

French Institute Alliance Française (FI AF) presents

RED BULL THEATER'S

A TEMPEST

Mon, Feb 28 at 7:30pm

At FI AF Florence Gould Hall
& Livestreamed

Followed by Q&A

Online through Sun, Mar 6

fi:af

french institute
alliance française

RED BULL THEATER'S

A TEMPEST

A Play by Aimé Césaire

Based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

An Adaptation for a Black Theater

Translated from the French by Philip Crispin

Directed by Lanise Antoine Shelley

Featuring

Isabel Ellison, Carson Elrod, Kimberly Exum, Manoel Felciano,
Enid Graham, Isaiah Johnson, Anthony Michael Martinez,
Paul Niebanck, Jay O. Sanders, Anthony Venturini, and C.J. Wilson

Stage Manager | **Amanda Joshi**

Assistant Stage Manager | **Jessica Fornear**

Revelation Readings Producer | **Nathan Winkelstein**

General Manager | **Sherri Kotimsky**

Covid Safety Manager | **Blue Fleurejuste**

Presented in collaboration with the Drama League

Leadership support provided by Art Lab & Meg Fofonoff

**RED BULL
THEATER**

Part of Red Bull Theater's OBIE Award-winning Revelation Readings series, which offers audiences the unique opportunity to experience rarely produced classic plays performed by the finest actors working today.

The play is performed through arrangement with Georges Borchardt, Inc., for Aimé Césaire. All rights reserved.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

In Order of Appearance

Master of Ceremonies | Ariel | Eshu Kimberly Exum
Gonzalo..... Paul Niebanck
Antonio..... Enid Graham
Sebastian..... Manoel Felciano
Ferdinand..... Anthony Michael Martinez
Miranda..... Isabel Ellison
Prospero..... Jay O. Sanders
Caliban..... Isaiah Johnson
Alonso..... C.J. Wilson
Trinculo..... Carson Elrod
Stephano..... Anthony Venturini

A Tempest will be performed without an intermission.



Kimberly Exum



Paul Niebanck



Enid Graham



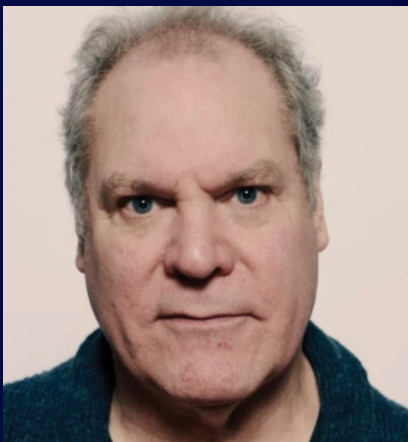
Manoel Felciano



Anthony Michael
Martinez



Isabel Ellison



Jay O. Sanders



Isaiah Johnson



C.J. Wilson



Carson Elrod



Anthony Venturini

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Aimé Césaire combined a political career as a Martinican statesman with a poetic calling in which he has been hailed as the leading Francophone poet of the 20th Century. Anti-colonialist visionary and prophet of negritude, his influence has been considerable in shaping on-going post-colonial debate.

About the Translator

Philip Crispin taught in Kingston, Jamaica, and spent four years in Paris studying, teaching. and pursuing theatrical projects. He was Literary Manager of the Gate Theatre before devoting himself to theatrical research.

ABOUT A TEMPEST (1968)

Aimé Césaire’s second play, A Tempest (1968), is an explicit rewriting of William Shakespeare’s The Tempest, first staged by Jean-Marie Serreau during the Hammamet Festival in Tunisia. While it keeps all the characters invented by the master of English theater and the action surrounding the figures of Caliban, Ariel and Prospero, Césaire adds the character Eshu.

This “Black devil-god” gives Césaire’s play its color and originality. It is through him that an African theatrical aesthetic is built that overturns all the codes of the stage. It is also he who supports the ethics of freedom by accompanying the song of all the Blacks of the world sung by Caliban in African words (Uhuru). Césaire’s play was written in 1968, at a particularly tumultuous time for the Black worlds (African and American) and one can hear in it the resounding echoes of Black cries across the world.

—**Romuald Fonkouda**, visiting professor at NYU, is a specialist in contemporary Francophone literature.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Lanise Antoine Shelley is the Artistic Director of The House Theatre of Chicago. She is a Haitian actress, director, playwright, and podcast host.

Selected directing credits include: *Just Cause* (Defamation Experience), *Pretended* (written & directed for Paramount Theatre's Inception Project), *Blue Manakin* (Rising Sun Performance Company), *Rastas & Hattie*, *Black & Blue*, *Muthaland* (16th St Theatre), *Identity Lab* (Lookingglass Theatre), *The Tenant* (Akvavit Theatre), *RefuSHE Project* (Voices & Faces Project), *Rumors* (DePaul University). She holds a BFA in directing, acting, and playwriting from Cornish College of the Arts, an MFA from ART/MXAT at Harvard University, a certificate in Classical Theatre from BADA in Oxford, England, and Birmingham Conservatory.

She was Stratford Shakespeare Festival's Chicago Fellow 2016 and Victory Gardens Theatre's Directing Fellow 2019. Presently Lanise is the host of the podcast "When They Were Young: Amplifying Voices of Adoptees" available on all listening platforms. She is the 2021 Drama League Classical Directing Fellow.



ABOUT THE PARTNERS



Red Bull Theater

Since its founding in 2003 with a production of Shakespeare's *Pericles*, Red Bull Theater (Jesse Berger, Artistic Director; Jim Bredeson, Managing Director) has served adventurous theatergoers with Off-Broadway productions, Revelation Readings, and the annual Short New Play Festival.

The company also offers outreach programs including Shakespeare in Schools bringing professional actors and teaching artists into public school classrooms; Bull Sessions, free post-performance discussions with top scholars; and Classical Acting Intensives led by veteran theater professionals. Red Bull Theater regularly produces a variety of classical work, including 21 Off-Broadway productions including *The Alchemist*, *Mac Beth*, *Coriolanus*, *The School for Scandal*, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, *American Moor*, *The Government Inspector*, plus over 200 OBIE Award-winning Revelation Readings.

Additionally, Red Bull responded swiftly to the shutdown, creating several ongoing programs to serve audiences and artists, including RemarkaBULL Podversations, reaching a combined online audience of over 200,000. "The classics-shaking Red Bull Theater," as *Time Out NY* has called the company, has served a community of more than 5,000 artists and provided quality artistic programming to an ever-growing audience.

The company's unique programming has received ongoing critical acclaim and has been recognized with Lortel, Drama Desk, Drama League, Callaway, Off-Broadway Alliance, and OBIE nominations and Awards.

Find out more at RedBullTheater.com.

The Drama League

The Drama League advances American theater by providing life-long artistic resources for directors and a platform for dialogue with audiences. Founded in 1916, as one of the longest-running arts service organizations in the country, we continuously adapt to meet artists’ needs in the expanding entertainment landscape.

We enable directors to make the most powerful, impactful work possible, expand their skill across multiple mediums to reach broader audiences, and build thriving, sustainable careers. Uplifting directors of all economic classes, races, abilities, genders, and identities is a cornerstone of this mission. We provide support to directors throughout their artistic lives, and our work in education offers continued learning to professionals and introduces the skills of directing to young people. Underpinning our work is the support of our members, a community of ardent theater fans and industry professionals whose commitment to advancing the art form helps develop the careers of the talented directors we champion.

