



A Midsummer Night's Dream and Festival, produced by NJAI will be held at **Verona Park on July 18th & 19th**, (rain date July 20th), Lakeside and Bloomfield Avenues, Verona in partnership with Essex County.

The weekend festival is a culmination of an eight-week period of six performance and technical workshops, combining professionals in all disciplines, with school-age children from the region, across the economic and cultural spectrum, including those with a variety of physical abilities.

The fun-filled festival will include vendors, entertainers and crafts of the Elizabethan and mid- 19th century time periods (the time period of the Mendelssohn score), with the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* complete with professional actors and workshop students. Sonnets, poetry, music and dance will be presented throughout the day.

Project participants, currently include Valley Arts, Arts Unbound, West Orange Board of Education, Orange Board of Education, The New Jersey Theatre Alliance, The Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, and a number of musicians, actors and artists from the Essex County/ Northern Jersey region.

Vendors will be comprised of Essex County and northern NJ, artists, craftsman and food purveyors that relate to the themes of the play or time periods explored. Vendors will be encouraged to provide demonstrations to attendees. Displays will be featured, from Essex County school districts, of art, social, and cultural projects exploring the production themes and time periods in relation to life today.

The festival is free to the public. Donations for the New Jersey Arts Incubator, Inc. to continue its mission will be requested throughout the day.

The mission of the NJAI Midsummer Night's Dream and Festival is to provide the region with an engaging, multi-faceted art, and education experience, at no cost to the attendee, in an effort to foster an appreciation for art, arts education, language and cultural experiences of 19th century England, and how it relates to the issues of today. To provide students and participants of all ages, economic and cultural demographics of the region, including disabled persons, with the opportunity to partner with professionals in the performing, technical and broadcast arts, and to learn about the business skills required to produce a unique art education experience. To provide professional artists and technicians, craft persons, and arts educators in the region with the opportunity to work, teach and promote their profession in northern New Jersey.