

Chris Trueman - Director
BA Philosophy (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Directing: Macbeth, Rhinoceros, The Adventures
of Anne Marie de Bourbon (NNT)
Acting: Bent, Romeo And Juliet, Foxfinder (NNT)



In all honesty I had not read *The Tempest* before January. I knew that I wanted to direct a comedy which had a sense of optimism and sincerity, yet would allow us enough creative freedom to make it our own. A couple of friends suggested I read it and immediately I was hooked. 'An exiled, bitter wizard hatches a plot to regain his Dukedom by shipwrecking his enemies onto a magical island' - it was the perfect premise, combined with cheeky spirits, a slave monster, a drunken butler and a jester; it seems like Shakespeare had written it for me.

Of course, as with any Shakespeare, *The Tempest* appeals to everyone: The search for self and the lust for power that comes with it are universal elements of society. In Prospero we find a theatrically aware protagonist, who acknowledges the fragility of our self-constructed narratives, yet feels compelled to regain his power using a farce. Prospero presents a complex challenge for any actor and we would like to thank Maddy Strauss for her breathtaking portrayal of this renowned role and her ability to give us goose bumps ever since auditions.

Directing a Shakespeare was a daunting task at first. However, the commitment, enthusiasm and abilities of our extremely talented cast quickly dismissed any doubts. I knew the play was a comedy by its form, but had never expected to laugh so wholeheartedly. It is a testament to your abilities as actors that you can draw out the humour and truthful human conflict from the script. Both Emma and I are control freaks and generally feel uneasy about delegating anything to anyone, with three notable objections: Joanne, Sam and David. Your dedication to shows is inspiring and the technical abilities you have to translate vague wafflings into an imaginative sound and lighting design, seamlessly executed, is simply astounding.

It is often remarked that you cannot polish a turd. Whenever you hear that phrase I would like you to think 'Not true, Emma Kendall can'. I have had the good fortune to work with one of the best (if not the best) at the New Theatre. How she organises eleven cast members, six stage managers, three techies and one actively difficult director, all with a huge grin on her face, is nothing short of witchcraft. I'd suggest we burn her alive if it wasn't for my increasing dependence upon her. Emma, it has been my pride and privilege to call you my producer, but it is my honour to call my friend. Embarrassing as it is, I am welling up quite a bit as I write this. However, neither you nor I, Emma, are strangers to a little embarrassment and you have no idea how much I will miss our late night updates on each other's most recent faux pas. There will always be a place for you in my heart, as well as my sauna. I would wish you luck in your search for career but I know you will not need it. I look forward to sponging off your success in years to come.

Apologies for the length of this. To be honest I usually hate writing these things. They always seem like the self indulgent ramblings of pretentious nitwits. However, after recently turning twenty-two I've come to accept that's exactly what I am. Also, this may well be my last production at NNT (panic masters?) and so it is my last opportunity to thank all those at NNT who have made my university experience not just bearable, but at points genuinely fun (yes I said I've had fun, get over it). Be it cast members, tech teams, backstage or committee members the work that you put into this place a wonderful haven, full of talented misfits whom I shall sorely miss.

All that is left to say is that we hope you enjoy the show... oh, and cheers Bill for writing a blinder of a script! Happy Birthday, mate.

Emma Kendall - Producer
BA English (3rd Year)

Previous Experience -
Producing: Macbett, (NNT)
West (NSDF run)
OPEN (Edinburgh)

Acting: Sketchy Characters, Rhinoceros, The Infant (NNT)
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Dr Faustus (Lakeside)



Chris Trueman, circa Dec. 2015, somewhere in the aftermath of Macbett, probably surrounded by capes: 'Next term we're going to do a small play. Something with a maximum of 5 actors that we can do in the first or second slot.'

This didn't happen.

Our cast have been dedicated and enthusiastic from the very first day, throwing themselves into the challenges and demands of performing Shakespeare with gusto like you wouldn't believe. Watching this play turn from text on the page to what you're about to see has been such a privilege. We are also so lucky to have re-united our dream technical team of Sam, David and Joanne, who consistently take our ridiculous demands and turn them into something beautiful. As is the case with so many New Theatre shows, there are just too many people to thank; so, thank you to everyone who has supported and helped us through this entire production.

And to Chris, on our third theatrical adventure together; from last year's metalwork to last term's weaponry-based adventures to us somehow being allowed to do a Shakespeare - what?! Who approved this?! Fire them immediately! - working with you at this theatre has been such a huge part of my university experience. Whether it's been late-night whiteboard planning sessions, mad rehearsals or you patiently putting up with me consistently taking too much on, it's just been brilliant. If we get to work together again in the future, I will consider myself a very lucky producer.

Happy Birthday to the Bard, and I hope you enjoy the show!