

ATHENIAN TIMES

New terror hits Athens, as monster-headed creatures roam the forests around the city!



Eyewitness's sketch of the beast.

Terrified members of the Skilled Craftsmen Guild flew back into town late yesterday evening, after experiencing an attack by a donkey headed monster, as they practised the play they intend to perform at the wedding of Theseus, Duke of Athens, to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons.

After years of war against the beautiful, but deadly Amazons, the people of the city were beginning to accustom themselves to a new era of peace and prosperity, but recent events have thrown the tranquillity of the neighbourhood out of the window.

"I never expected to see such a vicious looking brute out there," croaked a hoarse Snug, the joiner, which is extremely ironic, as he is to play a rather nasty lion, himself in the play. "I don't ever want to go out into the woods again, now. The ghastly beast had glowing eyes and slathering jaws. He rushed at us, all ten foot of him, and his hideous braying shook leaves from the very trees."

Peter Quince, a well-known and steady member of the carpenters'

union wasn't quite so overwhelmed by the monstrous creature. Although misshapen, he claimed, the revolting animal did appear to have some of the characteristics of his old friend, Bottom, a local weaver. "I do hope that he is safe," he murmured quietly. "We all ran in so many directions when the beast arrived, that frankly, we didn't know who had escaped until we all met up at the city gates. Bottom is a strong man, but even he is no match for such an appalling 'thing'!" The Duke and his court have vowed to head out into the woods tomorrow morning, and hunt down this ghastly ghou, before more Athenians are maimed or injured.



Duke Theseus, King of Athens

The fearless Duke is known for his cunning swordsmanship, and upon hearing the news, townsfolk cheered him heartily, and declared themselves to be feeling safer, already! His bride, the Amazon Queen, Hippolyta has also vowed to hunt down the loathsome animal, and sacrifice it in the temple, as an offering to the gods, for

their blessing on her marriage later the same day. Three other members of the acting troupe, Francis Flute, the bellows mender, (19) Robin Starveling, the town's foremost tailor (42) and Tom Snout, well-loved Tinker (35) were not available for comment, but upon arriving back in Athens, headed immediately for their homes, muttering about needing a little Dutch courage. None of these gentlemen could shed light upon the fate of Bottom, the weaver, whose fantastic use of colour and pattern will be seen in the newly designed carpet which will be laid out for the bride and groom to walk upon during their procession up to the temple altar during tomorrow's marriage ceremony. Bottom claimed earlier this week, that it would be as soft as walking on clouds, and that birds would come to pull on its threads, envious of the downy feel. Others have claimed to have seen and heard strange things happening in the forest over the past week. Strange lights and the tiniest sounds of laughter have floated over the undergrowth, even though no-one is there. Believers in the old tales of faery-folk, believe that the King and Queen of the Faeries (Oberon and Titania) have flown down from their palace to bless the Duke's wedding.