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Winthrop University
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ROCK HILL, S.C. - Part "Beach Blanket Bingo" and part "Lost" with some lucha libre wrestling added in, Shakespeare Carolina at Winthrop's revamp of "The Tempest" will be anything but run-of-the-mill.

Winthrop and Shakespeare Carolina, the Metrolina area's only theatre company devoted to the classical canon, will present "The Tempest" Aug. 3-6 at 8 p.m. nightly and Aug. 7 at 3 p.m. in Johnson Theatre. Shakespeare Carolina’s production of this classic – acclaimed for its blend of comedy, drama, romance and much more – combines elements of William Asher's 1965 beach party film "Beach Blanket Bingo" and ABC’s hit show "Lost." A late Chinese food smörgåsbord and bouts of lucha libre wrestling will add even more color the production's already-vivid design and energetic atmosphere.

Chris O'Neil, Shakespeare Carolina’s managing artist director, said that this take on "The Tempest" will be "a riot of color, sound and comedy." There will be a Tiki-themed after-show celebration in Johnson lobby, and audience members are encouraged to wear their island gear.

Shakespeare Carolina and Winthrop announced the creation of Shakespeare Carolina at Winthrop in July 2010. "The Tempest" marks the partnership's second production, and both productions featured Winthrop faculty and students as well as Shakespeare Carolina actors. In the future, the partnership will expand to include forming an apprentice company of high school students to grow talent in the community; developing parallel early music and early dance programming alongside the theatre productions; and offering theatre classes (taught by Winthrop faculty/students who are members of Shakespeare Carolina at Winthrop) during the day for local K-12 students.

Tickets for "The Tempest" are $15 for adults and $10 for students/seniors. Visit http://www.carolinatix.org to purchase tickets, and visit the Shakespeare Carolina website to find out more about the production.