

Shakespeare's farewell play to be performed



Gilbert Cole plays the role of Ariel and G. Wood plays the role of Prospero in Meadow Brook Theatre's forthcoming production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest."



Ricard Hilger will play the role of Caliban. "The Tempest" opens a four-week run Thursday on the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

Shakespeare's comedy-drama, "The Tempest," will open a four-week run at the Meadow Brook Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 8:30 on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester.

Said to be the poet's own farewell to his life in the theatre, "The Tempest" begins with a shipwreck on a desolate island inhabited by the former Duke of Milan and his young daughter who share their enforced exile with a magic spirit and a monster. The former Duke has spent his years of isolation learning the art of magic and so save the passengers and crew of the doomed vessel.

Enchantment, magic, romance, comedy and drama are qualities of the play but "The Tempest" is also about sin and forgiveness, repentance and salvation, and estrangement and reconciliation. Some of the playwright's most beautiful and popular poetry is found in the play.

G. Wood, who plays the former Duke of Milan, Prospero, is making his first Meadow Brook appearance. Wood began his acting career in Jose Ferrer's Broadway revival of "Cyrano De Bergerac." Some of his other mainstem credits include "Richard III," "The Sea Gull," "The Crucible," "Tonight at 8:30," "A Touch of the Poet," "The Imaginary Invalid" and "Henry V."

HE HAS PLAYED in many off-broadway productions and has performed 100 leading roles in regional theaters. Wood's film credits include "M*A*S*H," "Brewster McCloud," "Harold and Maude" and "The Bank Shot."

Another newcomer to Meadow Brook, Louis Edmonds, will play the role of the King of Naples, Alonso. Most recently Edmonds played the role of Wood in "Otherwise Engaged"

Theater

with Dick Cavett on Broadway. He made his New York debut as Maximilian in the Lillian Hellman-Leonard Bernstein production of "Candide."

His other Broadway appearances were in "Maybe Tuesday" and "Passage to India" with Dame Gladys Cooper and Eric Portman.

Edmonds has played leading roles in several Off-Broadway productions and at many regional theaters. Television audiences will recall him as Roger Collins and four generations of his ancestors in "Dark Shadows."

Other leading roles in the large cast will be played by Richard Hilger, Gina Ness, Gilbert Cole, Michael Hendricks, William LeMassena, Thom Bray, Michael Rothhaar, Michel Culen and Peter McRobbie.

Tom Spackman, Curtis J. Armstrong, Patricia Reilly, Mary Benson, Marianne Mullerleile, Lori Altadonna, Rob Jones, Steve Lutes, Jill Johnson and Beth Taylor complete the cast.

"The Tempest" is under the direction of Terence Kilburn with a set by Peter Hicks, lighting by Larry A. Reed and costumes by Mary Bonnell.

Opening week performances are scheduled at 8:30 on Thursday and Friday, 2 and 8:30 Saturday, and 5:30 Sunday. The following three weeks will offer performances at 8:30 Tuesday — Friday, 6 and 9:30 Saturday, 6:30 Sunday and 2 Wednesday.

The theater is dark Mondays. Tickets for all performances may be purchased at Hudson's or by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre box office at 377-3300.

Theatre sets tryouts

The Theatre of the University of Detroit will conduct open auditions for the final two productions of its 1977-78 season: "Little Mary Sunshine" and "Irma La Douce."

Auditions will be held Friday, 1-5 p.m. Interested actors, singers and dancers should meet in the lobby of The Theatre in the Liberal Arts Building on the Marygrove College campus, 8425 W. McNichols at Wyoming.

"Little Mary Sunshine" is directed by Arthur Beer, who will require those auditioning to sing any standard show tune from the period 1900-1925. Auditioners should also be prepared to dance

to their audition pieces (soft-shoe or tap) for all but romantic lead roles. "Little Mary" will be produced at The Theatre (on the Marygrove campus) on week-ends, March 24-April 9.

Alan Rust, director of "Irma La Douce," will require auditioners to sing one of the songs from the show. Dance auditions will be held at a later date, and will involve learning a jazz routine. "Irma" will be presented at "Studio 100" (on the U of D campus) April 12-16 and 19-23.

For additional information, call The Theatre at 927-1130 during regular business hours.

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