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The Nashville Shakespeare Festival offers enchanting comedy with *The Tempest*

Production marks Festival's third winter production at Belmont's Troutt Theater

NASHVILLE, TN. – Journey to a magical island for a story filled with laughter, enduring wisdom and beautiful poetry when the Nashville Shakespeare Festival presents *The Tempest* at Belmont University's Troutt Theater Jan. 14-31, 2010.

Public performances of *The Tempest* will be Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets, which are on sale now at TicketsNashville.com, are \$19 in advance and \$22 at the door. Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets for \$15 per person. Student tickets are only \$10.

"This is a story for everyone," said Denice Hicks, Artistic Director for the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, "It has magic, drama, hilarious comedy and romance. Anyone who has ever been wronged, lost or fallen in love will relate to it."

The Tempest is about Prospero, a powerful duke who has been marooned on an island for 12 years. On the day of the play, Prospero (played by Brian Russell) uses magic to raise a storm and shipwreck the enemies who wronged him. Assisting Prospero are his indentured servants, the soaring spirit Ariel (played by Hicks) and the monstrous beast Caliban (played by Jon Royal).

One of Shakespeare's most charming female characters is Miranda, Prospero's innocent daughter, who has grown up on the island. Upon seeing the shipwrecked men, she exclaims, "O brave new world that has such people in it!" "Hatred turns into love and vengeance is transformed into forgiveness in a play with some of the most beautiful poetry ever written," Hicks said. "We are such stuff as dreams are made on" and "the rarer action is in virtue than in vengeance" are among *The Tempest's* most memorable lines.

Claire Syler, Education Director for the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, directs the production, which is part of Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support is also provided by grants from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

For more information, please click on www.nashvilleshakes.org.

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