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ROUND HOUSE THEATRE PRESENTS  
A MAGICAL REIMAGINING OF SHAKESPEARE'S

# THE TEMPEST

A DAZZLING ADAPTATION BY **AARON POSNER & TELLER**  
FEATURING THE MUSIC OF **TOM WAITS**  
WITH MOVEMENT BY **PILOBOLUS**

PRODUCED BY ROUND HOUSE THEATRE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH FOLGER THEATRE

November 23 – January 1 at Round House Theatre

Bethesda, Md. (October 11, 2022) – Round House Theatre continues its 2022-2023 Season with a magical staging of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, adapted and directed by **Aaron Posner** and **Teller** (of Penn & Teller fame). This highly anticipated and reimagined production that reinvigorates Shakespeare's most popular plays runs through the holiday season, November 23, 2022 – January 1, 2023. Press night is Monday, November 28, 2022. **Please see below for complete program details and ticket information.**

Adapted and directed by Aaron Posner and Teller, this unforgettable reimagining of Shakespeare's most enchanting romance features haunting music from the catalog of iconic songwriter Tom Waits and mind-bending moves from Pilobolus, as well as astonishing feats of

magic. Arriving just in time for the holiday season, the dazzling production—a smash hit in Boston, Chicago, and Las Vegas—“awakens in the audience a sense of pleasurable, almost childlike wonder,” says *The New York Times*. “Enormously entertaining,” raves the *Chicago Tribune*.

Co-Director and Adapter Aaron Posner looks forward to sharing this collaborative and accessible production with DC-area audiences. “This is truly Shakespeare for everyone. At our core, Teller and I are both populists, and making art that is accessible to everyone is key for both of us. And this production is truly that. There are *so* many points of entry for this production. The extraordinary magic of Teller. The amazing music of Tom Waits. The physical wonders of Pilobolus’ choreography for our double Caliban. An exceptional cast, and a fairly mind-blowing design that will fill the Round House space to the rafters.”

Posner is also thrilled to showcase the magic and illusion embedded throughout the show. “Prospero is a magician. He creates shows. He messes with people’s minds. He harnesses forces to astound, befuddle and bewitch his enemies. So many productions of *The Tempest* deal with his magic as metaphor, and that can be great... but here we deal with his magic... as magic! We put the audience in the same headspace as the characters. Amazed. Astounded. Knocked off balance by witnessing things that can’t be happening.”

Artistic Director Ryan Rilette is looking forward to Round House bringing Posner and Teller’s breathtaking production to life. “This *Tempest* has been wowing audiences around the country for years, and we are thrilled to finally bring it to the DMV. Aaron and Teller have assembled a phenomenal cast and creative team to help them bring their innovative, magical version of this play to life at Round House. We can’t wait for our audience to finally see this project that we have been working on now for years!”

Round House Theatre is the sole producer of *The Tempest*. Nonetheless, Round House is grateful for the generous collaboration of Folger Theatre on this project, and is pleased to

welcome Folger Theatre’s subscribers and patrons while their venue is under construction. “We are excited to bring the resources of the Folger Shakespeare Library and Theatre to Round House,” says Karen Ann Daniels, Artistic Director of Folger Theatre and Director of Programming at the Folger Shakespeare Library. “It is the best of both worlds to bring the hallmarks of what the Folger offers in arts and humanities into this thriving theatrical community at Round House.”

The cast includes **Manny Arciniega** (*We’re Gonna Die* at Round House Theatre; *In the Heights* at Gala Hispanic Theatre), **Ro Boddie** (*A Boy and His Soul* at Round House Theatre; *Socrates* at The Public Theater), **Nate Dendy** (*The Tempest* at Chicago Shakespeare and American Repertory Theatre; *The Fantasticks* at Arena Stage and South Coast Repertory), **Megan Graves** (*The Great Society* at Arena Stage; *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Folger Theatre), **Lizzie Hagstedt** (*Sweeney Todd* National Tour; *Southern Comfort* at Public Theater), **Richard R. Henry** (*Urinetown* National Tour; *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* on Amazon Prime Video), **Eric Hissom** (*The Great Leap* at Round House Theatre; *Arcadia* [Helen Hayes award] at Folger Theatre), **Naomi Jacobson** (*Caroline, or Change* at Round House Theatre; *Born Yesterday* at Ford’s Theatre), **Kevin Mambo** (*The Color Purple* and *Fela!* on Broadway; *Hit & Run* on Netflix), **Hassiem Muhammad** (*The Three Musketeers* at Cleveland Play House; *Shoobox Picnic: Route 1* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival), **Cody Nickell** (*Oslo* and “*We declare you a terrorist...*” at Round House Theatre), **Kate Eastwood Norris** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* [Helen Hayes award] at Folger Theatre; and *She Stoops to Comedy* [Helen Hayes award] at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company ), **Ian Riggs** (*No Place to Go* [Obie award recipient] at Public Theater; *Mean Girls* on Broadway), **KenYatta Rogers** (*Gem of the Ocean* at Round House Theatre; *Our Town* at Baltimore Center Stage), **Ryan Sellers** (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* [Helen Hayes award] at Synetic Theater; *Five Little Monkeys* National Tour with Adventure Theatre MTC), and **Kanysha Williams** (*American Prophet* at Arena Stage; *Acoustic Rooster* at The Kennedy Center). Understudies for this production include **Patrick Donoughe**, **Jordan Essex**, **Nick Gerwitz**, **Joshua Cole Lucas**, **Cody Nickell**, **Ryan Phillips**, **Emma Abigail Wallach**, and **Jacqueline Youm**.

The cast is joined by an ingenious creative team that includes Scenic Designer **Dan Conway**, Costume Designer **Sarah Cubbage**, Lighting Designer **Thom Weaver**, Sound Designer **Andre Pluess**, Music Director **Liz Filios**, Choreographers **Matt Kent** and **Renée Jaworski** (Co-Artistic Directors of Pilobolus), Properties Coordinator **Andrea “Dre” Moore**, Magic Coordinator **Ryan Philips**, Intimacy Choreographer **Helen Aberger**, Associate Director **Holly Twyford**, Associate Scenic Designer **Andrew R. Cohen**, Associate Music Director **Manny Arciniega**, Magic Consultant **Nate Dendy**, Casting Director **Sarah Cooney**, Dramaturg and Round House Theatre Associate Artist for New Plays **Naysan Mojgani**, Assistant Directors **Renea Brown** and **Shana Laski**, Resident Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Samantha Wilhelm**.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 240.644.1100 or ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org. Round House Theatre is located at 4545 East-West Highway, one block from Wisconsin Avenue and the Bethesda station on Metro’s Red Line.

#### ARTIST INFORMATION

**Aaron Posner (Co-Director / Co-Adapter)** is a director, playwright, former artistic director, and a theatre professor at American University. Aaron has directed more than 150 productions at major regional theaters, including *Or, Stage Kiss*, and *A Murder, a Mystery & A Marriage* at Round House Theatre. Other plays include *JQA*, *The Heal*, *Life Sucks*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *No Sisters*, *District Merchants*, *The Chosen*, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, and many more. He has won six Helen Hayes Awards, two Barrymore Awards, an Outer Circle Critics Award, a Jeff Award, an Elliott Norton Award, a Bay Area Theatre Critics Award, The John Gassner Prize, and an Off-Broadway Alliance Award, and others. He lives in Maryland with his wife, the excellent actress and teacher Erin Weaver, and his amazing daughter, Maisie.

**Teller (Co-Director / Co-Adapter / Magic)** has been the smaller, quieter half of Penn & Teller since 1975. With Penn Jillette, he has played Broadway and toured internationally to sold-out houses, and is the longest-running headline act in Las Vegas history. Penn & Teller have written

and starred in television series and specials, including eight seasons of the Emmy-nominated Showtime series *Penn & Teller: Bullshit!*; *Penn & Teller Tell a Lie* on Discovery; *Penn & Teller's Sincity Spectacular* on FX; *Behind the Scenes*, a PBS children's series on the arts; *The Unpleasant World of Penn & Teller*, a magic and comedy series on England's Channel 4; and the current hit series, *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, for The CW. Teller has written for *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, and *The New Yorker*, as well as three books with Jillette and two on his own. He is a frequent contributor to NPR's *All Things Considered*. Teller and Aaron Posner co-directed a version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, and he co-wrote and directed the acclaimed stage production *Play Dead* (off-Broadway and Los Angeles). Teller was nominated for an Olivier Award for co-writing the West End hit *Magic Goes Wrong*. In 2014, Teller made his feature-length film directorial debut with the Oscar-shortlisted and BAFTA-nominated *Tim's Vermeer*.

#### CAST & CREATIVE TEAM INFORMATION

See cast list below. Full cast and creative team bios will be available at [RoundHouseTheatre.org](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org) in the coming weeks.

#### PRODUCTION INFORMATION

##### **THE TEMPEST**

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and directed by Aaron Posner & Teller

November 23, 2022 – January 1, 2023

#### CAST LIST (alphabetical order):

Manny Arciniega: Percussion

Ro Boddie: Ferdinand

Nate Dendy: Ariel\*

Megan Graves: Miranda\*

Lizzie Hagstedt: Iris / Rough Magic / Accordion\*

Richard R. Henry: Trinculo\*

Eric Hissom: Prospero

Naomi Jacobson: Gonzala

Kevin Mambo: Sebastian\*

Hassiem Muhammad: Caliban 1\*

Cody Nickell: Antonio

Kate Eastwood Norris: Stephano  
Ian Riggs: Bass\*  
KenYatta Rogers: Alonso  
Ryan Sellers: Caliban 2\*  
Kanysha Williams: Juno / Rough Magic\*

\* - *Round House Theatre debut*

UNDERSTUDIES:

Patrick Donoughe: Trinculo\*  
Jordan Essex: Ferdinand / Sebastian\*  
Nick Gerwitz: Antonio/ Stephano\*  
Joshua Cole Lucas: Caliban\*  
Cody Nickell: Prospero  
Ryan Philips: Ariel\*  
Emma Abigail Wallach: Miranda / Rough Magic\*  
Jacqueline Youm: Gonzala / Alonso

\* - *Round House Theatre debut*

WHERE:

Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway in Bethesda (one block from Wisconsin Ave. and Metro's Bethesda station). For directions, parking, and public transportation info, visit [RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org/Visit-Us/).

ABOUT THE PLAY:

Adapted and directed by Aaron Posner and Teller (of Penn & Teller fame), an unforgettable reimagining of Shakespeare's most enchanting romance features haunting music from the catalog of iconic songwriter Tom Waits and mind-bending moves from Pilobolus, as well as astonishing feats of magic. Arriving just in time for the holiday season, the dazzling production—a smash hit in Boston, Chicago, and Las Vegas—“awakens in the audience a sense of pleasurable, almost childlike wonder,” says *The New York Times*. “Enormously entertaining,” raves the *Chicago Tribune*.

DATES AND TIMES:

*The Tempest* runs from November 23, 2022 to January 1, 2023. Performances are Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Audio described performance: Saturday, December 3, at 2:00 pm

Open captioned performance: Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 pm

#### TICKETS:

Tickets can be purchased by calling 240.644.1100, ordering online at RoundHouseTheatre.org, or visiting the box office. Available ticket discounts include:

- Free Play – free tickets for students ages 13 through college: Round House Theatre’s Free Play initiative ties into our greater strategy to develop theatre audiences of tomorrow by providing rich, meaningful arts experiences today. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/FreePlay or email [Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org](mailto:Education@RoundHouseTheatre.org)
- On the House – community ticket access program: Round House’s next step to remove barriers that can make it difficult for some members of our community to experience our work is On the House, which provides complimentary group tickets to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and community-serving organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. For more information, visit RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/On-The-House or email [Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org](mailto:Community@RoundHouseTheatre.org).
- Pay-What-You-Can performances: Wednesday, November 23 at 7:30 pm, and Saturday, November 26 at 2:00 pm. PWYC tickets go on sale online or by phone only (no walk-up sales) beginning one week before the first performance of each show. The patron decides the admission price. Limit of two tickets per order. PWYC tickets are subject to availability.
- Blue Star Theatre Program: Active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their

immediate family qualify for a \$10 discount off the single ticket price. Learn more at [RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org/On-Stage/Tickets).

- 2-For-1 Tuesday: For Tuesday performances, all seats are buy one, get one free. 2-for-1 Tuesday tickets are available online or by phone (240.644.1100) with promo code TWOFORONE. Discounts may not be combined. Not valid on previously purchased tickets. Due to anticipated high demand, this offer may be discontinued at any time.
- Group Sales: Groups of 10 or more can save 10% off the single ticket price and are exempt from single ticket fees. These tickets must be reserved and purchased in advance by calling 240.644.1100 or emailing [GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org](mailto:GroupSales@RoundHouseTheatre.org).

#### ROUND HOUSE THEATRE MASK REQUIREMENTS

Masks are required for all guests, except while eating or drinking in the lobby café area.

NOTE: This policy is in effect as of September 1, 2022 until future notice. We continue to review current circumstances and CDC and local government recommendations to determine whether the mandate may be lifted or extended. For full health and safety information, visit [RoundHouseTheatre.org/safety](http://RoundHouseTheatre.org/safety).

#### ABOUT ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

Round House Theatre is one of the leading professional theatres in the Washington, DC area, producing a season of new plays, modern classics, and musicals for more than 40,000 patrons each year at our theatre in Bethesda. Round House has been nominated for 197 Helen Hayes Awards and has won 37, including four Outstanding Resident Play Awards and the Charles MacArthur Award for Original New Play in 2016. Round House's lifelong learning and education programs serve more than 5,000 students each year at its Education Center in Silver Spring, in schools throughout Montgomery County, and at our Bethesda theatre. Cornerstone programs



include Free Play, which provides free tickets for students ages 13-college, the Teen Performance Company, which culminates in the student-produced Sarah Metzger Memorial Play, Summer Camp for students in grades K-12, and a full slate of classes for adults and youth.

#### ABOUT FOLGER THEATRE AND FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Folger Shakespeare Library is the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the ultimate resource for exploring Shakespeare and his world. The Folger welcomes millions of visitors online and in person. It provides unparalleled access to a huge array of resources, from original sources to modern interpretations. With the Folger, you can experience the power of performance, the wonder of exhibitions, and the excitement of path-breaking research. The Folger offers the opportunity to see and even work with early modern sources, driving discovery and transforming education for students of all ages.

The award-winning Folger Theatre in our nation's capital bridges the arts and humanities through transformational performances and programming that speak inclusively to the human experience. Now under the leadership of Artistic Director Karen Ann Daniels, Folger Theatre continues its legacy through exciting interpretations and adaptations of Shakespeare and expands the classical canon through cultivating today's artists and commissioning new work that is in dialogue with the concerns and issues of our time. Folger Theatre thrives both on its historical stage and in the community, engaging audiences wherever they happen to be.

During a multiyear building renovation, join the Folger online and on the road. Learn more at [folger.edu](http://folger.edu).

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