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Free Shakespeare in the Park Returns to Redwood City's Red Morton Park with Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

- Thirteenth year of performances in Redwood City begins August 10 -

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that the 2024 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* returns this summer to Redwood City's Red Morton Park, **performing August 10 to August 25 on Saturdays and Sundays at 6 pm.** Performances in Red Morton Park take place in the southwest corner of the park, across from the Magical Bridge Playground and near the intersection of Vera Ave. and Valota Rd. The show will run approximately 90 minutes without intermission.

Thought to be Shakespeare's last solo written play, *The Tempest* tells the tale of a father (Prospero) and daughter (Miranda) set adrift to sea by the jealous machinations of Prospero's brother. On an island inhabited with magical creatures, Prospero uses magic to rule the land, until a tempest washes ashore Prospero's brother and co-conspirators. Complete with clownish shipwrecked sailors, *The Tempest* explores themes of revenge and forgiveness and asks the audience to find the humanity in all the characters they meet.

Director Rotimi Agbabiaka looks to highlight the themes of forgiveness and recovering from loss. Joining him is Assistant Director Ely Sonny Orquiza, who holds an unwavering belief in the remarkable power of equity and representation in storytelling to bridge the divide and differences amongst us.

This will be the Festival's fourth presentation of *The Tempest*, having staged it in 1983 (the debut of San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), directed by Margrit Roma; 1991, directed by Albert Takazauckas; and 2006, directed by Kenneth Kelleher.

Although Free Shakespeare in the Park began over 40 years ago in San Francisco, Redwood City audiences have readily embraced the program beginning in 2012, bringing family members of all ages to experience the magic of live theater and the beauty of Shakespeare's language in a communal park setting. Executive Director Toby Leavitt comments "We're delighted to be so

welcomed in Redwood City. Eliminating barriers to cultural participation is a key component of the Festival and providing professional performances at no charge to the community is what we're all about!"

2024 Free Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Tempest*

Cupertino, Memorial Park Amphitheater, Stevens Creek Blvd and Mary Ave

- Saturday, July 27 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, July 28 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Saturday, August 3 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Sunday, August 4 at 6:00 pm

Redwood City, Red Morton Park, Vera Ave and Valdota Rd

- Saturday, August 10 at 6:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, August 11 at 6:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, August 17 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 18 at 6:00 pm
- Saturday, August 24 at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, August 25 at 6:00 pm

San Francisco, McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater

- Saturday, August 31 at 2:00 pm (Preview)
- Sunday, September 1 at 2:00 pm (Preview)
- Monday (Labor Day), September 2 at 2:00 pm (Opening)
- Saturday, September 7 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday, September 8 at 2:00 pm

Admission is free. For more information call the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival at 415-558-0888 or visit www.sfshakes.org

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Note to Editor: To schedule an interview with artists or staff please email sfshakes@sfshakes.org or call 415-558-0888.

The mission of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival is to make the words and themes of Shakespeare accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status, or level of education.



Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe* as Prospero, and Nicolas Moore as Ferdinand in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's Free Shakespeare in the Park production of 'The Tempest'

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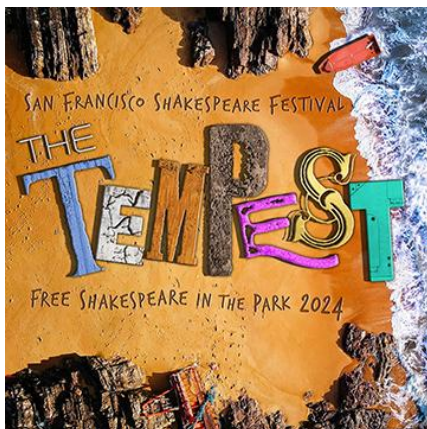
Photo: Jay Yamada



(L to R): Alex Camerino as Miranda, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe* as Prospero, and Nicolas Moore as Ferdinand in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's Free Shakespeare in the Park production of 'The Tempest'

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Photo: Jay Yamada



Free Shakespeare in the Park signature artwork

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