

SHAKESPEARE DOUBLE BILL THE TEMPEST

Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Nikhil Vyas
Designed by Mima Jupp & Fiona McKeon

Welcome to our enticing Shakespeare double bill. You will be watching the BA Professional Acting second-year students on stage - this production is a collaboration between students and staff from across the School, including costume, lighting, sound, stage management, props, set construction, design, voice and directing.

The running time for the show is approximately 2 hours 10 minutes, with a 20 minute interval.

GOT A COUPLE OF MINUTES BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE BEGINS?

Scan the QR code to sign up for our shows mailing list and be the first to know about our upcoming shows and events.



Did you know the entire Cast, and the majority of the Creative and Technical Team are students currently training at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School? We love supporting the next generation of creative experts. Find out more about our charity at oldvic.ac.uk/support-us.

Creative and Technical Team

Director Nikhil Vyas *
Festival Stage Design Mima Jupp
Production Designer Fiona McKeon *
Sound Designer & Operator Leo Palmer
Lighting Designer & Operator Abigail Georgia
Assistant Director Isabella Forshaw
Fight Arranger Jonathan Howell †
Intimacy Clare Fox †
Voice Coach Sue Cowen †
Dialect Coach Katy Sobey †
Production Manager Jo Woodcock *
Associate Producer Ruth Sidery †
Production Supervisor Lucy Pharaoh †
Stage Manager Angharad Stemp
Deputy Stage Manager Lydia Tricks
Technical Tutor Joe Stathers †
Additional Technical Support Chris Swain *

Costume Supervisor, Milliner & Maker Jenna Simpkins
Costume Assistant, Maker & Dresser Laura Conroy *
Costume Tutors Rozi Hogger †, Sarah Campbell * and Elaine Andrews †
Head Of Costume Jill Blundell †
Scenic Carpenters Andy Powell * and Lewis Bamford *
Scenic Artist Jo Browne *
Assistant Scenic Artist Skye Turner *
Construction Manager Max O'Malley-Mesher
Construction Assistant Will Manthorpe
Head Of Scenic Construction Andy Scrivens †
Prop Making Supervisor Kacey Purnell †
Prop Makers Chris Wierzbicki and Živa Bučer *
Prop Making Tutor Louise Thomas †
Programme Notes Alice Flynn

* Visiting professional | † BOVTS staff

We'd like to extend our thanks to all staff at The Station & Jikoni café. Thanks to Susan Hoare and Andrew Bryant for the prop loans.

**SUMMER
FESTIVAL**
FOUR WEEKS, EIGHT PLAYS

Festival opens: Thursday 21st May 2026
Performances: Thurs / Fri / Sat at 7pm & 1pm Sat matinee

Week 1: **Four Play** by Jake Brunger / **Meat** by Gillian Greer
Week 2: **The Étienne Sisters** by Ché Walker / **dirty butterfly** by debbie tucker green
Week 3: **King Troll** by Sonali Bhattacharyya / **The Crocodile** by Tom Basden
Week 4: **Blackthorn** by Charley Miles / **Island Town** by Simon Longman



Cast

Miranda Jasmine Alleman
Ensemble Jessica Carrison
Stephano Fraser Dawtrey
Sebastian Ruby Decent
Ensemble Charlotte Edwards
Caliban Raphael Goold
Alonso Maya Hicklin
Trinculo Oliver Keaton
Ariel Ilaria Balestra Lawrence
Prospero Robyn Mirmak
Ferdinand D'Angelo Poskitt
Ray Gonzalo Thapelo Ray
Ensemble Osi Samuel
Antonio Xander Searson

Bristol Old Vic
Theatre School

PROGRAMME NOTES ALICE FLYNN - MA DRAMA WRITING STUDENT

Have you ever wanted to escape into the wilderness? Throw your phone off a bridge into the river and run away from the world?

Shakespeare's original inspiration for *The Tempest* was thought to be the wreck of the Sea Venture in 1609. The ship had been carrying settlers to the new world, but was veered off course by a storm and left the passengers stranded for several months on the then-uninhabited island of Bermuda.

Written in a time where the British empire was in its infancy, earlier productions of *The Tempest* would likely have framed the story as an empowering tale of imperial prowess, love and the opportunities afforded to indigenous settlers if they embraced this 'brave new world'.

Nikhil Vyas' take on *The Tempest* takes a darker and more nuanced approach to this traditional reading. Taking some inspiration from the film *Leave No Trace* and the rise in popularity of off-grid lifestyles in the UK, Vyas' production speaks to the growing desire among the population to abandon our hyper-competitive, overly-digitised and increasingly surveilled society. It asks us whether Prospero's return to European civilisation really is such a good thing after all.

He imagines Prospero not as a wizard, but as an off-grid homesteader (with a penchant for herbal remedies) who chooses to raise her daughter, Miranda, in the seclusion of the forest. Here, she is free to teach her own values rather than those foisted upon those raised under Capitalism.

Presented as half of a double-bill, Vyas presents *The Tempest* as a mirror to the cold, chromatic, masculine, Wall Street-like world of Othello, placing the focus on natural settings, female characters, and a lifestyle that rejects the demands of modern capitalism, rather than embracing them.

Find out about all our training opportunities.



Bristol Old Vic Theatre School is one of the most respected drama schools in the world. We offer a wide range of training options including full-time, part-time, weekly youth courses and one-off masterclasses. So whether you are exploring a new hobby, looking to develop your future career opportunities, or enhance your skills through on-going professional training - we've probably got something for you!

Discover our full range of courses at oldvic.ac.uk/training