Summer 7-1-2011

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Recommended Citation
Winthrop University, "Shakespeare Carolina at Winthrop to Present Two Productions This Summer" (2011). Winthrop News 2011. 110.
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Shakespeare Carolina at Winthrop to Present Two Productions This Summer

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Shakespeare Carolina is on a mission to make "summer" synonymous with "The Bard."

Winthrop and Shakespeare Carolina, a classical theatre company, will continue their partnership, Shakespeare Carolina at Winthrop, with the summer productions of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "The Tempest" in Johnson Theatre on campus. In July, gender line-blurring comedy "Two Gentlemen of Verona" will come to Johnson Theatre July 13-16 at 8 p.m. nightly and July 17 at 3 p.m. Shakespeare Carolina sets this funny, frenetic tale in trendy 1980s Milan, where two sets of lovers struggle to overcome all odds and walk hand-in-hand down the runway of love (and fashion).

"The Tempest," one of Shakespeare's most lyrical and intriguing works, will run Aug. 3-6 at 8 p.m. nightly and Aug. 7 at 3 p.m. Shakespeare Carolina's production of this intriguing classic – which includes romance, comedy, drama, revenge, attempted murder and sorcery – incorporates elements of Beach Blanket Bingo and Lost, with some lucha libre wrestling and a late Chinese food feast added for good measure. This inventive take on Shakespeare's tragicomedy promises "a riot of color, sound and comedy," according to Chris O'Neill, managing artist director.

Shakespeare Carolina is the Metrolina area's only theatre company devoted to the classical canon. The organization promotes color- and gender-blind casting as well as the universality of Shakespeare's canon to all theatregoers. Founded in 1997, Shakespeare Carolina has received funding from the Arts Council of York County, the South Carolina Arts Commission and the Rock Hill Tourism Foundation.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students/seniors for all performances. To buy tickets, visit http://www.carolinatix.org. For more information about the shows, visit the Shakespeare Carolina website.