

# UW student works magic on 'The Tempest'

One reason why Carolyne Haycraft wanted to direct Shakespeare's "The Tempest" was because it has magic in it.

"I felt I could reach out to young people without intimidating them," she says, noting that too many people, including her husband, are often frustrated by the mystique surrounding Shakespeare or find his language inaccessible.

Although she hasn't tampered with Shakespeare's language in her University Theatre production of "The Tempest," which opens Friday night at the Mitchell Theatre,

## THEATER

Nadine Goff

Haycraft has excised some of the play's exposition and "tweaked it here and there" to emphasize the action. She's also set the play in the modern world and included music by the French techno-funk duo Daft Punk, as well as the industrial sounds of Nine Inch Nails.

"I'm gearing it toward a high school audience, but I'm not dumbing it down," she avers.

"I do think I'll get a lot of

flack from traditionalists," she continues, describing one aspect of her production that may unsettle some people: Ariel, "an airy spirit," turns the traditional wedding masque into a rave.

"I think the set and the lighting are fabulous," says Haycraft. "The whole production is a spectacle that includes dancing, singing, puppets and shadow puppets." It will also include an on-stage percussionist and some unusual swords, adapted to be worn or carried by men in modern dress.

For the role of Prospero, "the right Duke of Milan," one of the main characters in "The

Tempest," Haycraft opted to cast a woman: Barbara Clayton, a member of the theater department faculty, as well as an experienced actor and director.

A native of Australia, Haycraft, a third-year student in the UW-Madison theater department's MFA program in directing, chose "The Tempest" as her thesis production almost two years ago. In addition to the magical aspects of the play, she also chose it because of her interest in the human struggle between the desire for revenge and the need for forgiveness that most people feel when they are hurt or betrayed, themes explored

in the play.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., the play and its themes have taken on a new significance. Haycraft says: "It's now a very timely play. It's very relevant to what's going on in the world right now."

"The Tempest" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-27 and Nov. 1-3 in Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave. Tickets are \$14 (\$10 for UW-Madison students). Call 262-1500.

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