



The Tempest

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Director's Concept Fall 2023

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“O brave new world that has such creatures in it!”

Despite Miranda's enthusiastic exclamation, *The Tempest* also underscores the darker side of human nature. Some are too quick to lead, others to follow; some are too greedy, others too gluttonous; the list of human failings goes on and on. Post-colonial readings of the play censure Prospero's imperialist attitude - drawing clear lines between his treatment of Ariel and Caliban and that of Black slaves throughout history. Such imperialism has in turn impacted the natural world as indigenous environmentalism gave way to commodification and exploitation. What would it take to free the environment? To release the spirits? To take part in a brave new world?

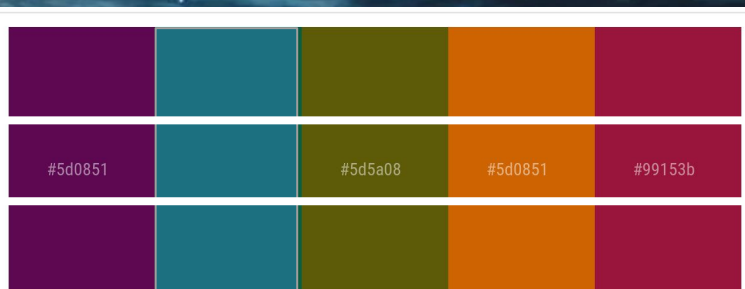
To highlight these questions, the design will draw clear lines between the natural world of the spirits and the over-the-top, consumerist world of the Neapolitans. Spirits dressed in light, flowy costumes will find themselves restricted by plastic waste. The Neapolitan will dress in loud, jewel tones, with severe silhouettes. Prospero and Miranda's costumes will fall somewhere in between - faded reimagined versions of Prospero's old life. The ship will prove similarly faded, marking its return to nature. While textured gobos and natural sounds will create a peaceful, wild environment - in contrast to the bold colors and indie rock of Prospero's spells.

Quick Synopsis

Magical spirits, powerful sorcerers, grasping nobles, drunken sidekicks, and star-crossed lovers - *The Tempest* is chock full of wondrous creatures. Seamlessly blending action, comedy, and romance, Shakespeare spins the tale of the plotting Prospera, her sheltered daughter, and the spirits she commands.

Color Palette

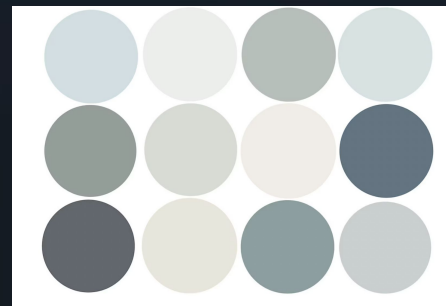
Clowns? Castaways?



Nobles



Islanders



Costumes Italians

Clowns (above); nobles (below)

Distorted silhouettes, highly saturated costumes (jewel tones - not necessarily fuschia)

Credit Jonas Peterson AI and CGI



Costumes Islanders

Loose, drapey clothing

Trapped by litter

Makeup: haunted with elements of nature



Costumes Castaways

Appear repurposed from previous lives in Italy

Unlike sample photos (which show structure), islanders should be in lighter colors.

Castaways color is a faded version of the Italians.

Neutral makeup



Scenic

Could eliminate mast and hang fabric from the ceiling to save \$\$\$

Sail needs to allow for shadow play

Kiddy pool wrapped to look like a water puddle in sand/marsh

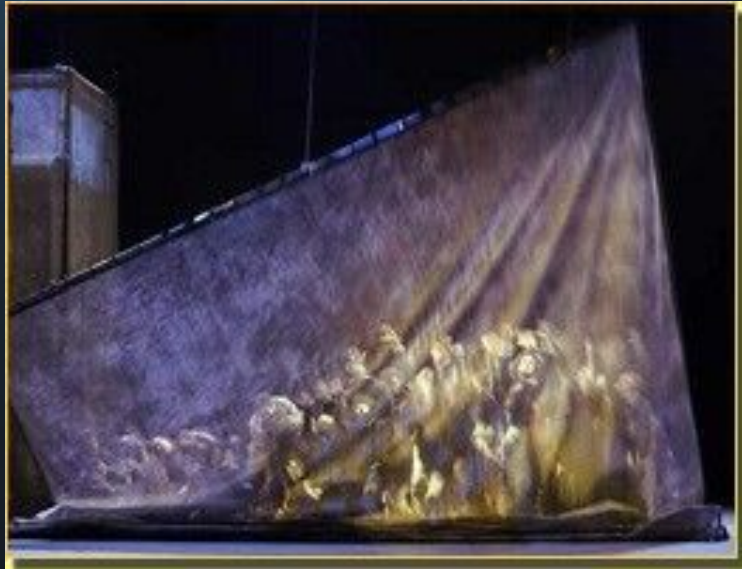
Can draft blueprint/elevations once details are solidified

May possibly add trash or nature elements as set dressing depending on how realistic/abstract the boat turns out



Shadow Play

Sail used to provide the silhouette of actors and if possible cardboard cutouts of events



Lights

Everyday, magic, storm

Water gobos

Shadow play for magic and storm

Black curtain up stage

Credit Great Lakes Theatre:
<https://www.greatlakes theater.org/contact/media-room/2021/09/20/the-tempest>



Sound

Music - A la Melissa Auf der Mer, The Overcoats, and Youth Lagoon (not sure if these artists really go together but at least for the moment they do in my head)

Special effects - Storm, Magic Spells, Natural sounds

Live or pre-recorded singing - Spirit songs (tie into magic spells)