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## Hayground School Kicks Off Shakespeare Residency



Scene from last year's performance of "Romeo and Juliet". *Image courtesy of WordHampton*

**Bridgehampton** - The Hayground School kicks off their 13th year with the Shakespeare Residency. Acting teachers and directors from Shakespeare & Company from Lenox, MA, spend three weeks at the school with the students exploring and producing parts of a Shakespeare play, which this year is "The Tempest." The residency culminates with a performance by the students of The Tempest at Bay Street Theatre on Thursday, January 28 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for the performance, which goes to Hayground School.

The entire school community immerses itself in Elizabethan life for these exciting three weeks.; Curriculum in all areas, art, literature, math and more, are all dedicated to Elizabethan times. During the first week of the residency, students interpreted lines of "The Tempest" through art. A potluck supper was held introducing the actors from Shakespeare & Company with the students and their parents and rehearsal for the performance began with the creation of sets and costumes. The students also worked on an Elizabethan dance - Pavane.

Hayground students (ages three through 14) experience the world of Shakespeare in a unique way. Before they are given the play, they have the opportunity to explore the language through art and theatre games. This creates a context for their lines and roles. Several different students often share a character in a single production. For instance, in "The Tempest" there are five Mirandas played by different students ranging in age from six through 14. Although the play is directed in a creative way, the beautiful language remains intact. The performance will feature 45 actors made up of students and teachers. Costumes, sets, props, sound, lights, playbill, make up, publicity and photos/video are all created by students, teachers and parents.

"The Tempest" was most likely one of the last plays that Shakespeare wrote solely by himself around 1610-1611. The play's main themes are romance, magic, betrayal, forgiveness and justice. The basis of the story is: Prospero, the Duke of Milan and his then three year old daughter, Miranda, were set adrift to drown by the Duke's brother Antonio. Their small boat eventually landed on a small island where they lived for 12 years. Prospero, also a magician, found an opportunity to get revenge on his enemies, his brother and the King of Naples. He conjured up a storm or tempest, which caused their ship to run ashore. A romance develops between Miranda and Ferdinand (son of the King of Naples) and with the help of spirits, goddesses, sprites and other mythical creatures (Caliban), justice is served.



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### **About Shakespeare & Company**

Launching its 32nd season in the culturally-rich Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts in Lenox, Shakespeare & Company aspires to create a theatre of unprecedented excellence rooted in the classical ideals of inquiry, balance, and harmony; a company that performs as the Elizabethans did - in love with poetry, physical prowess, and the mysteries of the universe. With a core of over 150 artists, the company performs Shakespeare, generating opportunities for collaboration between actors, directors, and designers of all races, nationalities, and backgrounds. Shakespeare & Company provides original, in-depth, classical training and performance methods. The company also develops and produces new plays of social and political significance. Shakespeare & Company's educational programs inspire a new generation of students and scholars to discover the resonance of Shakespeare's truths in the everyday world, demonstrating the influence that classical theatre can have within a community.

The Hayground School is located at 151 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton.

For more information call 631-537-7068, or go to [www.haygroundschool.org](http://www.haygroundschool.org).