

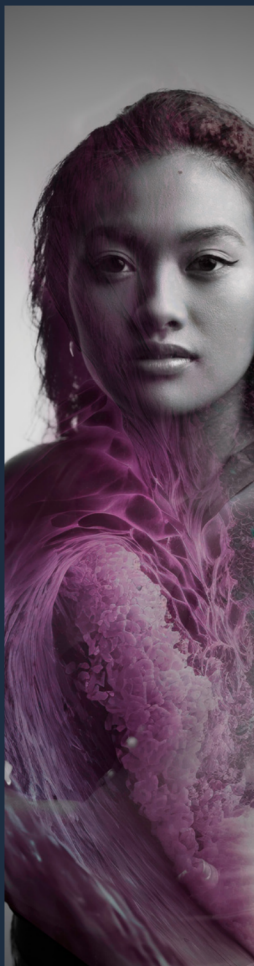
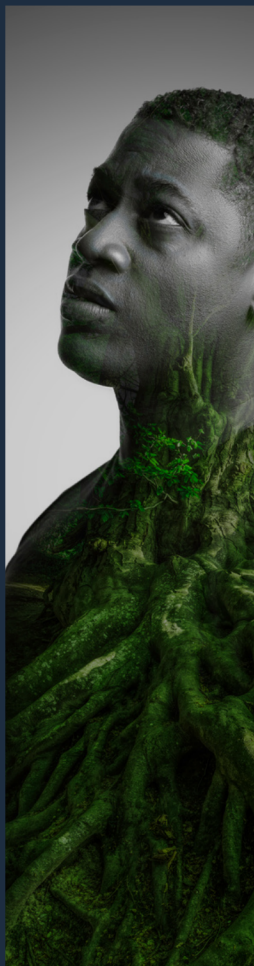


AFTER HOURS  
THEATRE COMPANY

# THE TEMPEST

## AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

MARCH 16 - APRIL 16, 2023



# WELCOME TO THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER OF LOS ANGELES

Welcome to *The Tempest: An Immersive Experience!*

We are overjoyed to be sharing this timeless story with you reimagined by this brilliant ensemble of actors and designers.

During Elizabethan times and at the original Globe Theatre, audiences and actors were viscerally engaged with each other and the stories. The relationship between patrons and players was direct and mutually expressive. Patrons would throw tomatoes at the villains as they spoke directly to audience members. Audience members would collectively boo, hiss, and cheer.

This intimate production aims to create a new type of compelling interaction. It offers Shakespeare in an immersive context with contemporary sensibility that is keen to honor the traditions of classic theatrical storytelling.

Before the pandemic, through the pandemic, today, and tomorrow The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles's steadfast commitment is to illuminate timeless stories and ageless human inclinations with the intention to evoke understanding and compassion.

We best utilize the theatrical tools and technologies accessible to us, for you. Our foray into 'immersive encounters with the classics' is a powerful way to attract engage new and current audiences and to help people see themselves and each other, think, feel, and wonder about today's pressing issues by looking through a distant mirror.

We are very excited to be working with After Hours Theatre Company, they are bringing an energy and perspective to theatrical invention that is invigorating and asks challenging questions. We are also interested in the dynamic between established theaters such as Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles partnering with new emerging companies such as After Hours.

*The Tempest* is about forgiveness leading to freedom. This is a time that calls for imaginative freedom and engagement.

As Prospero shares, "I want art to enchant," we at Shakespeare Center hope you find yourself spell bound on a journey that evokes a meaningful Shakespeare experience.

Thanks for coming aboard,

**Ben Donenberg**

*Artistic Director and Founder*

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*Great Art Doing Great Things*

The mission of The Shakespeare Center LA is to ignite personal and community transformation. By producing world-class theatrical productions, providing best practices high-quality arts education experiences, and offering national award-winning arts-based workforce development programs targeting under-served youth and veterans, The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles demonstrates that excellent accessible immersive arts engagement builds community and changes lives.

Shakespeare Center LA is a tax - exempt, non-profit corporation. Donations are deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Learn more at [shakespearecenter.org](http://shakespearecenter.org)



**AFTER HOURS  
THEATRE COMPANY**

After Hours Theatre Company is an award-winning LA-based production company specializing in narrative-driven immersive and interactive entertainment that pushes the boundaries of what "theatre" can be. More than a theatre company, After Hours is a collective of individuals across multiple immersive art-driven industries, who merge their talents within the medium of theatre. After Hours doesn't just create entertainment. They create worlds. Founded in 2016, After Hours past productions include *Dogfight* (LA Times Critics' Choice and 4x Ovation nominations), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: The Immersive Experience* (LA Times Critics' Choice and 5x Ovation nominations) and *The Last Five Years: A Multisensory Experience* (4x Ovation nominations). After Hours also creates immersive entertainment for brands and activations such as HBO's *Warrior*, and the pre-show experience for the LA immersive production of *Rock of Ages* led by the original Broadway team.

Learn more [afterhourstheatre.com](http://afterhourstheatre.com)

# THE TEMPEST AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

A CO-PRODUCTION FROM THE SHAKESPEARE CENTER OF  
LOS ANGELES AND AFTER HOURS THEATRE COMPANY

DIRECTED BY  
**BEN DONENBERG**

PRODUCED BY  
**BEN DONENBERG      GRAHAM WETTERHAHN**

**DANIELLE BEARDEN-MEAD      SARA BEIL      STEPHEN HECKEL      KJ KNIES**

IMMERSIVE DESIGNER  
**SARA BEIL**

COMPOSER  
**MICHAEL ROTH**

SCENIC DESIGNER  
**LEAH RAMILLANO**

COSTUME DESIGNER  
**DANA REBECCA WOODS**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**DAN WEINGARTEN**

CO-SOUND DESIGNER  
**CRICKET MYERS**

CO-SOUND DESIGNER  
**AUSTIN QUAN**

CHOREOGRAPHER  
**JEN OUNDJIAN**

COCKTAIL DESIGN  
**SPIRIT GUIDES COCKTAILS**

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR &  
PROPS DESIGNER  
**STEPHEN HECKEL**

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
**PAT LOEB\***

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS  
**AMBER ACOSTA  
IZZY DONENBERG**

PUBLICITY  
**DAVIDSON & CHOY**

TICKETING PARTNER  
**FEVER, INC.**

MARKETING DIRECTOR  
**OLIVIA SATHER**

CASTING DIRECTOR  
**ROBERT TERRY**

## SPONSORS



DAVID LEE FOUNDATION



This project is part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



\* The following are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

# CAST

Alonso.....	LEITH BURKE*
Prospero.....	CHRIS BUTLER*
Caliban.....	WAYNE T CARR*
Boatswain.....	MASON CONRAD
Antonio.....	RODNEY GARDINER*
Ariel.....	JIN MALEY*
Trinculo.....	DANIEL T PARKER*
Juno/Sprite.....	ANJA RACIĆ
Sebastian.....	CHRISTOPHER RIVERA*
Ferdinand.....	ULATO SAM
Miranda.....	KAY SIBAL
Master of a Ship.....	PAUL STANKO
Gonzalo.....	PETER VAN NORDEN*
Adrian.....	ROBERT VESTAL*
Stephano.....	KT VOGT*
Francisco/ Ceres.....	JONATHAN VON MERING*

## UNDERSTUDIES

*Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the appearance.*

*for Prospero — ROBERT VESTAL*

*for Stephano/ Trinculo/ Ferdinand — MASON CONRAD*

*for Ariel/ Miranda — ANJA RACIĆ*

*for Caliban/ Alonso/ Gonzalo — JONATHAN VON MERING*

*for Antonio/ Sebastian — PAUL STANKO*

*for Master/ Boatswain - DOMINIC BOURNÉS*

*for Francisco/ Adrian - HARRISON MELOENY*

## DANCE CAPTAIN

ANJA RACIĆ

## VOCAL CAPTAIN

KAY SIBAL

## IMMERSIVE CAPTAINS

MASON CONRAD

PAUL STANKO

*\* The following are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association*

## THE SCENE

A Ship At Sea  
A Remote Island

## RUNNING TIME

2 hours and 30 minutes  
*Including one intermission*

## PLEASE NOTE

There is no photography or filming of any kind allowed during the performance. You may take photo during the pre-show immersive experience. Once the performance begins, please turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones.

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES



**LEITH BURKE\***  
*Alonso*

Other theater credits include Judgement at Nuremburg on Broadway; Multiple seasons with the Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals; Antony and Cleopatra at the Guthrie; Miss Julie at San Jose Rep.; National tours with the S.F. Mime Troupe; the premieres of Neighbors at the Matrix Theater and Citizen at the Fountain. Film includes: The Tiger Hunter; 11th Green; Bloodline and Suburbicon. Television includes: Life in Pieces, Hawaii Five-O, Cherish the Day; You; Bosch; Real Husbands of Hollywood; Grey's Anatomy; Parenthood; NCIS; Criminal Minds; CSI: NY; Eastsiders; and the West Wing.



**CHRIS BUTLER\***  
*Prospero*

Chris Butler is a two-time LA Ovation, NAACP, LADCC and Garland Award winner for *Yellowman* (Fountain Theatre) and *Stick Fly* (Matrix Theatre). Broadway: *110 In The Shade* (Roundabout Theatre Company). Regional theater: *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Shakespeare Center LA); *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Piano Lesson*, *How To Catch Creation* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Death Of A Salesman*, *District Merchants* (South Coast Repertory);

Twilight: Los Angeles 1992, Gem Of The Ocean, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest (Rubicon Theatre Company); Race (A.C.T.); Blue (Pasadena Playhouse). T.V credits include: Women Of The Movement, Animal Kingdom, NCIS, NCIS: Los Angeles, Shameless, Law & Order: SVU, Designated Survivor, The Good Wife, The Good Fight, Modern Family, Criminal Minds, True Blood, Rizzoli & Isles, King & Maxwell. Film credits include: Rescue Dawn, Play Dead, 30 Nights, Gringo Hunters. Chris holds an MFA in Theatre (University of California at San Diego) and a BA in Dramatic Arts (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).



**WAYNE T CARR\***  
*Caliban*

Wayne T. Carr has performed at A Noise Within and Antaeus. Regionally he's performed at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Oregon Shakes, Guthrie, Folger's, Milwaukee Rep and more. Film and TV credits include Chicago Med, SWAT, Stuck in the Middle and The Tragedy of Mac...



**MASON CONRAD**  
*Boatswain (u/s for Stephano, Trinculo, Ferdinand)*

Mason Conrad grew up in Friendswood, Texas. He has worked onstage at The Old Globe, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Door Shakespeare, Shakespeare by the Sea,

Texas Shakespeare Festival, and Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. He also works with JFI Productions on immersive shows like "The Willows", "Night Fever", and "CreepLA". Last year, he performed in CAGES DTLA. He co-created and performed in "Not Another Midsummer" which was nominated for best immersive show at Hollywood Fringe Festival 2022. Catch him in these recent celebrated shorts: "We Got A Dog" and "Snookie-Sci-Fi Short Film". He holds an MFA in Acting from USD/ The Old Globe. @masonxconrad on Instagram. Repped by BAM Management and BBA Talent.



**RODNEY GARDINER\***  
*Antonio*

As a member of Waterwell (NYC) Gardiner played Dr King in THE LAST YEAR IN THE LIFE OF DR KING, Kublai Khan in MARCO MILLIONS, and King Darius in THE PERSIANS. As a ten year veteran of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, favorite credits include Cassius in JULIUS CAESAR, Feste in TWELFTH NIGHT, both Dromios in COMEDY OF ERRORS, Tinman in THE WIZ. Other regional credits include METAMORPHOSES (dir Mary Zimmerman) at Berkeley Rep, Nathan Detroit in GUYS AND DOLLS at Guthrie Theater. TV/Film credits include recurring roles on DAVID MAKES MAN (OWN), FROM SCRATCH (NETFLIX), and can be seen in the upcoming seasons of OUTER BANKS and BROTHERS SUN as well as the new film Billy Knight (with Al Pacino).

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES



**JIN MALEY\***

*Ariel*

Jin Maley (they/them) is a classically trained actor who has been living and working in Los Angeles for the past decade. Jin portrays the Communications Officer Ensign Kova Rin Esmar in *Star Trek: Picard*. Their other television credits include *Silicon Valley*, *Shameless*, *As We See It*, *NCIS*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Criminal Minds*, and *Bones*. Their film credits include *Bodied* produced by Eminem and the viral music video for the song *Happy* by Mitski. As a member of the New York-based physical theater company *Sinking Ship Productions*, they co-created and starred in *Cassandra*, *An Agony*, an original piece commissioned by the Getty Villa. Jin trained at Oberlin College, the American Repertory Theater, and the Moscow Art Theater School.



**DANIEL T PARKER\***

*Trinculo*

**In 10 seasons at OSF:** Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Stephano in *The Tempest* (originally scheduled for 2020); Edna Turnblad, *Hairspray*; Mock Turtle, Tweedledum in *Alice in Wonderland*; Uncle Wilbur, *Oklahoma!*; Ben Jonson, *The Book of Will*; Cogsworth, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; Zeus, Cyclops in *The Odyssey*; Toby Belch, *Twelfth Night*; Poet, Servilius in *Timon of Athens*;

Nicely-Nicely Johnson, *Guys and Dolls*; Aunt Beast, *A Wrinkle in Time*; The Kid, *Family Album*; Pierre, *The Heart of Robin Hood*; First Witch, *Medea/Macbeth/Cinderella*; Stanley Levison, *All the Way*; Dr. Purgon, *The Imaginary Invalid*; *The Pirates of Penzance*.

**Other theatres:** Sonny in *Oliver and Sonny* (The Public Theater); Tesman in *Hedda Gabler* (Manhattan Theatre Club).

**Regional:**

*bobraushenbergamerica* (American Repertory Theater); *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (South Coast Repertory); *Hay Fever* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Dogberry* in *Much Ado about Nothing, The Tempest, She Stoops to Conquer* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz); *The Faculty Room* (Mark Taper Forum); Argan in *The Imaginary Invalid, Titus Andronicus* (The Actors' Gang); *Henry IV, Part Two, Marat/Sade, The Threepenny Opera* (Williamstown Theatre Festival).

**Film/TV:** *Appaloosa, Catch and Release, Galaxy Quest, The Out-of-Towners, 10 Items or Less*.

**Training:** BFA, Sarah Lawrence College.



**ANJA RACIĆ**

*Juno / Sprite*

Anja Racić, (she/her) is a Serbian actor, singer, dancer and writer. Anja is thrilled to be working with Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles. Elsewhere: Louder (Stage Reading) at the Boston Court Pasadena; A Midsummer Night's Dream and *Incident at the Art of Acting Studio*; *As You Like It* at RADA.

Last summer, Anja premiered her original solo show, *Steps of Glory*, for which she received two nominations at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. Keep your eyes peeled for Anja's debut film *Cake* in the festival circuit this summer. Education: Professional Conservatory at the Art of Acting Studio, Stella Adler NYC & Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Hugely grateful to the cast and crew of the *Tempest*, my family, friends and mentors. Enjoy the show!

IG: @racicanja



**CHRISTOPHER RIVERA\***

*Sebastian (w/s Caliban)*

I've worked with the Shakespeare Center since 2005, involved in such shows as *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Henry IV*. Other credits include *Macbeth*, *Don Quixote*, *Coriolanus* at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. TV credits: *CSI Miami*, *ER*, *Castle*, *The Jury*. A Juilliard graduate, yet still living in learning from friends family and life.



**ULATO SAM**

*Ferdinand*

Making his SCLA debut, Ulato is a native of Kingston, Jamaica with an M.F.A. from UCLA and training from B.A.D.A. and the Grotowski Institute. This Morehouse Man has been featured on Oprah's 2020 Vision

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Tour, Tony Robbins' Virtual World Tour and Jay Shetty's On Purpose Podcast. His theatre credits include SITI Company's The Theatre Is A Blank Page, Tarell Alvin McCraney's In The Red & Brown Water, and Arnold Wesker's The Kitchen. A former track athlete and scholar, he's also a recipient of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Acting Fellowship, the Mariska Hargitay Scholarship for Acting and the Zuri Adele Acting Fellowship.



**KAY SIBAL**

*Miranda*

Kay Sibal (she/her), a San Francisco Bay Area native and recent graduate of UCLA's Musical Theater program, is honored to bring Miranda to SCLA's immersive stage! She was most recently seen originating the role of "Juliet" in the world premiere of *Invincible: The Musical* (Wallis Annenberg Center of Performing Arts). Other favorite past roles include Ti Moune in *Once on This Island*, Elle in *Legally Blonde*, and Cathy in *The Last Five Years*. When she is not performing onstage, you can find her performing pop music on social media and YouTube. Special thanks to her wonderful cast and director, her teachers who have given her the tools to make the telling of this tale possible, and her family and friends for always being her cheerleaders. Kay hopes that the show inspires you to see humanity with a renewed sense of compassion!  
[www.kaysib.weebly.com](http://www.kaysib.weebly.com)



**PAUL STANKO**

*Master of a Ship (u/s Antonio, Sebastian)*

Paul Stanko is from Fort Collins, Colorado and holds his degree in Dramatic Arts from the University of Southern California. His recent live theater credits in the LA area include "Earthquakes in London" (RMT), "Diana of Dobsons" (Antaeus), "Three Musketeers" (PVPA), and the revival of the cult hit stage play "Star Wars in 60 Minutes" (Garry Marshall Theater). He has appeared in several independent feature films, network television (ABC Family, Lifetime, CNN) and steaming (Hulu, HBO, Netflix). Paul is an improviser and has performed mainstage at ComedySportz, Second City, and iO West. He is a company member at Antaeus Theater Company and Rogue Machine Theater Company.  
[www.stankoforever.com](http://www.stankoforever.com)



**PETER VAN NORDEN\***

*Gonzalo*

Has appeared at Shakespeare Center LA in both THE *MERCHANT OF VENICE* (as 'Shylock') and as 'Falstaff,' covering and performing for Tom Hanks in *HENRY IV, Parts I and II*. Most recently, 'Polonius' and 'The Gravedigger' in *HAMLET* at the Antaeus Thr. Co., for which he is nominated for a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award and where he won 2019 Ovation Award for Best Actor in Harold Pinter's THE *HOTHOUSE*. Other

recent appearances include *RED INK* (2020 Ovation nomination for Best Featured Actor) at Playwright's Arena/Atwater Village, *1776* (as 'Ben Franklin') and *Singin' in the Rain* at La Mirada Thr. Co. For 3 years at The Rubicon Thr. in Ventura, he played, 'Ebenezer Scrooge' in *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*. Peter was the first American actor to play the title role in Mike Bartlett's *KING CHARLES III* at Arizona Thr. Co. In his native NYC: *LITTLE JOHNNY JONES* (with Donny Osmond), *HAMLET* (with both Kevin Kline and Sam Waterston), *JUNGLE OF CITIES* (with Al Pacino), *HENRY V* (with Meryl Streep), and *SAINT JOAN* (with Lynn Redgrave). Film and TV roles include leads in *The Accused* (opposite Oscar winner, Jodie Foster), *Police Academy 2* (as Steve Guttenberg's inept partner), *The Naked Gun 2½* and the Stephen King mini-series, *The Stand*.  
[petervannorden.com](http://petervannorden.com)



**ROBERT VESTAL\***

*Adrian (u/s Prospero)*

Robert Vestal is originally from Chicago and a graduate of the University of Chicago. He's also a graduate of The Groundlings and has studied and performed at The Second City. He has thousands of stage performances under his belt, and performing Shakespeare is easily one of his favorite things to do. He has done so with Will & Company, Shakespeare at Play, Arroyo Repertory Theatre, and Native Voices at the Autry where he has been a member since 2002. His tv/film credits include ER, It's All



## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Relative, and the award winning No Turning Back. You can currently hear Rob's voice over work in several shows on Netflix, including the English dub of three seasons the French show Family Business, and the video game Resident Evil: Biohazard, in which he also performed motion capture. Rob also writes and directs, and he won the 2014 Von Marie Atchley Excellence in Playwriting Award for his short play A Little off the Top.



**KT VOGT\***  
*Stephano*

KT Vogt hails from Kankakee, Illinois and is happy to be back in Los Angeles after 14 consecutive seasons as a company member of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Some of her favorite roles there include Falstaff in Merry Wives of Windsor, Launce in Two Gentlemen of Verona, Duchess of York in Richard II, Toinette in Imaginary Invalid and Jesse in the World Premier of Sweat. She has also performed at South Coast Repertory, Stella Adler Theater, Saint Genesius, and The Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, where she was a student and ensemble member after receiving her BFA in Theater Arts from Barat College. Film and television credits include: Ellen, The Tom Show, Doc Hollywood, Princess Mononoke, Wings, The Puppet Master, Conspiracy Theory and the voice of Washu from Tenchi. Her most recent project is The Play On version of The Winter's Tale currently available at Next Chapter Podcasts, where she voiced Paulina and Dorcas.



**JONATHAN VON MERING\***  
*Francisco/ Ceres*

After graduating from USC, Jonathan von Mering voiced characters in the Call of Duty and Final Fantasy franchises before joining the national tour of Fiddler on the Roof. Since 2021, he has appeared in film and television roles including The Flight Attendant and Julia on HBO Max, Big Sky, Law & Order, and FBI. Later this year he will appear in Alexander Payne's upcoming film The Holdovers. Jonathan previously completed a residency with Center Theater Group, and received additional training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.



**BEN DONENBERG**  
*Director*  
*Artistic Director and Founder of*  
*Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles*

Ben Donenberg is the Founder and Artistic Director of The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles (SCLA). As a director of populist interpretations of Shakespeare, Ben has built a reputation of creating excellent, accessible productions that are underscored by the canons of modern songwriters and recording artists. His production of Much Ado About Nothing at Center Theatre Group starred Helen Hunt and Tom Irwin and featured Lyle Lovett in the role of the musician Balthasar.

The production was supported by progressive bluegrass singers and songwriters Sean and Sara Watkins. Other Shakespearian productions include two productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream. One featured Natalie Cole and Obba Babatundé singing Nat King Cole jazz standards with text performed by Tom Hanks, William Shatner, Tracey Ullman, Geoffrey Rush, Christina Applegate, Rita Wilson, Zack Braff, and Kate Hudson (2006, SCLA). Ben directed the other for a Los Angeles Philharmonic's 1999 Fall Gala at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, it featured Mendelssohn's Incidental Music for A Midsummer Night's Dream and was supported by voices from the Los Angeles Opera and Los Angeles Master Chorale with text performed by Alfre Woodard, David Ogden Stiers, and Peter MacNichols. Other actors and recording stars who have performed in Ben's annual staging of Shakespeare include Sir Paul McCartney, Paul Simon, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Kenneth Branagh, Will Smith, Steve Martin, Cedric the Entertainer, Dule Hill, Billy Crystal, Robin Williams, Martin Short, Reba McEntire, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, Ewan McGregor, Jack Browne, Tracy Ullman, and Eric Idle. Ben's production of The Merry Wives of Windsor at UCLA's Royce Hall featured the songs of Hank Williams performed by Reba McEntire with text performed by Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hanks, Tracey Ullman, Rita Wilson, Martin Short, and William Shatner, who played Falstaff.

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

His presentation of *As You Like It* also featured Lyle Lovett, this time singing the music of Pete Seeger with text performed by Sir Anthony Hopkins, Benjamin Bratt, and Carla Gugino. Ben's Twelfth Night featured Peter Gallagher singing Gershwin and his *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* featured music by The Beatles. Ben has also directed more traditional outdoor and site-specific Shakespeare plays for SCLA that have toured to venues throughout Los Angeles County, including Union Station, Pershing Square, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, and the South Coast Botanic Garden. Ben has received local awards and national recognition from Actors' Equity Association, NAACP, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, California Educational Theatre Association, and the Mayor of Los Angeles. His 2006 six-year Presidential appointment to the National Council on the Arts was unanimously approved by the United States Senate. In 2012, Ben was selected by the U.S. Secretary of Defense to participate in the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. He has lectured on theatre aesthetics at University of Southern California, and at the Huntington Library and SCLA's award-winning Will Power teacher training seminars. Ben received his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from University of Southern California and is a graduate of The Juilliard School's Drama Division.



**MICHAEL ROTH**

*Composer*

Michael Roth is a composer/sound artist whose work encompasses chamber music, film scores and music/sound for over 250 theatre productions throughout North America. *THE WEB OPERA* (<https://www.thewebopera.com>), his acclaimed experimental online opera, composed and self-produced to raise awareness of cyber-abuse suicide prevention, has been an official selection at 35 film festivals. His new opera, *THE GOLEM OF LA JOLLA*, examining contemporary antisemitism, was recently previewed in concert in LA. Recent projects: collaborations with Al Pacino; the score for *HENRY IV* featuring Tom Hanks; two collaborations with Christopher Plummer at Canada's Stratford Festival including Plummer's solo-show (*Des McAnuff*, director); *IMAGINATION DEAD IMAGINE*, his music/theatre treatment of Samuel Beckett's text, premiered in LA and Prague (for string quartet, recorded voices and laptop); two collaborations/US premieres with Tom Stoppard (*Carey Perloff*, director); the upcoming premiere of *SHEETCAKE*, his sonata for 4 pianos; and, proudly, many collaborations with Randy Newman, including music direction for Disney's *PRINCESS & THE FROG* and orchestrations for his *FAUST*.



**LEAH RAMILLANO**

*Scenic Designer*

Leah Ramillano is a Southern California based designer who balances work as a CAD Associate at Mattel, Inc. and freelance scenic design. She is excited and grateful to be exploring this crossroad of where two modes of storytelling meet with a group of supportive and talented collaborators. Most recent credits include *The Brothers Paranormal* (Perseverance Theatre) and *All the Town's a Stage: A Winona Story* (Great River Shakespeare Festival).



**DANA REBECCA WOODS**

*Costume Designer*

Dana Rebecca Woods is excited to be a member of *The Tempest: An Immersive Experience!* Design team. Other costume designs include *Come Get Maggie* for *Rogue Machine*; *What I Learned in Paris* at SCR and *The Portland Playhouse*; *The Story of Biddy Mason* at UC Irvine; *Miss Maude* for *The AD Players* at the George Theatre; *The Color Purple* at Sacramento Music Circus; *Intimate Apparel* at Orlando Shakes; *A Medusa Thread* and *In the Red and Brown Water* at UC Santa Barbara; *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Pipeline*, at Ensemble Theater Cincinnati; *The Reclamation of Madison Hemings*, at Indiana Repertory Theater; *Blues in the Night* at the

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

Laguna Playhouse; Shout Sister Shout, Fences, and others for The Pasadena Playhouse. Film & TV designs include John Sayles' *Go For Sisters*; and telenovela *Watch Over Me*. Dana has taught at UCF, UCLA, and was guest speaker at LA Trade Tech College.



### DAN WEINGARTEN

*Lighting Designer*

Credits include: UBP and Found for IAMA, 24th St. Theater's *Rapunzel alone*, *ICE*, *Hansel and Gretel Bluegrass*, *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Man Covets Bird*, *Walking the Tightrope*, Rogue Machine's *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Monkey Adored*, *The Word Begins*, *I Wish I Had a Sylvia Plath*, *The Sunset Limited*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *East West Player's Chess*, *A Little Night Music*, *Krunk Fu Battle Battle*, *Pippin*, *Wrinkles*. Chicago Opera Theater's *Fairy Queen*, *Maria de Buenos Aires*, New York City Opera's *Fallujah*, Long Beach Opera's *Macbeth*, *Nixon in China*, *Marilyn Forever*, *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*, *Hydrogen Jukebox*, *Akhmaten*, *Orpheus and Euridice*, *Bootleg's Stranger* (LA Drama Critics Circle Nominee), The Santa Barbara Theater's *Doubt*, The Ebony Repertory Companies' *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Paul Robeson*, *Two Trains Running* (Ovation Nominee) and Echo Theater Company's *Wirehead*. Actors Gang's *Heart of Darkness*. Liana & Ben, *Inflegrante* Gothecto, *Fathers and Sons*, *Louis Slotin Sonata*, *Show and Tell*, *The Rover*, *Great Men of Science 21 & 22* at Circle X.

He is the recipient of the LA Drama Critic's Circle Angstrom Award, the LA Weekly Award, the Garland Award and the Dramalogue Award. Faculty at California State University at Northridge and received his MFA in Design and Production from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).



### CRICKET MYERS

*Co-Sound Designer*

Cricket S. Myers On Broadway, Cricket earned a Tony Nomination and a Drama Desk Award for her design of *Bengal Tiger* at the Baghdad Zoo. She has also designed regionally at La Jolla Playhouse, The Geffen Playhouse, The Ahmanson, The Mark Taper Forum, Kansas City Rep, South Coast Rep, The Kirk Douglas Theater, Pasadena Playhouse, Denver Center and Milwaukee Rep. Other selected L.A. Theaters include The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts, East West Players, and Ghost Road Theater Company. She has earned 24 Ovation Nominations, as well as winning The Ruth Morley Award from the League of Professional Theater Women, The Kinetic Award for Outstanding Achievements in Theatrical Design, an LADCC and a Garland Award. Cricket is a proud member of Local USA 829 and the TSDCA.  
[www.cricketsmyers.com](http://www.cricketsmyers.com)

### AUSTIN QUAN

*Co-Sound Designer*

Austin Quan is an Ovation and Valley Theatre Award recipient. He enjoys providing his sound services to many different types

of productions that include: marketing agency events, sporting events, concerts, live theatre, and immersive experiences. Clients include but are not exclusive to Sofi Stadium, Netflix, and Disney. Outside of work, Austin enjoys spending time with his family.



### JEN OUNDJIAN

*Choreographer*

Jen Oundjian has been the resident Artistic Director and Choreographer for John Burroughs Powerhouse Showchoir for 26 years! Powerhouse has performed on *The Voice*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Ellen*, *America's Got Talent* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Additionally she produces groundbreaking immersive and traditional proscenium theatre in LA. Notable projects include LACMA 50th anniversary gala, LACMA Resnick Gallery Grand Opening Gala, Eli Broad's 80th birthday at the Broad Museum, The Wallis Annenburg Fundraiser Galas, *Bare: A Rock Opera*, *American Idiot*, *Almost Famous: One Night at the Troubador*, *Dogfight*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: An Immersive Experience*, *Last Five Years*, and numerous cabaret and pop up performances. She is currently working on a brand new musical *Jimi Darkness*, The Gay Men's Chorus LA and Cherry Poppins presents *Cluesque*. With a BFA from CalArts in costume design/theatre design, her shows consistently push the boundaries of creativity and passion.

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES



### STEPHEN HECKEL

Producer & Production Manager  
Technical Director & Props Designer  
Shen is a LA based theatre professional. A graduate of UCLA Theatre Film and Television School and Lincoln Center Director's Lab, he has worked on dozens of shows in all aspects of theatre. Credits include; assistant director of Allegiance at East West Players, assistant director of Rotterdam at Center Theatre Group's Block Party, assistant director of Hostage at The Skylight Theatre, prop design of Hype Man at The Fountain Theatre, producer and prop design of The Last Five Years and One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest: the immersive experience with After Hours Theatre Company. Shen is also the managing director at After Hours Theatre Company and has recently started a position as adjunct faculty of scenic elements at CSUN Theatre department.



### PAT LOEB\*

*Production Stage Manager*

Pat Loeb (PSM): LA local, thrilled to be working with SCLA, Ben and After Hours on this new voyage of THE TEMPEST. Recent: ANIMAL FARM (A Noise Within), a new opera at USC; LADY DAY (ICT & Ebony Rep). A small sampling of other theatre, opera and dance: RULE MY WORLD; OTHELLO; NATE THE GREAT; TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA;

Edinburgh Fringe Festival (15 shows), ICT (17 shows), Deaf West (8 shows), East West Players (4 shows), Sacramento Theatre Co (3 shows); LANGUAGE ROOMS (Golden Thread/SF); CESAR AND RUBEN; A WRINKLE IN TIME; THE CONSUL; BEATRICE et BENEDICT; THE BARTERED BRIDE; SOUTH PACIFIC; TEA AT FIVE; MARVELOUS WONDERETTES; THE PHANTOM (tour); PAZZAZZ (tour); AESOP (tour); SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ; VOICES CARRY. Pat is also an award-winning actor, singer, and director. She leads The Music Companie, in its 42nd year providing singers for any occasion and carolers for the holidays. Proud member AEA.

### AMBER ACOSTA

*First Assistant Stage Manager*

This is Amber Acosta's first time working with the Shakespeare Center LA and After hours. In the past, she has worked on Frozen Live at the Hyperion, Knotts Scary Farm, and Rail Event's Polar Express. She is very grateful for this opportunity. Thank you, and Enjoy the show.

### IZZY DONENBERG

*Second Assistant Stage Manager*

Izzy Donenberg, the second assistant stage manager, has worked with the Shakespeare Center as a production assistant on Al Pachino's reading of Mark Antony from "Julius Cesar". Izzy is also an up-and-coming "Indie Pop" artist known as "hyrsensitive". Feel free to give them a listen on your favorite music streaming platform.



### SARA BEIL

*Immersive Designer & Producer*

Sara is an immersive writer and designer, with a background in writing for theater, film, virtual reality, and location-based entertainment. Her work spans multiple mediums and continents – from the USA Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. Past projects include Money Heist: The Experience, Definitely Not Clue, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: The Immersive Experience, Best Night Ever: A Bachelor(ette) Night, What Went Wrong, and Rock of Ages Hollywood. [www.sarabeil.com](http://www.sarabeil.com).



### DANIELLE BEARDEN-MEAD

*Producer & Interim Managing Director for Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles*

Danielle Bearden-Mead is a Los Angeles-based arts administrator specializing in development & advancement, strategic planning, and producing. Prior to joining The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, she served as the Interim Director of Development & Director of Individual Giving at Geffen Playhouse, Director of Individual Giving at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and Associate Director of Development at UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. Television experience includes four seasons on

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

"Two and a Half Men." Danielle has a BA in Theatre Arts from CSULB, trained at Boston Ballet & Alonzo King's Lines Ballet, and is a co-founder of The Garage Theatre, co-producing the 2002-2005 seasons. Favorite past projects include the world-premiere of Rantoul & Die (stage manager), Side Man (director), Goose & Tomom (Lulu) and Angels in America (Harper). Choreography credits include: Music Man, Little Shop of Horrors, 1776, and Wild Oats.



### **KJ KNIES**

*Producer & After Hours Marketing Manager*

KJ Knies is a Clio-winning and Emmy-nominated creative producer with a focus on immersive artistic forms, both digital and physical. Clients include Microsoft Xbox, HBO, Warner Music Group, Amazon Prime Video, Calvin Klein ft. A\$AP Rocky, OVO, Legendary Pictures, and Alaska Airlines. Past projects include One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: The Immersive Experience, The Last Five Years: A Multisensory Experience, Best Night Ever: A Bachelor(ette) Night, What Went Wrong, Rock of Ages Hollywood, The Amazon Prime Video Experience, The InkHole ft. Jim Henson, PARTYNEXTDOOR Twitch Livestream Album Release Party, and Welcome to the Blumhouse ft. Questlove and Ludacris.



### **GRAHAM WETTERHAHN**

*Producer & After Hours Artistic Director*

Graham Wetterhahn is the founding Artistic Director of After Hours Theatre Company. He is a multimedia producer and consultant focused on creating new styles of theatrical performance and bringing new audiences to the theatrical medium. He gained notoriety as the youngest producer ever nominated for an Ovation Award for both a play and a musical. He is a proud co-author of the Los Angeles Anti-Racist Theatre Standards. Previous works include The Last Five Years: A Multisensory Experience, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest: The Immersive Experience, and the Hollywood premiere of Pasek and Paul's Dogfight. He is the creator of the Los Angeles Immersive Invitational, the only 48-hour immersive theatre festival in the world, and is a co-founder and executive producer of livestream and digital media channels Nat One DnD and Pixel Playhouse. He is currently developing numerous original projects including Jimi Darkness, a rock musical about alcoholism and sobriety.

### **OLIVIA SATHER**

*Marketing Director*

Olivia Sather is a marketing consultant with experience working with innovative companies, creative artists, and nonprofit organizations. She has an MBA and MFA in Theatre Management from California State University Long Beach. She has served as the Director of Marketing for Cal Rep at Cal State Long Beach and the Carpenter Performing Arts Center. Through her work as a digital marketing consultant she has worked with companies including The Old Globe in San Diego, Theatre2, Music of the Baroque, and Nashville Ballet.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THE TEMPEST: AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

*Artistic Associate / Creative Consultant*  
Carey Perloff

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Christine Adaire

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Tim DiGregorio

*Assistant Lighting Designer*  
Hope Kozielski

*Sound Assistant/ Assistant to the Composer*  
Anna Hibbert

*Assistant Costume Designer*  
Genesis Hernandez

*Wigs*  
Danielle Richter

*Sound Engineer*  
Paul Dateh

*Master Electrician*  
Ryan Dohner

*Electrician*  
Kyle Azzopardi

*Carpenters*  
Liam Fitzgerald, Grant Gerrard

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Aaron Diaz, Ethan Kankula, Kelli Murphy, Janhavi Naik

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Walter Brooks, Arthur Glover, Ronell Harris, Bobby Hoffman, Ken Laulum, Shaun Robinson, Stetson "Mo" Sulusi, Sentino Valdez

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Andrew Bulman, Joseph Casillas, Kenneth Dawley, Kevin Lam, Michael Noble, Joshua Valdez, Bradley Wassil

*Company Yoga Instructor*  
Mason Gray

*Box Office Coordinator*  
Skylar Shagan

*House Staff*  
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*Director of Finance*  
Dana Kelly

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Jose Hernandez

Arts Education Support  
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Co-Director  
Dr. Laura Turchi, Arizona State University

*Shakespeare & Social Justice*  
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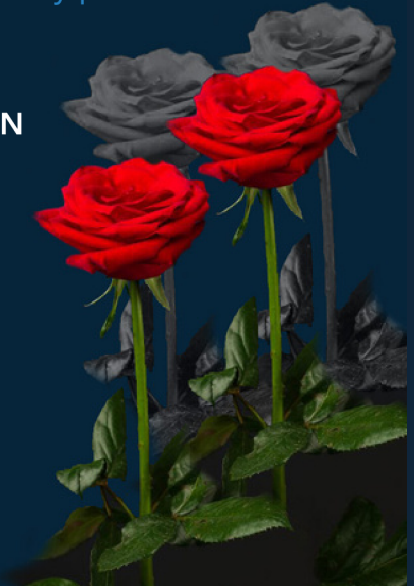


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# WHY IMMERSIVE? A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

BY SARA BEIL



AFTER HOURS  
THEATRE COMPANY

When choosing a show, we always start with this question: “why immersive?” These days, the word “immersive” is everywhere. It’s a big buzzword that can mean anything from a selfie museum to a themed bar to a standard production of *The Lion King* where the actors run through the aisles at the top of the show.

In this production, we didn’t want the immersive elements to feel like a cheap gimmick, but a purposeful ingredient – an “amuse bouche” to the main course.

Our goal for this show is to make Shakespeare accessible, fun, and engaging for ALL audiences – whether this is your first time seeing the show or your 100th. The text can be dense and hard to understand for people who don’t have a pre-existing knowledge of *The Tempest*. So the intent of the immersive elements is used to serve the story, by cementing the larger themes, backstory, and characters of the show before it even begins.

We chose *The Tempest* because the show takes place (for the most part) in one location, in real time. And the magical island that Prospero, Miranda, Caliban, and Ariel all inhabit provided a treasure trove of opportunities. Who doesn’t want to explore a mysterious, magical island?

Since we knew what venue we would be working in, we were able to tailor the experience to our surroundings. Instantly, the lobby became the ship and the main stage became the island.



Scene 1:1. Render by Leah Ramillano.

We wanted to make the island feel alive – as if memories of years past have all imprinted themselves into the sand. So much of the show focuses on Prospero’s side of the story, but how does the story change from the other characters’ perspectives? Our preshow experience focuses on the characters who surround Prospero – specifically the three characters who have grown up on this island.



1st Draft Audience Flow Chart. October 2022. Sara Beil.

What was Miranda’s and Caliban’s relationship like before he was banished to the cave? What impression did Sycorax leave on the island?

We used interactive moments and puzzles as a way to engage the audience before the show and essentially trick them into doing their “homework.” Yes, these moments are (hopefully) fun, but they’re also informational, and we hope that along the way you can pick up some nuggets of backstory. So, as Ariel says, “wander, get lost, roam, and be free.”

Explore the set and see what you find!

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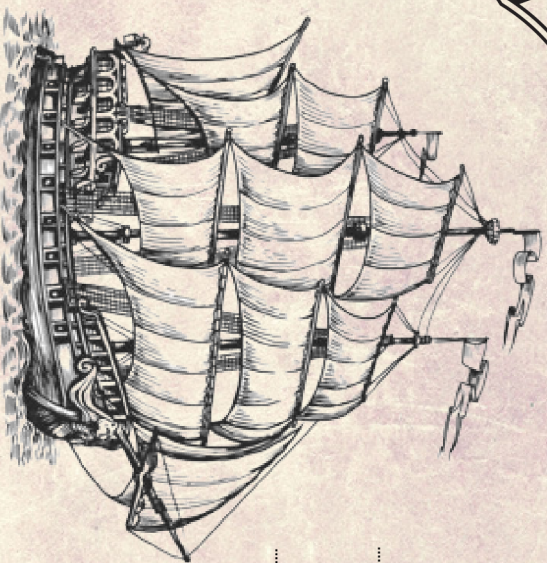
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