

# + the actor's schedule

## A Day in the Life of Drew Cortese

The Denver Center Theatre Company plays home to visiting professional actors throughout the year. Most recent guest, Drew Cortese is acting in four shows during his 6-month stay in Denver, including “Midsummer Night’s Dream,” opening this month. Between two four-hour rehearsals every day, an actor’s got to eat and sleep too. So where does he find time to relax? We tagged along for the ride on a typical day.

### 7:00 a.m.

Wake up, 45-minute jog. “Living in Denver is a blessing for my jogging itch,” said Cortese, who first visited the city in 2007 to perform in the debut of “1001.” “At one point in the play, my ‘Midsummer [Night’s Dream]’ costume consists of just a pair of pants. That was all the motivation I needed to hit the streets.”

### 8:17 a.m.

Breakfast at Backstage Coffee. “I love that there’s one central location next to the Denver Center where actors, administrators, and audience members alike can hang out,” said Cortese. “Makes for a community feel you can’t get in New York City.”

### 9:00 a.m.

Morning rehearsal. The cast starts out with vocal and physical warm-ups then jump into scene work, going over the blocking laid out the night before. Cortese is practically bouncing off the walls despite the early start. He is in his element.

### 1:00 p.m.

Costume fitting for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Cortese plays the young lover Demetrius. Cortese cracks a few jokes as tailor Sheila Morris adjusts his inseam. “We spend hours down here in the costume shop, so it’s always a nice break when we get to finally dress an actor instead of a dummy,” Morris explained. “They tend to be a bit more chatty.”

### 2:00 p.m.

Acting workshop at the DCPA’s National Theatre Conservatory. As a teacher in New York, Cortese says he’s happy to visit schools



Denver Center Theatre Company guest actor Drew Cortese plays a frisky Demetrius in this month’s production of “Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Source: [www.denverpost.com](http://www.denverpost.com)

while in Denver. “I try to teach as much as possible,” said Cortese during a 5-minute break. “To be around kids who are so hungry for experience—it’s refreshing.”

### 5:00 p.m.

Rehearsal. Artistic director Kent Thompson leads the company of “Midsummer” through dissecting the language in Act II. “The level of production at the Denver Center is as good as anything you will find anywhere in the country,” said Cortese. “Kent Thompson’s number one priority is to be at the forefront of the new American play,” he said. “And if we’re not pushing stories forward, then what are we doing?”

### 9:33 p.m.

Dinner at The Squeaky Bean. The wait staff knows Cortese by name. He orders the roasted-cauliflower salad with smoked roast trout and a glass of red wine. A self-proclaimed “chowhound,” Cortese spends most of his free time (and paycheck) experiencing Denver’s restaurant scene. “Any chance to work at the DCPA is a slam dunk in my book.”

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## “A Midsummer Night's Dream”

Presented by the Denver Center Theatre Company at the Stage Theatre, Denver Performing Arts Complex.  
Directed by Kent Thompson.  
Feb. 2 through Feb. 26. 6:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; 7:30 p.m. Fridays; 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. \$10-\$67.  
303-893-4100 or [denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)