THE TEMPEST

Adapted by Trish Black Melehan
From the play by William Shakespeare

Performance Rights

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co. Inc. Call the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
www.histage.com
© 2004 by Trish Black Melehan

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/tempest-the

DEDICATION

For Noah and May Ann, who came to all my shows and clapped the loudest.
For Sofiya, who will soon learn to clap.
And finally, for Jim, ever the critic.

STORY OF THE PLAY

A ship at sea is suddenly swept up in a fierce tempest. The King of Naples, the Duke of Milan, and the crew become shipwrecked upon a mysterious island. Unbeknownst to them, the island is ruled by Prospero and Prospera, the rightful Duke and Duchess of Milan, who with their magical powers, have cast the royals upon the island with an ultimate plan. But will Prospero and Prospera's scheme be cut short by their own prisoner/slave, Caliban, who along with the drunken butler, Stephano, have hatched a scheme of their own to take over the island? Will the tempest destroy everything or leave in its wake a lasting peace and harmony? This stunning theatrical version of the Shakespeare classic remains true to the original poetry and language but has been modified to make it more easily produced. Several girls' parts have been added, and the role of Prospera has been created to provide a strong leading female role. The fabric of Shakespeare's vision is also created with a wonderful cast of comic characters, and there's plenty of room for extras as sprites, reapers and nymphs. Performance time about 75 minutes.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE
(9 m, 8 w, 5 flexible, extras)

ALONSO: King of Naples; father of Ferdinand.
MARGARET: Wife of the King of Naples, mother of Ferdinand.
SEBASTIAN: King's brother.
FERDINAND: Son to the King of Naples.
PROSPERO: Duke of Milan.
PROSPERA: Duchess of Milan.
MIRANDA: Daughter of Prospero and Prospera.
ARIEL: Spirit attendant to Prospero and Prospera.
ANTONIO: Prospero's brother, the Duke of Milan.
GONZALO: Honest old counselor to Alonso.
FRANCISCA: A lady.
ADRIAN: A lord.
CALIBAN: A savage and deformed prisoner/slave.
TRINCULA: A jester, played by a girl.
STEPHANO: A drunken butler.
MASTER OF THE SHIP
BOATSWAIN
MARINER 1
MARINER 2
IRIS: Female messenger of the gods and spirit of the rainbow.
CERES: Goddess of the earth and patroness of agriculture.
JUNO: Wife of Jupiter, presented by spirits.
EXTRAS: Mariners, Nymphs, Reapers, and Spirits.

PROPS

Books of magic
(2) magician's robes
Flute or tambourine, for Ariel
Bundle of wood
Woodpile
Swords
Bottle/tankard
Banquet table and chairs
Dinnerware
Dishes or baskets of food
Royal apparel
(2) staffs
Chess board
Fairy dust (glitter)

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Raging storm
Thunder
Lightning
Solemn, strange music
Soft music
Strange, hollow noise
Approaching hunters

Note: Fairy dust, masks, lighting, or magic robes can indicate when characters are "invisible."

ACT I
Scene I

(AT RISE: On a ship at sea. A tempestuous STORM with THUNDER and LIGHTNING. ENTER MASTER OF THE SHIP and BOATSWAIN.)

MASTER: Boatswain!
BOATSWAIN: Here, master; what cheer?
MASTER: Good man, speak to the mariners. Fall to't, yarely, or we run ourselves aground. Bestir, bestir. *(HE EXITS.)*

(ENTER MARINERS.)

BOATSWAIN: Heigh, my hearts! Cheerly, cheerly, my hearts! Yare, yare! Take in the topsail. Tend to the master's whistle.
MARINER 1: *(To the storm.)* Blow, till thou burst thy wind, if room enough!

(ENTER ALONSO, MARGARET, SEBASTIAN, ANTONIO, FERDINAND, GONZALO, and OTHERS.)

ALONSO: Good boatswain, have care. Where's the master? Play the men.
BOATSWAIN: I pray now, keep below.
MARINER 2: *(To another MARINER.)* Marry, if it's not a want wit of an elegant here to hinder our labour. *(To the storm.)* Becalm thy breath, thou fiery fiend!
ANTONIO: Where is the master, boatswain?
BOATSWAIN: Do you not hear him? You mar our labour. Keep your cabins; you do assist the storm.
GONZALO: *(To BOATSWAIN.)* Nay, good man, be patient.
BOATSWAIN: When the sea is. Hence! What cares these roarers for the name of king? To cabin! Silence! Trouble us not.
GONZALO: Good man, yet remember whom thou hast aboard.

BOATSWAIN: None that I more love than myself. You are a councillor; if you can command these elements to silence, and work the peace of the present, we will not hand a rope more. Use your authority. If you cannot, give thanks you have lived so long, and make yourself ready in your cabin for the mischance of the hour, if it so hap. Cheerly, good hearts! Out of our way, I say. *(HE EXITS.)*

GONZALO: I have great comfort from this fellow. Methinks he hath no drowning mark upon him; his complexion is perfect for the gallows.

MARGARET Aye, 't is true, "Who's born to be hanged will never drown."

GONZALO Stand fast, good Fate, to his hanging, make the rope of his destiny our cable, for our own doth little advantage. If he be not born to be hanged, our case is miserable.

(GONZALO, SEBASTIAN, MARGARET, and ANTONIO EXIT. ENTER BOATSWAIN and MASTER.)

MASTER: Down with the topmast! Yare! Lower, lower! Bring her to try with main-course.

(A CRY from within is heard.)

MARINER 2: Hail, my hearties, the mast wails. A plague upon this howling!

(ENTER SEBASTIAN, ANTONIO, and GONZALO.)

BOATSWAIN: Yet again! What do you here? Shall we give o'er and drown? Have you a mind to sink?

SEBASTIAN: A pox o' your throat, you bawling, blasphemous, incharitable dog!

BOATSWAIN: Work you then.

MARINER 1: *(To other MARINERS.)* Aye, an' that a sorry sight, as like as a witch's brew turns a rum.

End of Freeview

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing
https://histage.com/tempest-the

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!