



## DISCOVERY GUIDE 2011



# The Tempest

**Adapted & Directed by Jon Tracy**

**Costume Design - Abra Berman**

**Lighting Design - Larry Krause**

**Set Design - Nina Ball**

**Magic Consultant - Christian Cagigal**

**Properties Design - Joel Eis**

**Stage Manager - Sabrina Kniffin**

**Discovery Guide written by Education Manager Sam Leichter**

**[www.marinshakespeare.org](http://www.marinshakespeare.org)**

# Welcome to the Discovery Guide for *The Tempest!*

## Introduction

Welcome to the theatre!

Marin Shakespeare Company is thrilled to present Shakespeare's final masterpiece, *The Tempest*. This story of power, revenge and, ultimately, forgiveness is filled with unforgettable characters and some of Shakespeare's most beautiful language.

We are so lucky to have one of the Bay Area's hottest directors helming this production. Jon Tracy has been a rising star in our theatre community for years, and we are excited to share his work with you here at Forest Meadows.

We hope you enjoy the show!

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## A word from the Director

I hate wizards. Specifically, I hate one type of wizard; those guys with the big beards and the purple gown and hat with the silver moons and stars embroidered on them. Oh, and these wizards always have a magic wizard staff. Dumb.

Every time I see *The Tempest* and meet Prospero I check out. Prospero's got a plan and really nothing stands in his way. Sure he grapples with all sorts of fears and guilt (and hey that's great) but he never has to worry whether or not his revenge will work... because, say it with me... he's a wizard. Dumb.

So I thought I'd change things up a bit. What if we stripped Mr. P of his magic and replaced it with science? What if our Prospero had the same mission but actually had no idea if his plans would work? All of this led to a lot of research. Out sprang the stories of Tesla and da Vinci. Scientist, Illusionist, Inventor: this was the story I wanted to tell. From this idea, Prospero's relationships to other character shifted and whole new perspectives began to emerge. The product of which is very much *The Tempest* you know, except that you won't believe what happens next.

~ Jon Tracy

# DISCOVER: the origins of the play...

## Nikola Tesla & Leonardo da Vinci

In our production, Prospero is not a magician or sorcerer as he's usually portrayed, but rather a powerful scientist. Director Jon Tracy looked at two major men of science for his concept:

**Nikola Tesla (1856 – 1943)** was a Serbian inventor and engineer. His most important – and most famous – scientific contribution is the part he played in the rise of commercial electricity. His theories make up the basis for modern alternating current electrical systems.

**Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)** was a famous Italian artist, scientist and writer during the Italian Renaissance. Considered to be one of the greatest artists of all time, da Vinci also made important scientific contributions in the areas of human anatomy, engineering and hydrodynamics.

## First publication and performance

William Shakespeare never published any of his plays and therefore none of the original manuscripts have survived. Eighteen unauthorized versions of his plays were, however, published during his lifetime in quarto editions by unscrupulous publishers (there were no copyright laws protecting Shakespeare and his works during the Elizabethan era). A collection of his works did not appear until 1623 (a full seven years after Shakespeare's death on April 23, 1616) when two of his fellow actors, John Hemminges and Henry Condell, posthumously recorded his work and published 36 of William's plays in the First Folio. Some dates are therefore approximate other dates are substantiated by historical events, records of performances and the dates plays appeared in print.

*The Tempest* was most likely written around 1611 (making this the 400th anniversary), and is widely thought to be the last play that Shakespeare wrote on his own. While there are critics who contest this idea, many believe that Prospero's speeches about giving up his powers are Shakespeare's own meditations on the end of his career, and his life. Shakespeare died in 1616.

The play was published in the First Folio in 1623, and became especially popular after the Restoration. Starting in the 19th century, *The Tempest* became a favorite, and is staged regularly today. Recently, a film version helmed by visionary director Julie Taymor (of the *Spider Man* musical fame) was seen in theatres.

## Quarto? Folio? Huh?

**Quarto:** A quarto is sheet of printing paper folded twice to form eight separate pages for printing a book. The Quarto editions of Shakespeare's plays are generally considered 'unauthorized'.

**Folio:** A folio is a sheet of printing paper folded once to form four separate pages for printing a book. The Folio text is notable for its quality and consistency; scholars judge it to have been set into type from a theatrical prompt-book and, therefore, more accurate.

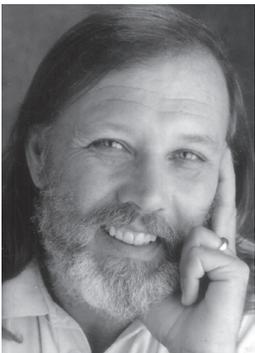
# DISCOVER: the characters...

**PROSPERO:** The former Duke of Milan and a powerful scientist. Banished to a distant island with his daughter, Miranda. (Actor: Robert Parsons.)

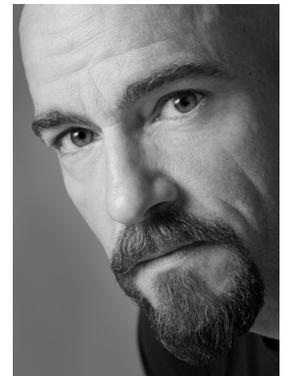


**MIRANDA:** Prospero's daughter. (Actor: Sarah Gold.)

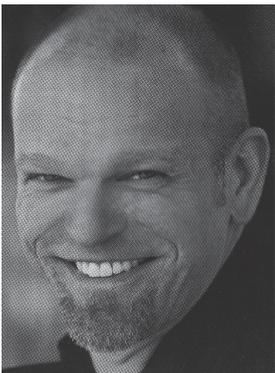
**CALIBAN:** A native of the island. Originally a friend of Prospero, Caliban is now enslaved. (Actor: Michael Torres.)



**ALONSO:** The King of Naples. (Actor: Robert Currier.)



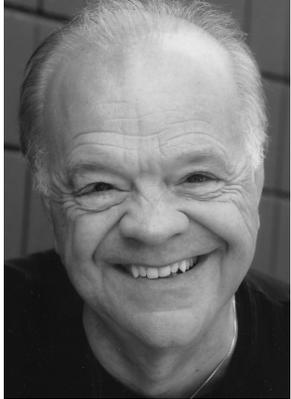
**SEBASTIAN:** Alonso's brother. (Actor: Scott Coopwood.)



**ANTONIO:** Prospero's brother. It was Antonio, in concert with Alonso, who exiled Prospero and Miranda. (Actor: James Hiser.)

# DISCOVER: the characters...

**FERDINAND:** Alonso's son and heir to the throne. (Actor: Alex Hersler.)



**GONZALO:** A confidant of Alonso. It was Gonzalo who aided Prospero and Miranda after the usurpation. (Actor: George Maguire.)



**TRINCULA:** A servant in Alonso's court. (Actor: Lynne Soffer.)



**STEPHANO:** A drunken Butler. (Actor: Cassidy Brown.)

**THE ARIEL COIL & THE QUALITIES:** Prospero's greatest creations! These electrical creatures do Prospero's bidding. (Actors: Silvia Girardi, Maro Guevara, Kimberly Miller, Nesbyth Rieman, Erika Salazar and Jeremy Vik.)

# DISCOVER: the story of the play...

## Before the Play Begins:

The year is 1601. Prospero, the Duke of Milan and a brilliant scientist, abandons his stately duties and immerses himself in his studies. Prospero's younger brother, Antonio, joins forces with Alonso, the king of Naples, to usurp Prospero's position. Prospero and his young daughter Miranda are pushed out to sea on a raft and left to die.

They land on an undiscovered island, their only possessions some trunks of scientific equipment and books saved for them by Gonzalo, their friend. Immediately upon arriving, Prospero begins planning his revenge.

They meet Caliban, an indigenous scientist, who immediately bonds with Prospero. Until now, Caliban had lived on the island with no one but his mother, Sycorax, who is now dead. Together, Prospero and Caliban create a makeshift laboratory and produce The Ariel Coil, which generates, stores and controls electricity. The Ariel Coil becomes the power source for Prospero's developing inventions. Caliban sees this tool as the next step in the island's evolution, while Prospero is only interested in exacting vengeance on his traitorous brother.

Caliban sees Miranda as part of the coming future; together, they can create the island's next generation. However, Prospero thwarts Caliban's advances toward his daughter, and the alliance between the two men is broken.

Years pass, and much changes. The laboratory now dominates the island, tended by beings Prospero has created called The Qualities, powered by the Ariel Coil. Prospero has become the island's dictator, and Caliban is relegated to slavery and kept in chains. Miranda is now a teenager.

Finally, Prospero's enemies are within reach. He uses his device to destroy their ship, and bring them to his shores. Now, he will have his revenge.

## The Play:

After the shipwreck, the Ariel electricity seeks its freedom. Angered by the Coil's rebellion, Prospero tinkers with it to make it more subservient.

Miranda, having seen the shipwreck, demands to know if anyone was harmed. Prospero calms her, and tells her how they were banished to the island years ago. With the help of a reluctant Caliban, Prospero sets The Ariel Coil to be an invisible observer as his enemies explore their mysterious new surroundings. Alone, Caliban lashes out at Prospero for stealing his island.

In another part of the island, The Qualities find King Alonso frantically searching for Ferdinand, his son and the Prince of Naples, who he fears has drowned in the shipwreck. Alonso sings a song to himself, which The Qualities record.

On yet another part of the island, The Qualities use the recording of Alonso to lead Ferdinand (who believes his father has drowned) to Miranda. The two are immediately drawn to one another. Prospero coyly questions the Prince about his origins. Ferdinand, has fallen in love-at-first-sight with Miranda, and says he will make her Queen of Naples. Prospero accuses Ferdinand of trying to usurp his power on the island, and imprisons him.

# DISCOVER: the story of the play...

The Qualities descend undetected upon Alonso, Gonzalo, Antonio and Sebastian and make Gonzalo and Alonso fall asleep. They hear Antonio and Sebastian cook up a plot to kill the sleeping King and Gonzalo, so Sebastian may assume the throne. However, before they are able to act, Gonzalo and Alonso awake.

Elsewhere, Trincula, a simple-minded servant from Alonso's court, is looking for a place to wait out the coming storm. When she hears someone coming, she hides under Caliban's cloth. That someone else is Stephano, a drunken butler, who stumbles upon the cloth with four legs sticking out of it. Eventually, the two friends are overjoyed to have found each other. Caliban, seeing an opportunity, suggests he can serve them and they help him break his chain.

Having been that Caliban has escaped, Prospero leaves Miranda and Ferdinand alone for the first time. The youth profess their love and vow to marry.

The Qualities find Caliban, Trincula and Stephano, and trick them into fighting one another. Caliban realizes what is happening, and convinces the others they must kill Prospero.

As Alonso and his men continue to search for Ferdinand, The Qualities condemn them for usurping Prospero's dukedom, and tell Alonso that his son is dead. The four men vanish!

Meanwhile, Prospero blesses the marriage of the two lovers. Caliban, Trincula and Stephano enter, and Prospero battles Caliban. However, after Caliban sees Miranda and Ferdinand in love, he cannot kill Prospero.

With Alonso and his men confined, Ariel urges Prospero to take pity on them. Prospero must choose between revenge and forgiveness.



# DISCOVER: themes

A **literary theme** is an idea, message or lesson which is explored in a literary work. Often these are implied rather than blatantly stated.

**Power** – Several characters in *The Tempest* are vying for power. Before the play begins, Antonio usurps his brother's throne. Prospero takes over the island, using his vast knowledge and scientific ability. Caliban wants to take power back from Prospero. What is Shakespeare saying about power and what people will do to achieve it?

**Masters and Servants** – The play is full of master/servant relationships. How do these relationships change over the course of the play? Look at Prospero/Caliban, Prospero/The Ariel Coil & the Qualities, and Caliban/Trincula & Stephano. How are these relationships similar? How are they different?

**Revenge & Forgiveness** – Prospero uses his power to bring his traitorous brother to the island for the purpose of exacting his revenge. However, he ultimately decides to forgive his brother. What do you think of Prospero's decision? Who else is forgiven in the play?

**Family** – Family members are everywhere in *The Tempest*. Shakespeare shows us healthy, happy family relations in Prospero/Miranda and Alonso/Ferdinand. He also shows us bitter familial rivalries in Prospero/Antonio and Alonso/Sebastian. What do you think of these different relationships?



Prospero (Robert Parsons) and Miranda (Sarah Gold).

# DISCOVER: Classroom Connections...

## Classroom Discussion

**Compare / contrast characters and plots** in *The Tempest* to other Shakespeare plays. Some examples are listed below, but see if you can find more!

1. Prospero vs. Macbeth (*Macbeth*)
2. Prospero/Antonio vs. Orlando/Oliver (*As You Like It*)
3. Ferdinand/Miranda vs. Romeo/Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet*)

**Compare / contrast Prospero** with mature characters from works of literature or movies. A few ideas are listed below to get you started, but there are many more!

1. Gandalf (*The Lord of the Rings*)
2. Dumbledore (*Harry Potter*)
3. Magneto (*X Men*)

**Debate:** What do you think about seeking revenge against your enemies? Is it better to forgive people who have hurt you, or to seek justice at all costs? Under what circumstances is revenge appropriate?

## Creative Writing

**Write a society column or Elizabethan newspaper.** Pick one of the social issues from the play, come up with a snappy headline, and then write a column for a 'society paper' or tabloid (the *Island Gazette*, perhaps?). This is an excellent class project.

**Write a 'Dear Abby' letter** from the point of view of a character in the play. Ask for help with a major dilemma that the character must overcome in the play.

**FOLLOW UP:** have students switch papers and write a response from "Abby."

**Re-write the ending.** Have students change one small plot-point in the play and re-write the ending accordingly. There are many ways this story could have ended -- encourage creativity!

**Write a 'new' scene for the play (or re-write one)!** Make sure your scene is supported by the play, and be creative! Some topics are below but feel free to come up with your own!

1. Write the usurpation scene! How did Antonio steal his brother's Dukedom?
2. Write a scene between Sycorax and Caliban. Show what life was like before Prospero came to the island.
3. Write an epilogue where Prospero and Miranda finally return to Milan, or for Caliban as he is left on the island.

# DISCOVER: Classroom Connections...

## Art // Design Projects

Make a **costume book**. Use research to put together a photo-packet (with descriptions) of Elizabethan clothing. Include works cited. Alternatively, choose another era of time to set the show in and research and design costumes from that time period, just as our costume designer did for this production.

Design and build a **quilt**. Have one panel per scene and create a caption that includes the act, scene and a quote that gave you the inspiration for the design.

Design and make several **costumes for the play to fit dolls**. Base your designs on research and make sure your dolls can stand or be displayed. Include a one-page paper to explain your choices in each costume; this paper should include works cited.

Design **scenery** for the play. Do a display on a poster or shadow box/diorama. Include a one-page explanation for your choices, including works cited.

Design a **comic book** for the show. Start by breaking the show down into scenes and then illustrating each scene. This could be an individual project or a class assignment.

## Pre-Performance Questions

1. Why do you think this play has been performed for over 400 years?
2. What lessons do you think Shakespeare wanted us to learn from this play?
3. Which characters did you like in the play? Which characters did you dislike? Why?
4. If Shakespeare were in our classroom, what one question would you ask him about this play?
5. If you had the option to re-write part of the play, what would you change and why?
6. Do you see anything in the play that would be hard to perform onstage? How could you 'solve' this?

## Post-Performance Questions

1. In our production, Prospero isn't a magician. He's a scientist. Ariel isn't a magical spirit, but a machine. What do you think of this decision? Did it add to your understanding of the play? Did you love it? Hate it?
2. What did you think of the actor who played Prospero? Did he approach the role the way you expected?
3. What about Caliban? How was he different than you've seen him before, or how you imagined him when you read the play?

# DISCOVER: discussion topics...

1. Who is Prospero? What kind of man is he? Consider what we know about him before the play starts, as well as his actions in the piece.
2. Prospero's dukedom was usurped. However, he admits that he was more concerned with studying than affairs of state. Therefore, was it wrong for his brother to take his place?
3. What is the relationship between Prospero and Miranda?
4. Discuss the first scene between Prospero and his daughter. What is unusual about it?
5. Who or what is Ariel? Discuss both the Ariel as you imagined him or her while reading, as well as the creation you saw in our production.
6. Our version of the play left out the ship-wreck which usually is seen first. Was this an effective directorial decision?
7. Discuss the comic scenes in the play, especially those between Trincula, Stephano and Caliban. What function do they serve? Are they purely for laughs?
8. What is the difference between Caliban and Ariel, and what is the difference between both of those characters and the rest of the people in the play?
9. Look at Caliban's speech about how Prospero first came to the island, and befriended him. What do you think about this speech? What does it show about Caliban? How does it make you feel about him? How does it make you think about Prospero? Is Caliban telling the truth?
10. What is the relationship between Miranda and Ferdinand? Do you buy their "love at first sight?" Consider that Miranda hasn't seen that many men in her life!
11. What is the climax of the play?
12. Who is the villain of the play? Caliban? Antonio? Alonso?
13. What characters, if any, do you admire in the play?
14. Who or what is the most powerful character in the play?
15. Where is the moment that Prospero decides to forgive?
16. A monologue is a speech that a character delivers. A soliloquy is a monologue that a character delivers when he or she is alone. Who is Prospero talking to in his soliloquies?
17. Why does Prospero give up his powers at the end of the play?
18. What do you think about how our production ends? What did the last moment make you feel?

# DISCOVER: quotes from the play...

For each of the following quotes from the play, respond with an answer which:

- states the meaning of the quote,
- connects the quote to the play as a whole or to other literary works,
- discusses personal feelings about the quote, the character or the action it causes OR
- connects the quote to your personal life.

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(I.ii) Me, poor man, my library  
Was dukedom large enough. (Prospero)

(I.ii) I prithee,  
Remember I have done thee worthy service,  
Told thee no lies, made no mistakes, served  
Without or grudge or grumblings. Thou did promise  
To bate me a full year. (Ariel)

(I.ii) You taught me language, and my profit on't  
Is I know how to curse. The red plague rid you  
For learning me your language! (Caliban)

(II.ii) Were I in England now, as I once was, and had but this fish painted, not a holiday-fool there but would give a piece of silver. There would this monster make a man--any strange beast there makes a man. When they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, they will lay out ten to see a dead Indian. (Trinculo)

(III.ii) Be not afeard. The isle is full of noises,  
Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.  
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments  
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices  
That, if I then had waked after long sleep  
Will make me sleep again; and then in dreaming  
The clouds methought would open and show riches  
Ready to drop upon me, that when I waked  
I cried to dream again. (Caliban)

(IV.i) Our revels now are ended. These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and  
Are melted into air, into thin air;  
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,  
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve;  
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,  
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff  
As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep. (Prospero)

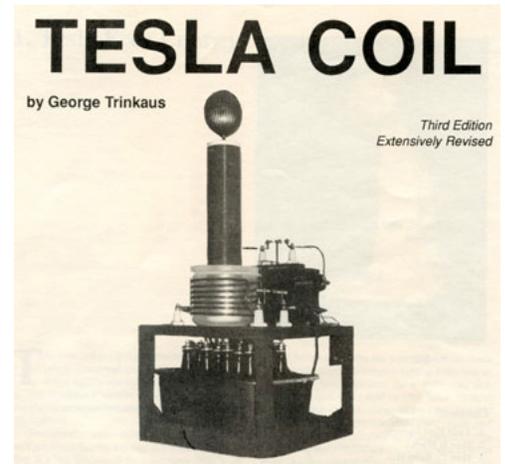
# DISCOVER: Tesla!

Thomas Edison may get all the glory, but it was Nikola Tesla who came up with the idea of alternating current, which we still use today. Which of these items is not credited in some way to Tesla?

FLUORESCENT LIGHTING



THE TESLA COIL



THE MODERN RADIO



PENICILLIN



# DISCOVER: OTHER RESOURCES...

## WEBSITES

<http://www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/>

Read/print any of Shakespeare's plays scene by scene or in its entirety.

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/>

Absolute Shakespeare, the essential resource for William Shakespeare's plays, sonnets, poems, quotes, biography, and the Globe Theatre

<http://www.folger.edu/index.cfm>

The Folger Library's internet guide to Shakespeare for Teachers and Students

<http://www.pbs.org/shakespeare/educators/index.html>

PBS's Guide to Shakespeare in the Classroom

<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/>

Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet -- easy navigation for students.

<http://www.shakespearehigh.com/classroom/index.shtml>

"Shakespeare High in the Classroom" -- easy navigation for students.

## BOOKS

*A Shakespeare Glossary* by CT Onions

ISBN: 978-0198125211

A short, easy-to-use glossary that can be very valuable for the beginner

*Shakespeare Lexicon and Quotation Dictionary* by Alexander Schmidt

Vol 1 ISBN: 978-0486227269      VOL 2 ISBN: 978-0486227276

This book provides definitions, locations, and meaning for every word in Shakespeare's plays and poems. The 2 volumes contain more than 50,000 quotations.

The Oxford English Dictionary

ISBN for Compact Edition 978-0198612582

*The Age of Shakespeare* by Francois Laroque

ISBN: 0-8109-2890-6

## VIDEO

*The Tempest*, directed by Julie Taymor (2010). Stars Helen Mirren.