

STURM (THE TEMPEST)

William Shakespeare · Adapted and translated by Joachim Lux

SYNOPSIS

An island in the middle of nowhere. Now Prospero's island.

Prospero was once the Duke of Milan, but was overthrown by his brother Antonio because he was more interested in art, scholarship and white magic than in the affairs of state.

He was seized, cast adrift at sea and eventually washed ashore on an unknown island somewhere between Tunis and Naples, together with the most precious things he possessed: his young daughter Miranda and the books of magic that a loyal vassal had secretly placed in their small boat. Little by little, Prospero has taken possession of this seemingly deserted island, full of sounds and mysteries, and has once again made himself its ruler - above all with the help of the magical powers he has studied in his books.

But the island was not uninhabited.

Caliban, a wild and untamed creature somewhere between a native islander and a monster, is the only son of the witch Sycorax, the island's former ruler, and after her death its rightful master. At first Prospero nurtures him and teaches him language. But after Caliban attempts to violate Miranda, Prospero subjugates him, and from then on Caliban is forced to serve him as a slave.

Ariel is a magical spirit of the air. Imprisoned for years in the cleft of a tree by Caliban's mother Sycorax, Ariel is eventually freed by Prospero and enters his service. Yet there is nothing Ariel longs for more than freedom. Everything might have been well for Prospero - were it not for his desire for revenge.

One day, a ship passes close to the island. On board are Prospero's enemies: Alonso, King of Naples, and his son Ferdinand, as well as Prospero's brother Antonio, now the illegitimate Duke of Milan.

With Ariel's help, Prospero conjures a tremendous storm that leaves the noble travellers shipwrecked on the island. Scattered across the island, the survivors wander about disoriented, each believing themselves to be among the only ones left alive.

Ferdinand, lured safely from the waves to the shore by the song of a water nymph, encounters Prospero's young daughter Miranda - and the two immediately fall in love. Is this simply an island romance? Or is it part of Prospero's secret plan? Magic seems to be at work ...

Meanwhile, Caliban secretly persuades the drunken butler Stephano and the fool Trinculo, both likewise stranded on the island, to murder Prospero and thereby free him from his magical bondage. Two clowns, then, are to liberate the enslaved Caliban from servitude. But can they succeed?

Will Prospero escape the attempt on his life and carry out his bloody revenge against Alonso and Antonio? Or will the two rulers be reconciled? Does the young love between Miranda and Ferdinand stand a chance? Will Ariel finally gain his freedom? And will Caliban once again be able to rule his island without restraint?

In the end, however, something unexpected happens. Prospero arranges the union of his daughter Miranda with the shipwrecked prince Ferdinand - and forgives his adversaries Alonso and Antonio. He even releases Ariel from his service and grants the spirit the freedom of the air.

Only Caliban remains enslaved and unredeemed in an ending otherwise characteristic of Shakespeare's late romances.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

CAST

Prospero	Andreas Erfurth
Caliban	Martin Radecke
	<i>until 2024: Marius Mik</i>
Ariel	Laurenz Wiegand

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Kai Frederic Schrickel
Set and Costume Design	Hannah Hamburger
Music	Rüdiger Krause
Assistant Director	Jessica von Wehner
Technical Director	Kai Dommert

Running time
1 hour 25 minutes, no interval

Performance rights
Rowohlt Theater Verlag, Hamburg

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21 April 2022, T-Werk Potsdam

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