

**ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGE,
ASHTA**

Class: B.A. III

Subject: Understanding Drama

A Presentation by

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A portrait of William Shakespeare, showing him from the chest up. He has a receding hairline, a full beard, and is wearing a dark garment with a prominent white ruffled collar. The portrait is centered on the page.

The Tempest

William Shakespeare

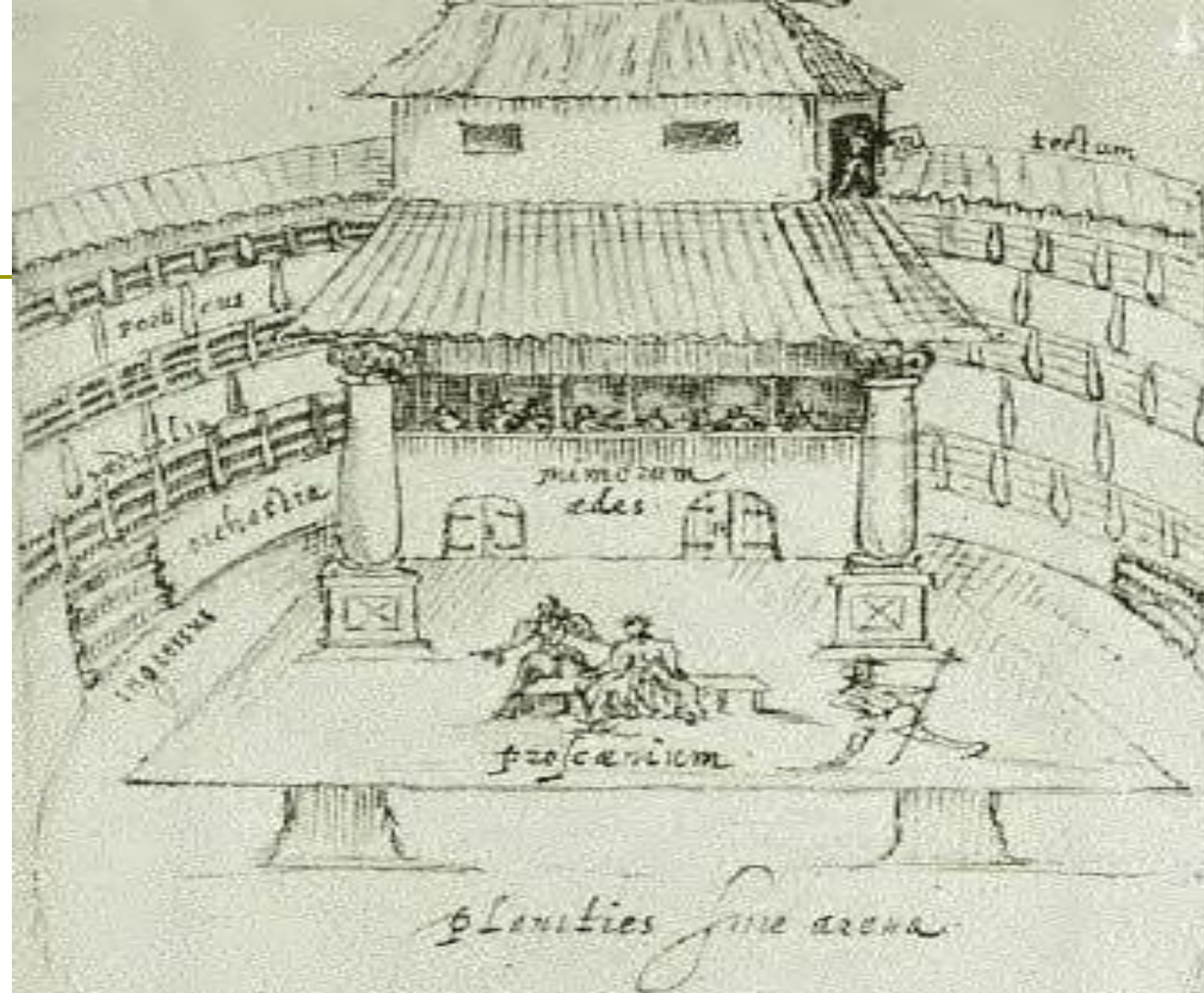
tem·pest (tmpst)*n*

- ❑ 1. A violent windstorm, frequently accompanied by rain, snow, or hail.
- ❑ 2. Furious agitation, commotion, or tumult; an uproar: "The tempest in my mind/Doth from my senses take all feeling" (Shakespeare).
- ❑ ***Idiom: tempest in a teacup/teapot*** A great disturbance or uproar over a matter of little or no importance.

Drama in England

- ❑ Under the rule of Elizabeth I, England became a world power
- ❑ Defeated the Spanish Armada
- ❑ Became unsurpassed in theater
- ❑ Public theaters were disapproved of by the Puritans and so had to be placed outside the London city limits





tantum sed diffusi et punctua, hystoriam correctati
 mi designatum, in quo multi vni, Tauri, et Augustina
 magnitudinis rariet, diffinit carceri et fortis alictur, qui
 sud

More About the Theater

- ❑ Orchestra was generally on stage
- ❑ Designed not just for the elite but for all classes of society
- ❑ Few props, no backgrounds
- ❑ Wore clothing of the time, usually donated clothes from the royal patron
- ❑ No females, all female roles acted by males
- ❑ Less formal, more like a nightclub than now

Poetic Verse

- ❑ Play is written in “blank verse” or iambic pentameter
- ❑ Consists of unrhymed lines of ten syllables: a weak stress is followed by a strong stress
- ❑ Shakespeare also uses prose and rhyming lines in the play
- ❑ Blank verse is usually reserved for the main characters, while prose is often used for the servants and lesser characters

Role of Music

- ❑ Shakespeare used music to establish the scene and help set the mood
- ❑ Instrumental music: associated with the world of action
- ❑ Vocal music: used for the inner world of the character
- ❑ Music could show more effectively how the character was feeling than just the lines alone could

The Tempest

- Comedy
- Written circa 1611
- First known performance at Whitehall Palace, London
- Before King James in November 1611
- May be based upon the story of a true shipwreck in the Bahamas of the *Sea Venture* which was carrying settlers to the Jamestown settlement in 1609

Background

- ❑ Possibly the island for the setting may be actually Ireland
- ❑ Play deals with the concept of settlement and home rule
- ❑ Also, many of the mystic creatures of the play have a Celtic origin
- ❑ More controversial possibility is that the island is a metaphor for London



Last of his Romance/Comedies

- ❑ Other scholars dismiss this theory
- ❑ Final plays were known for their unique originality
- ❑ Considered one of his finest works
- ❑ Magical atmosphere pervades the play regardless

THE TEMPEST

Prospero.—By accident
most bountiful Fortune,
now my dear lady, hath
mine enemies brought to
this shore.

Act 1. Scene II.



Main Characters

- Prospero—could be considered a version of Shakespeare himself
 - Man of great power and influence on the island
 - Ruler of all creatures
 - Yet chooses to leave this behind for peaceful, family life
 - Shakespeare left the stage after this play to return to family life in Stratford
 - Epilogue has him bidding farewell to the stage & asking audience's love & forgiveness

Prospero

- ❑ Rightful Duke of Milan
- ❑ Stranded on an island in the Adriatic sea
- ❑ His brother, Antonio, stranded him there
- ❑ Lover of the arts & magic
- ❑ Learns to practice white/good magic while stranded there

Miranda

- Prospero's daughter
- Has lived with him in exile for 12 years
- Attractive, only 15 years old
- Has only been around her father
- Not seen many men in her life
- Attracts young shipwrecked Ferdinand

Ariel

- ❑ Sprite trapped in a tree
- ❑ Serves his master Prospero after he frees him
- ❑ Helps him perform magic on the island
- ❑ Now wants freedom from him
- ❑ At the end of play he is given freedom

Caliban

- ❑ Giant misshapen beast
- ❑ Savage and deformed slave
- ❑ Hates his master Prospero
- ❑ Only works for him out of fear of Prospero's magic

Other Magical Beings

- Random spirits summoned by Prospero
 - Iris
 - Ceres
 - Juno
 - Nymphs
 - Reapers

Shipwrecked ones

- Alonso-King of Naples
 - Supported Prospero's brother, Antonio, when he took over Milan
- Ferdinand
 - Much loved son of Alonso
 - Falls instantly in love with Miranda
- Sebastian
 - Brother of Alonso
 - Plots to kill the king and take over his title with Antonio, Prospero's brother

Others who have been shipwrecked

□ **Gonzalo**

- Counselor
- Provided food, clothing and books to comfort Prospero and the then three year old Miranda.

□ **Stephano**

- A drunken butler
- Attempts to kill Prospero and take the island for his own. Trinculo and Caliban help him—they think he's a god

□ **Trinculo**

- A jester
- Tries to kill Prospero.

□ **Master of a ship, Boatswains, Mariners**

- Sailors who fight Prospero's storm
- Ultimately shipwrecked on his island.

Islands of the Adriatic



Act I

- Storm batters a ship carrying Alonso and his companions
- Meet Prospero & Miranda
 - Learn that Prospero has created this storm
 - Miranda asks him to stop
 - Learn of their past exile
- Meet Ariel
 - Tells the men have reached land safely
- Caliban
 - Also introduced

Ariel gets involved

- Leads Ferdinand to Miranda
 - They immediately fall in love
- Prospero is rude to Ferdinand
- Prospero fears a too quick courtship

Act II

- Other survivors wake up on island
 - Clothes are fresh and clean
- Ariel's song puts them back to sleep
 - Sebastian & Antonio remain awake
 - Antonio had taken Prospero's place as Duke of Milan
 - Sebastian manipulates Alonso's brother to do the same
- They attempt to kill Alonso
- Ariel wakes the others up to prevent it

Other characters

- Trinculo a jester on the ship
 - Discovers Caliban
 - Thinks can make money on him in England
- Stephano, Trinculo's friend
 - Gives Caliban alcohol
 - Caliban thinks that Stephano is more powerful than Prospero
- The 3 will later try to kill Prospero

Act 3 scene 1

- ❑ Ferdinand is performing heavy laborious tasks for Prospero
- ❑ States not a burden though because of his love for Miranda
- ❑ Miranda offers to take his place & ease his burden
- ❑ Prospero hides & watches
 - He is happy to see the 2 so in love
- ❑ Miranda and Ferdinand declare their love and decide to marry

Act 3 scene 2

- Caliban is very drunk
 - Continues to pledge his affection for Stephano
- Ariel causes trouble among them by appearing to contradict & interrupt each other
- Stephano beats Trinculo for picking on Caliban
- He has Trinculo stand apart from them as the they plot to kill Prospero, Caliban then marry Miranda & rule the island

Act 3, scene 3

- ❑ Alonso and company decide must accept death of Ferdinand
- ❑ Sebastian vows to Antonio to use the next opportunity to kill Alonso
- ❑ Music is heard; a banquet appears
- ❑ As they begin to eat Ariel causes thunder & lightning and calls them “men of sin”
- ❑ Each feels guilty & runs off

Act 4, scene 1

- Prospero agrees to Ferdinand & Miranda's desire to marry
- Tells him he was only testing Ferdinand's intentions with the hard work
 - Still he cautions him about giving in to passion before the marriage
- Ariel goes off to gather the rest of the members of the ship
- Prospero entertains Miranda and Ferdinand with spirits and a celebration

Act 4, scene 1 continued

- Prospero suddenly ends the show
 - Remembers Caliban and the plot
- Ariel has led Caliban, Stephano, and Trinculo on a rough path
- They argue over the beautiful clothes on the line
- Force Caliban to carry what they steal
- Ariel and Prospero send hounds after them to attack and frighten them

Act 5, scene 1

- Prospero's plan is nearly done
- All the enemies are gathered in one place
- Ariel describes the sorrow and emotions of the men
- Prospero decides to show mercy rather than revenge
- Ariel is sent to release them
- Prospero uses his music to soothe them
- He reveals himself as the true Duke of Milan

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- Prospero accuses them of taking away his title and exiling him to the island
 - Alonso begs his forgiveness
 - Tells of the loss of his son
 - Prospero explains he has also lost his daughter
 - Miranda & Ferdinand are revealed happy and united
 - Ariel brings in the sailors who state the boat is in readiness to leave

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- ❑ Caliban and the conspirators next are brought forward
 - ❑ Drunk, tangled in stolen clothes
 - ❑ Caliban has a change of heart
 - Recognizes his true master as Prospero
 - Not the drunken Stephano
 - ❑ Vows to serve Prospero faithfully
 - ❑ They listen to Prospero tell his story of life on the island and he promises to return home to Milan