was presented to a limited audience Nov. 15 and 16 by Diamante Atelier, a "fancy colored diamond investment company" headquartered on Palm Beach's Worth Avenue.

Glittering fairies greeted guests at the gates, as harpsichord melodies echoed off the Garden's masonry walls.

Toting champagne and hors d'oeuvres, guests followed a lantern-bearing fairy into the Athenian woodland under the light of the full moon.

Young lovers portrayed the events surrounding the marriage of the Duke of Athens while wearing some of the finest jewels from Diamante Atelier's private collection, including pieces from



Em Mendez

Palm Beach Social Diary

Elizabeth Taylor's own line, House of Taylor.

But the "Dream" lived in Stephens' mind for many years before coming to life at the Gardens.

A student of theatre at Palm Beach Atlantic University, Stephens had been working with the Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival and presented "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Seabreeze Amphitheater in Carlin Park in 2009.

That same summer, he moved into the guest house at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens.

"The first time I set foot in the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, I felt the magic," he said.

"One night I was taking a stroll through the Gardens and just started to see it. Perhaps because the play was fresh on my mind, or maybe because

I happened to be in a beautiful magical forest on a night in the middle of summer. Either way it was clear to me that it needed to happen."

When Stephens met Jose Aman, President and Founder of Diamante Atelier, he found they shared a desire to create a new and exciting buzz on Palm Beach.

When Stephens shared his vision, Aman was enthralled.

They pooled a group of theatrical collaborators – actors, artists, designers and technicians – to make the magic happen.

"Diamante Atelier is focused on making an impact in this community by creating interesting and exciting events to promote our unique business," said Stephens, who is now Diamante's events coordinator.

It was interesting and exciting to say the least. Guests gushed so much about their experience in Fairyland that there are plans for the production to return to the Gardens later this season.

"We have some more tricks up our sleeve," Stephens said.