

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 14, 2024

Media Contact:

Katie Darragh, Mueller Communications

firststage@muellercommunications.com, 414-390-5500



[DOWNLOAD MEDIA ASSETS & PRODUCTION DETAILS](#)

**ROMANCE, REVENGE, AND RAUCOUS COMEDY ABOUND IN
THE TEMPEST, A YOUNG COMPANY PERFORMANCE PROJECT**

Join First Stage in a timeless tale of heartfelt reconciliation as the banished Prospero orchestrates the ultimate final showdown.

MILWAUKEE — [First Stage](#) — one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families — invites you to a mesmerizing journey into [THE TEMPEST](#), where magic, mystery, and romance collide in one of Shakespeare's most captivating plays.

THE TEMPEST, a [Young Company Performance Project](#), runs Dec. 6-15, 2024, at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center. **Tickets are available now on [FirstStage.org](#).**

"We are thrilled to announce the opening of our Young Company season with William Shakespeare's THE TEMPEST, a play that celebrates the art of storytelling as Shakespeare's own farewell to the stage," said Michelle LoRicco, First Stage associate artistic director. "Shakespeare's victory lap offers much to our students as creatives, and with Marcy Kearns at the helm as director, will no doubt be meaningful and beautiful to behold."

Set on a remote, enchanted island, THE TEMPEST follows the story of Prospero, a deposed duke with powerful sorcery, as he summons a fierce storm to bring his enemies to his shores for a final showdown. Will it be revenge or reconciliation?

With unforgettable characters, enchanted creatures, and themes of love, forgiveness, and redemption, this tale invites audiences to explore the power of transformation and the human spirit. Don't miss this spellbinding production that will transport you to a world where the line between fantasy and reality is delightfully blurred.

The show runs approximately two hours, with a brief intermission. Recommended for families with young people ages 13-17 and theater lovers of all ages.

Creative Team

Young Company Director ... Michelle LoRicco
Director ... Marcella Kearns
Fight & Movement Director ... James Cheatham
Costume Coordinator ... Michelle Verbos
Lighting Coordinator ... Marion Frank
Sound Coordinator ... Derek Buckles
Stage Manager ... Carrie John

Assistant Stage Manager ... Marko Van Slyke

Young Company Cast

Shipmaster / Stephano ... Elena Marking, Franklin
Boatswain / Spirit / Juno ... Sophia Bernhardt, Greendale
Mariner / Spirit / Ceres ... Laura Mendoza-Sanchez, Bayside
Mariner / Spirit / Iris ... Amélie Davis-Quiroz, Waukesha
Alonso ... Lucy Kuhnen-Grooms, Shorewood
Sebastian ... Cole Sison, Franklin



Antonio ... Lola Onorato, Milwaukee
Ferdinand ... Abram Nelson, Whitefish Bay
Gonzalo ... William Swoboda, Milwaukee
Prospero ... Silver Anderson, Milwaukee
Miranda ... Alice Rivera, Milwaukee
Ariel ... Josie Van Slyke, Milwaukee
Caliban ... Maya Thomure, Whitefish Bay
Trinculo ... Thatcher Jacobs, Milwaukee

Understudy for Prospero ... Ben Nowacek, Wauwatosa
Understudy for Ariel ... Valkyrie Ladd, Milwaukee
Understudy for Caliban ... Thomas Bastardo, Saint Francis
Swing ... Kate Michael, Fredonia
Swing ... Hazel Dye, Milwaukee
Swing ... Edward Owczarski, Milwaukee
Swing ... Natalie Ottman, Milwaukee

Don't miss out on the rest of the season productions coming soon! Find tickets and additional information at www.firststage.org/2024-2025-Season.

- **Nov. 29 - Dec. 29** RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER™: THE MUSICAL
- **Jan. 18 - Feb. 16** THE DINOSAUR PLAY
- **Jan. 31 - Feb. 16** EMILY SONG AND THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
- **March 8 - April 6** DISNEY & PIXAR'S FINDING NEMO
- **March 28 - April 13** RIDE THE CYCLONE: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION
- **May 2 - 18** ESPERANZA RISING

For additional information about the 2024-2025 season and to order tickets, please go to firststage.org or call (414) 267-2961.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE: [Download media assets and additional production information](#)

###

About First Stage

Founded in 1987, First Stage is one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families, and a driving force behind the creation of the best and most innovative plays for family audiences, theater training programs for young people, and education initiatives for its schools and community. First Stage ensures that all programming is not only accessible to its community but that it is reflective of the community it serves.

First Stage produces plays that honor the young person's point of view, include diverse and traditionally underrepresented voices, and inspire meaningful conversations. First Stage has presented more than 70 world premiere productions that address important subject matters relevant to today's youth. The Theater Academy is one of the nation's largest high-impact theater training programs for young people (3-18 years old). Through a challenging curriculum taught by professional teaching artists, the Academy nurtures life skills through stage skills and includes the Next Steps Program that tailors Theater Academy classes to the needs of young people on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. As Wisconsin's leader in arts-integrated education in schools, First Stage's dynamic Theater in Education Programs cleverly blend theater activities with standard curriculum—allowing more than 10,000 students annually to learn traditional academic subjects through creativity and self expression.

First Stage is a member of TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, Milwaukee Arts Partners and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). For more information, visit firststage.org.