In many ways The Tempest is a love letter to the power of the theatrical imagination.

Thought to be Shakespeare’s final play, it tells a fairy-tale like story of a man betrayed (in our case) by his sister. She attempted to murder him and his child in order to wrest control of Prospero’s dukedom. Instead, father and daughter are cast away on an island which is home to magical spirits and an orphaned child of a witch. There, Prospero hones his magical abilities, communes with the spirits, and raises Miranda. Through an act of fate, his sister and her confederates arrive on the island and Prospero is finally able to enact the revenge he has been plotting for 12 long years.

In many ways, the driving engine of the play is Prospero’s imaginative ability. Like a writer, he spins a narrative out of the facts of his life, one where he is cast as blameless, and where revenge is righteous. His imagination allows him to create terrible and wonderful visions for the other characters, and build a story arc for himself and those around him to make any first-year dramatic literature class proud. His imagination is both his path to freedom, and conversely what keeps him imprisoned in his self-destructive passion.

But as with all of Shakespeare’s great comedies, it is much more than a representation of one protagonist’s story. Numerous narrative threads interweave, and many characters find themselves on a hero’s journey, where they are embroiled in the single most dramatic event of their lives. But The Tempest takes this one step further. As the play with its glorious engine of imagination roars to its conclusion, one by one characters come up hard against the wall all of us crash headlong into at one point or another: they might be the lead of their own story, but so is everyone else. There is no hierarchy of drama in real life, with supporting players valiantly throwing focus to the lead. We are all bumbling, passion-wracked creatures, following our own inner stories. As the characters' beliefs about themselves crumble, they are thrown into new and unforeseen perceptions of reality. This last moment of trembling realization is the setting of what I find to be one of Shakespeare’s most moving final acts. As character after character gets their heart’s desire, the greatest act of imagination turns out to be one where we simply imagine for ourselves a different path.

After so long away from our audience, we wanted to share with you a play that celebrated the importance of community and human connection. The Tempest is also a play that touches on profound truths about the nature of reconciliation. At its heart, it speaks to Shakespeare’s belief that no matter how broken a relationship or how devastated a community, repair is possible. The most profound magic turns out to be forgiveness, both of others and ourselves. It will seem to be impossible at times, but as we wrestle with the challenges and complexities of forgiveness, we come to recognize that transformation is always possible. The most tempestuous seas will calm, even if for just a brief moment. We must make ourselves ready for the journey. The time will come to board the ship and sail into an uncertain future, one that we now realize we have been writing for ourselves all along.

-Melissa Chalsma, Director
WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It is important to acknowledge that Griffith Park and much of what is now called the City of Los Angeles is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Gabrielino-Tongva People, who have been the indigenous tribe and stewards of the Los Angeles Basin for 7,000 years. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the history of the City we call home, a history that includes many stories: migration, settlement, immigration, displacement, colonization, and broken promises.

OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

We’re taking steps to reduce our plastic footprint, and we need your help! While we encourage you to bring your own picnics, we recognize that this increases plastic waste collected here at the park. Rain and winds can sweep litter and trash that has been improperly disposed of into the ocean. Once in the water plastic debris absorbs toxic pollutants, never fully biodegrades, and is harmful to marine life.

To keep the Festival environmentally friendly (and to go with our shipwreck-themed play this summer), we’re committing to a plastic reduction plan. In order to reduce the amount of litter, we’re asking that you bring your picnics and beverages in reusable bottles and containers, avoid plastic bags and single-use plastic, and make sure your trash will be properly disposed of by taking it with you. Thank you for helping keep the park clean and for doing your part. Enjoy the Show!
CALL FOR ACTION!

This year ISC is partnering with SELAH to build and deliver hygiene kits to our unhoused neighbors. A hygiene kit contains basic hygiene items that provide our neighbors experiencing homelessness with tools to maintain their health and sense of dignity. Assembling hygiene kits is an impactful hands-on volunteer opportunity to build empathy and advocacy within our housed community. Join the team by donating any of the following items at our Pop Up Lobby. For more information visit https://www.resisterhoodla.org/diy-kitbuild

- Shampoo (travel size)
- Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap (travel size)
- Comb
- Pair of Socks
- Body Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- First Aid Kit (Bandages, Antibiotic Ointment)
THE TEMPEST
THE COMPANY

CALIBAN.............................................................................................................................................................. Jose Acain *
FERDINAND.................................................................................................................................................... Patrick Batiste *
ALONSO/STEPHANO........................................................................................................................................ Brent Charles *
PROSPERO.......................................................................................................................................................... David Melville *
MIRANDA/ SEBASTIANE........................................................................................................................................ Carene Mekertichyan*
ANTONIA/IRIS.................................................................................................................................................. Carine Montbertrand* 
GONZALO/TRINCULO......................................................................................................................................... Xavi Moreno*
ADRIAN/JUNO..................................................................................................................................................... Darian Ramirez 
ARIEL.................................................................................................................................................................. Paul Turbiak *

PLAYWRIGHT.................................................................................................................................................. William Shakespeare
DIRECTOR & COSTUME DESIGNER................................................................................................................ Melissa Chalsma
SCENIC DESIGNER........................................................................................................................................... Natalie Morales
LIGHTING DESIGNER........................................................................................................................................ Bosco Flanagan
COMPOSER......................................................................................................................................................... Chris Porter
SOUND DESIGNER............................................................................................................................................... Dave Beukers
STAGE MANAGER............................................................................................................................................... Jenny Jihee Park *
PRODUCTION MANAGER.................................................................................................................................. Gabby Bruno
PROP MASTER/INTERN...................................................................................................................................... Rody Villegas

*member, Actors’ Equity Association, the professional union of actors and stage managers in the United States
THE TEMPEST CAST

Jose Acain
Patrick Batiste
Brent Charles
David Melville
Carene Mekertichyan
Carine Montbertrand
Xavi Moreno
Darian Ramirez
Paul Turbiak
THE ACTING COMPANY

JOSE ACAIN (Caliban) is so very thankful to step back on a live, outdoor stage with ISC after a year of virtual everything. Previous ISC credits include A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Demetrius, Puck/Theseus), Titus Andronicus (Lucius), Julius Caesar (Casca), Much Ado (Watch). He thanks his family and friends for their unending support and to ISC for always being a beacon of inspiration to the community. To Erin, Fae, and baby Rune, you are my magic!

PATRICK BATISTE, (Ferdinand) ISC credits: Anita Berber is Dead!, Twelfth Night, Pericles, Midsummer Nights Dream, Titus Andronicus, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Measure for Measure, Tempest and Much Ado About Nothing. Other favorite stage credits include: Ragtime (3D Theatricals), Parade (3D Theatricals) Hair the Musical (Tribe Prod.). He has shot over 20 SAG national commercials, co-starred in NBC’s Trauma, and recently starred in a couple movies that are now available on DVD, and sends Love to family and friends. IG: PatB2Real

BRENT CHARLES (Alonso/Stephano) is an Oklahoma bred, Chickasaw Artist. He’s a classically trained Actor, an Award-Winning Filmmaker, a Documented Performance Artist, a Youth Arts Program Instructor, and an Indy Shakes Company Member. Recent Indy Shakes credits include Comedy of Errors: Live at the Porpentine (as Antipholus of Syracuse and Ephesus), Bright Swords: The Story of Ira Aldridge (One Man Show), Pericles (as Lysimachus), and Twelfth Night (as Priest, Captain and ensemble Drummer). Brent also appeared in the CalArts School of Theater 2019 production of Two Trains Running (as Sterling) directed by Center Theatre Group’s Associate Artistic Director, Tyrone Davis. Brent was the Recipient of the 2021 Tim Disney Prize for Excellence in Storytelling.

CARENE MEKERTICHYAN (Miranda/Sebastiane) is thrilled to return to the park and create magic with her Indyshakes family! ISC: Pericles (Marina), Live at the Porpentine! (Luciana), Twelfth Night (Valentine), Coriolan (Playwright). She also serves as ISC’s Artistic Associate for Social Justice. Selected stage: The Three Musketeers (PVPA), Senior Plummer’s Final Fiesta (Rogue Artists Ensemble), Troy (Hero Theatre), Macbeth (Northern Stage). Film: I Am Easy to Find, Band, Boys About Town. Her plays have been produced at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Company of Angels, MeetCute LA, and We the People. Training: Dartmouth College, BA; London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), Certificate.


XAVI MORENO (Gonzalo/Trinculo) is a native Angeleno, born, raised, and staged in Boyle Heights. This is Xavi’s 10th season with ISC at the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival. Recent ISC credits include Newscaster in Romeo & Juliet, Sir Andrew in Twelfth Night, Antiochus & Philomen in Pericles, Lysander in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Martius & Clown in Titus Andronicus, Mistress Overdone & Barnardine in Measure for Measure & Speed in Two Gentlemen of Verona. TV/Film: Live at the Porpentine: A Comedy of Errors (Directed by David Melville), The Devil Has a Name (Directed by Edward James Olmos, Carne y Arena (Written & Directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu) & Variedades: Olvera Street (K CET+Artbound) iamxavi.com

DARIAN RAMIREZ (Adrian/Juno) is a Los Angeles based artist with a focus in acting and modeling. Her best works include Abuela Claudia in In The Heights and Mustardseed in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She is so thrilled to be back in the park for another year and would like to thank the beautiful people in her life who continue to support her in her wild artistic journey.

PAUL TURBIK (Ariel) has appeared onstage all over Los Angeles and beyond, including The Geffen Playhouse, LATC, Pasadena Playhouse, Garry Marshall Theatre, Independent Shakespeare Co., the Bootleg, Rogue Artists Ensemble, Colony Theatre, Actors Co-op, Not Man Apart, A Noise Within, Sacred Fools, North Coast Repertory Theatre, East West Players, Son of Semele, Theatre of NOTE, the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, and REDCAT. Paul holds an MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts and a BA in Theater from Gordon College. paulturbiak.com

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THE PRODUCTION TEAM

MELISSA CHALSMA (Director) is the co-founder and Artistic Director of ISC, and directs many of its productions, including Pericles A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Titus Andronicus, Richard III, Dr. Faustus and many more. Most recently on stage, she played Olivia in Twelfth Night, the Countess in All’s Well that Ends Well, and Elizabeth Gaesling in The Snow Geese (a West Coast premiere in the ISC Studio). She has also performed in theaters and Shakespeare festivals across the country, on Broadway (including the American premiere of Harold Pinter’s Moonlight), and in the UK, including at the Derby Playhouse and London’s Battersea Arts Center. She wrote the book for the ISC original musical Anita Berber is Dead! She is married to ISC co-founder David Melville. Together they have produced two children and eighty-nine theatrical works.

NATALIE MORALES (Scenic Designer) She/Her/Hers is a Set Designer and Painter for ISC’s Shakespeare Festival each summer in Griffith Park. As a recent MFA graduate of CSULB’s Theatre Arts Department, she explores art, theatre, and film in her journey as a scenic designer. She achieved her Bachelor’s degree at CSUN, and started by assisting various scenic designers in the San Fernando Valley and greater LA area. Her hands-on experience opened new opportunities allowing her to design her own productions, as well as mentor design students of a new generation. She is now a professor of Digital Design for Theatre at CSUN. See more of her work here: nataliealessandra.wixsite.com/scenicdesigner
JENNY JIHHEE PARK (Stage Manager) is the Independent Shakespeare Co. Resident Stage Manager. She is very excited to be back with the team at the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival 2021! During the pandemic, she took on the role of 1st AD and worked on the productions of Romeo and Juliet: GPFSF Living Room Edition, The Last Syllable, and Live at the Porpentine: A Comedy of Errors. She stage managed the ISC stage productions of Anita Berber is Dead!, Twelfth Night, Julius Caesar, Letters from Home, All’s Well that Ends Well, Measure for Measure, Othello, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and The Snow Geese. She has also stage managed for other productions around Los Angeles, such as Gunshot Medley, Part 1 and The Giant Void in My Soul.

RODY VILLEGAS (Prop Master) is thrilled to be a part of ISC’s return to the park. Not only is he the Prop Master but he’s also one of ISC’s interns this year! Currently entering his Senior year at California State University of Northridge and having studied at & Kingston University (UK), Rody plans to achieve his Masters and continue working in the LA Theater Community. Previous work includes; Playwright’s Will 2021 (Playwright), D.E.A.T.H. INC., 2019 (Scenic Design & Playwright), She Kills Monsters, 2019 (Scenic Design).

BOSCO FLANAGAN (Lighting Designer) A native of Enniskillen in Northern Ireland, Bosco has designed lights for theatre on four continents, winning multiple awards from Edinburgh (Best of The Fest), to New York (Fringe Festival award winner) and Los Angeles (LA Weekly awards). He has worked on projects as diverse as world tours with The Rolling Stones and David Bowie, through the RSC and the Royal Court in London, to the Bolshoi Ballet. Though he currently lives and designs in L.A., his work continues to take him all over the world. Recent work includes: Violence, Johnny Got His Gun, The Happiness Project, Harlequino, 1984 and Midsummer Night’s Dream and The New Colossus (World Tours) for the Actors Gang. Naked, Tempest Redux for the Odyssey Theatre (2018 Stage Raw Award for Light Design), and Mine Eyes Have Seen and Bog Of Cats for Theatre Banshee. MacBeth In Rhythm for Shakespeare Center and Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy and SOS for Wallis Annenberg, Lysistrata Unbound for the Odyssey Theatre and Titus Andronicus, Julius Caesar, Midsummer Nights Dream and Twelfth Night for ISC in the Park. 1984 at the Actors Gang.
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1. Since 2010, we’ve provided $8,750,000 of free theater to Los Angeles!
2. ISC nurtures and supports the next generation of Los Angeles theater performers!
3. ISC is helping grow the next generation of theater audiences!
4. We bring Los Angeles together in more ways than one!
5. Many people their first experience of Shakespeare at the Festival!
6. Throughout the pandemic, we’ve kept artists employed
7. The Festival is the catalyst for the most vibrant & diverse audience in the City
8. Our cast and crew reflect the wonderful diversity of Los Angeles!
9. The Festival builds community engagement!
10. The Festival provides more than the plays!

Make your contribution at iscla.org or text ISCLA to 44-321 for the link to donate.

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David Melville, Managing Director
Marisa Johnston, Development & Communications Director
Sabrina Lewis, Operations Coordinator
Carolina Xique, Marketing Assistant & Producer of ISC Art Break Podcast
Jenny Jihee Park, Resident Stage Manager
Carene Mekertichyan, Artistic Associate for Social Justice
Xavi Moreno, Community Engagement Consultant & Festival Social Media Wizard

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2021 FESTIVAL STAFF
Cary Reynolds, Production Coordinator
Gabby Bruno, Production Manager
Rody Villegas, Production Intern from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
Alejandro Jimenez, Community Engagement Intern from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
Special Thanks

The Shakespeare & Chill Event Committee that kept the party going online! Elizabeth Dennehy (Chair), Daryl Barbieri, Bethany Boles, Lisa Cassandra, Melissa Chalsma, Meg Gallagher, Pauline Mauro, David Melville, Lara Pranger, Suzanne Prescott, Richard Schenkman, Julie Wolfson.


Tom Blunt, Ann Closs-Farley, Ruby and Vice Farley, Tonya Kay, Janet Lê, Garry Lennon, Melhor Ink Screen Printing, Barbara Monderine & The Village Bakery and Cafe, Nikhil Pai, Phil Rosenthal, Jonah Roth-Verity, Amy Urbina Tignor & Blancaware.

Grettel Cortes Photography, Mike Ditz Photography, Reynaldo Macias Photography.

Piano Sonata in C Major, 2nd movement (Hob. XVI:35 no. 2) by Franz Joseph Haydn. MIDI performance by Bernd Kruger (piano-midi.de) is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 DE.

Most of all, John Hemmings & Henry Condell. We are forever in your debt.
AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

Over the past twelve months, we have been very grateful recipients of several essential foundation and government grants. However, the majority of our funding comes from donations, small and large, from audience members such as yourself. We hope your lives are enriched by the theater company you are such a vital part of creating.

The following people and organizations made financial donations in support of the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival from August 19th, 2021 - July 26th, 2021. Without them, we would not be here tonight.

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Tom LaBonge made a huge difference for ISC and Shakespeare in Griffith Park. We really loved him. It was always a joy to see him and he was a natural on stage. Most politicians share some carefully chosen words but Tom would speak freestyle, riffing off the audience like a seasoned comedian. It was always a joyride that would either open or close with a verse of Elvis’ “Love Me Tender” (which I think he might be singing in this picture). Tom was a class act.

- David Melville
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