

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Tempest Preview

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The Tempest is believed to be William Shakespeare's last play. It is set on a remote island where the exiled Duke of Milan, Prospero, plans to find a way using illusion and skillful manipulation to regain his reign and restore his daughter, Miranda, to her rightful place



photo via Marketing

as heiress to his dukedom. This story is a tragicomedy, inspired by the romance genre. It differs from any other Shakespeare play in that it is more strict and organized in a neoclassical style. The Meredith College Theatre Department will be putting on this play the last weekend in September.

Director Steven Roten has wanted to direct this production for a number of years but has been waiting for the right time to do so.

In his production the play will be outdoors in the McIver Amphitheatre, creating Meredith's own remote "island." Roten says the McIver Amphitheater offers a "unique environment to offer a play in and brings its own rewards and challenges as well." Roten

remarks "for my students it offers a new environment to practice their craft." He

adds that by being outside the Amphitheater "offers the actors the added challenge of vocal projection, stamina, and larger characterizations."

Dr. Gary Walton, Dean of Humanities and a Shakespearean scholar, has been consulting with Roten on the play's production. In discussing the unique staging, he comments that "a related change for this daylight performance is that the

magic of this mystical script cannot be brought to life at Meredith through the modern technology of lighting or other visual special effects, as is often done in modern productions." Staging a play outdoors leaves the lighting up to nature--much like it was in Shakespearean theater.

Walton also notes that one main differ-

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ence in Meredith's version of this play is that it will feature "a female in the leading role of the exiled Duke Prospero." In making Prospero female,

Roten shifts Shakespeare's intention from an exploration of father-daughter relationships to a mother-daughter focus. During Shakespeare's time, gender reversal was common because men played women's roles. Here, Roten is reversing that trend by having women play men's roles. This will, no doubt, garner an interesting reception at a women's college.

Another interesting feature of the production, will be the accompaniment by the Meredith Symphonetta and various dance majors. Walton adds that these talented and imaginative artists will be able to compose and create magic through music and movement to help tell the story.

The Tempest will be performed at Meredith College in the McIver Amphitheater starting September 28 at 11 AM. Performance dates are September 28 and 29 at 11 AM, September 30 and October 1 at 6 PM, and October 2 at 3 PM.

Ask Gigi

Dear Gigi,

I'm going to ask even though I expect you'll say, "NO! You cannot date a professor under any circumstances!" I understand why teachers and students shouldn't date, but I really think this is different.

I'm a 23 plus student. This professor teaches in a department I have never, and will never, be involved with. The first time we met was at a local coffee shop. We had only talked for a few minutes when we realized our connection through Meredith. Since then, I've seen him a few times on campus, but we haven't had a conversation. I've made a few discreet inquiries and discovered that he is single, we have some common interests, and he has a good reputation with students and faculty.

This may not sound like much, but I think we both felt some sparks. He appears to be a nice, single, educated, employed, and handsome guy. I'd like to ask him to have coffee with me before I graduate in 2013. Is this possible? If not, why not?

Signed,

Iced Latte

Dear Iced Latte,

Confucius (aka Gigi) once said to the learner: One must not go on a date with a professor while she is a student at the school. This potential relationship is one you cannot afford to pursue as a student. If a relationship like this is discovered by "the powers that be," your academic career at Meredith College could be in jeopardy. Your credibility and integrity would be questioned which could hurt your reputation. Also, the professor could likely lose his job and would have difficulty getting a job at another academic institution. Ask yourself, "Am I prepared to face the responsibility and consequences that may come my way just because I felt some sparks during a chance encounter with this man?" With that said, I am not saying you can never have coffee with him; it will probably have to be after your graduation in 2013. I am sorry to melt the ice in your latte. Next time, I recommend getting a Passion Tea; it will warm your soul.

May the force always be with you,
Gigi