

Artist: August Mergelman

Art Form: Drama

Who says self promotion has to be expensive? Playwright August Mergelman knows better. Thirty dollars, talent, and intense knowledge of iambic heptameter solidified his future. Mergelman bought two tickets (costing \$30) to his play reading at Red Rocks Community College, and sent them to Pioneer Drama Service of Denver. To his surprise, two editors from Pioneer showed up, listened, watched, and handed him their cards while asking for an updated script. If only getting published could be that easy for every aspiring writer.

In his rough and tumble poetic western adaptation of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mergelman has turned Puck into a tricky coyote. His blend of cowboy poetry and Native American folklore add melodramatic flair to a classic.

Q: How did you hear about the play writing contest?

A: My sister Audrie told me about the Playwright Showcase of the Western Region. It is a joint venture of Red Rocks Community College and the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Q: How long did you work on the script?

A: About 6 months.

Q: Where did you find your main inspiration for *A Midsummer Night's Western*?