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**OPERA HOUSE ARTS' SUMMER SEASON KICKS OFF WITH A
SPECIAL OUTDOOR PRODUCTION OF THE TEMPEST**

Deer Isle adds its own special magic to Shakespeare's most magical island play of love and vengeance.

**The press performance is Saturday June 30 at 5:30pm.
Email for press tickets, high-resolution images, and interviews.**

[June 11, 2018: Stonington, ME] Rehearsals are underway and tickets are going quickly for Opera House Arts' summer "Shakespeare in Stonington" production of **THE TEMPEST** at the historic Ames Farm, a saltwater farm overlooking the Deer Island Thorofare.

In 2015, director Peter Richards used the magnificent landscape of Ames Farm to transport audiences to 19th-century Russia with his highly acclaimed production of *The Seagull*. This summer, Ames Farm becomes an enchanted isle, "full of noises, sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not." Come and experience the thrill of live performance in the open air, with the Deer Island Thorofare as majestic backdrop.

One of Shakespeare's last plays, **The Tempest** tells the story of Prospero, a magician exiled to a remote island, who seizes the opportunity to take revenge on the brother who wronged him by unleashing a churning storm to shipwreck the man who stole his dukedom. But bitter revenge is upended by newfound love in this sublime comedic masterpiece that proves we are all "such stuff as dreams are made on."

"*The Tempest* is a perfect play to stage outdoors on Deer Isle," says Opera House Arts Interim Artistic Director Peter Richards. "Shakespeare's rich, poetic language is full of humor, and the magnificent island landscape is sure to make the theatrical experience a magical one."

The production will travel around Ames Farm, with acting taking place in multiple locations. The early curtain time (all performances begin at 5:30pm) ensures that audiences will enjoy a gorgeous Stonington sunset as the play reaches its ending, with characters finding forgiveness and friendship after the tumultuous title storm.

The Tempest reunites director Peter Richards with many returning cast members and designers. Actors Kathleen Turco-Lyon (last seen as Arkadina in Richards' production of *The Seagull*), Bari Robinson, Paul Farwell, Ryan Knowles, and Marvin Merritt IV have all been featured on Opera House Arts stage in the past, and the design team, composed of Julia Sears (Associate Director), Robin Vest (sets), Jennifer Paar (costumes) and Mark Van Hare (sound) have all collaborated before as well.

THE TEMPEST takes place at Ames Farm, located at 161 Indian Point Road. Tickets are \$25 and \$40 and may be purchased online at www.operahousearts.org or by calling 207-367-2788. Deer Isle students may attend all Opera House Arts productions for free.

THE TEMPEST Performance Schedule

Friday, June 29 5:30pm

Saturday, June 30 5:30pm Press Performance
Sunday, July 23 5:30pm

Thursday, July 5 5:30pm
Friday, July 6 5:30pm
Saturday, July 7 5:30pm
Sunday, July 8 5:30pm

Wednesday, July 11 5:30pm
Thursday, July 12 5:30pm
Friday, July 13 5:30pm
Saturday, July 14 5:30pm
Sunday, July 15 5:30pm

Creative Credits:

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Peter Richards

Cast:

<u>Character</u>	<u>Actor</u>
Ariel	Thea Brooks*
Gonzalo	Paul Farwell
Alonso	Tor Hillhouse*
Miranda	Taylor Karin
Ferdinand	David Keohane
Caliban	Ryan Knowles*
Boatswain / Ensemble	Marvin Merritt IV
Sephano / Sebastian	Arisael Rivera*
Antonio / Trinculo	Bari Robinson*
Prospero	Kathleen Turco-Lyon*

Stage Manager	Jennifer Caster*
Set Designer	Robin Vest
Costume Designer	Jennifer Paar
Sound Designer	Mark Van Hare

About Opera House Arts Summer 2018 Theatre Season

Opera House Arts Summer 2018 Theatre Season, which runs from June 29-August 26, features two productions: Shakespeare's classic tale of old revenge and new love (***The Tempest*, June 29-July 15**), and a World Premiere celebration of one of Maine's most beloved authors (***I Have Seen Horizons: Ruth Moore's Stories from Maine*, August 16-26**).

Both productions invite audiences to celebrate life in Maine through their powerful connections to the island and the region's history and culture. From the beauty of the historic saltwater farm

that will serve as a backdrop for Shakespeare in Stonington to the rich Down East characters who fill Ruth Moore's stories, Opera House Arts honors the vibrant spirit of this corner of Maine.

About Opera House Arts

Opera House Arts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was originally established to restore the historic Stonington Opera House, on the National Register of Historic Places, to its original role as a center for performance and a community gathering space. Now in its 18th year, OHA produces live theatre, music and dance in both the Stonington Opera House, and on our second stage, the restored Burnt Cove Church Community Center.

Opera House Arts' high quality, original, professional performance programs serve all of Hancock County's winter and summer residents and visitors, of all ages, with special emphasis on the residents and students of Deer Isle and the Blue Hill Peninsula. We offer a full year-round schedule of professional theatre, film, educational programs, digital media, concerts, and community events.

OHA is an unique organization. Many of our audiences know us as a professional theatre presenting plays, concerts and family programming in the summer – and indeed we are that, but we are also so much more. As soon as the calendar turns the page from August to September, we dive back into the other half of our identity: as a civic gathering space rooted in the belief that access to and participation in the arts can change lives.

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Photos and Captions:

Tempest Rehearsal1.jpg: Kathleen Turco-Lyon plays Prospero the magician in Opera House Arts outdoor production of "The Tempest" at Ames Farm in Stonington, June 29 –July 15. Photo courtesy of Opera House Arts.

Tempest Rehearsal2.jpg: Prospero (Kathleen Turco-Lyon) charms Ariel (Thea Brooks), in rehearsal for "The Tempest" at Ames Farm in Stonington, with the Deer Isle Thorofare as backdrop. Photo courtesy of Opera House Arts.