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Shipwrecked Classic Offers Evening of Tropic Delights

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Eric Asakawa (the spirit, Ariel) and Ali Johnston (Miranda).
Photo by Jerry Rousselle.

WHAT: THE TEMPEST by William Shakespeare

WHEN: September 25 – October 18
8 pm Fridays & Saturdays
2 pm Sundays

WHERE: Pacific Crest Community School Theater
116 NE 29th Ave., Portland, 97232

TICKETS: \$20 Adult/\$16 Students & Seniors
Online: bluemonkeytheater.org
Phone: 503.593.2466

Get swept away to a tropical island paradise filled with mischievous sprites, vengeful monsters and mighty wizards in Shakespeare's most enchanting comedy. Prospero's magical island has been spirited off to the South Pacific where the comedy and romance of the Bard's final play combines with a rollicking Polynesian beat. This is a sun-drenched fantasy adventure filled with music, dance and more than a few arial surprises.

Local actor David Sikking stars as Prospero, the shipwrecked Duke of Milan turned wizard, who calls up a terrible sea storm to ensnare the royal family that usurped and marooned him on the island with his young daughter.

Sikking is joined by Blue Monkey teen interns Eric Asakawa and Ali Johnston as Ariel the spirit and Miranda, Prospero's beautiful daughter. This casting furthers Blue Monkey's mission to present seasoned local professionals side by side with some of the city's best and brightest young talent.

Drammy award winner Rollin Carlson takes a turn as Trinculo, the court jester, with Timothy Scarrott as Stephano the drunken butler and Paul Susi as the vengeful island monster Caliban. The cast also features Tim McKennie, Robert Projansky, Andrew Wade, Jessica Tidd and Patrick Oury as the royal castaways who incur the magician's wrath, with a host of live musicians and dancers as the island's native spirits.

The evocative settings and lush lighting designs are by John Armour and Alexz Eccles with costumes by DeMara Cabrera. Choreography is a collaboration with Do Jump! Movement Theater and Kukui Polynesian Revue. Blue Monkey Artistic Director John Monteverde is once again at the helm.

"There is so much spectacle in this play," says Monteverde. "More music, dance and pagentry than any other Shakespeare play, I think, and so I feel lucky to have such a large creative group of artists bringing their many talents to this production."

As part of Blue Monkey's "Shake Up Shakespeare" program, weekday school matinee performances, with audience talk backs, will be offered to local area middle and high schools free of charge.

THE TEMPEST is made possible by generous grants from the Herbert A. Templeton Foundation and the Oregon Arts Commission/National Endowment for the Arts.