

Theater Students Given Unique Opportunities to Contribute to Fall Show

By Mimi Alanen

The first show of the 2009-2010 theater season at CSP is Shakespeare's *The Tempest* directed by Mark Rosenwinkel. Among such talents participating in *The Tempest* are seniors Alex Heetland and Diana Woodward are participating as student designers.

Alex Heetland, a double Theatre and Music major, was presented with the opportunity to compose original music for *The Tempest*.

"Rhythm and melody are inherent in Shakespeare's text," said Heetland, "so composing for the text was a pleasure. I started with the words and really tried to understand each situation."

The production will include live flute, guitar, cello, percussion music. Looking at each scene and working to understand the emotions of each situation helped him compose a score that would not only compliment but enhance each scene. "A special piece for me is the music for the masque scene. The piece, for a woman's quartet, is described in the text as 'wondrous,' as well as 'strange.' Trying to capture that was a fun challenge."

Senior Theatre major Diana Woodruff is designing lights for the show.

"One of my goals with *The Tempest*, a goal of all light designers, is going past what is necessary (lighting the actors), and try to truly bring the set to life," said Woodruff. All of the design team tries to do that, but the lighting designers are like the painters. We bring color to the stage."

Alex and Diana have both enjoyed working with *Tempest* director Mark Rosenwinkel. "Mark is really fun to work with," said Heetland. "It's fun going back and forth with ideas together. He's



Alex directing Chrisitne Mennicke on the part of Juno in the Masque scene.

willing to play and see what myself and the actors bring instead of dictating things."

The play follows the story of Prospero, portrayed by guest artist Elizabeth Streiff, as the one-time Duchess of Milan, and her daughter, Miranda, portrayed by junior Becky Erickson, who inhabit a secluded island for the last 12 years. This particular production focuses more on the spirits and inhabitants of the island, such as Caliban, played by sophomore Andrew Eckhardt, and Ariel, played by senior

Elizabeth Ehlenz, who are slaves of Prospero.

When asked if there was anything they would like to add they both responded, "Come see *The Tempest!*"

CSP's production of *The Tempest* promises to be an entertaining evening of suspense, drama, romance and genuine CSP talent displayed both on and off the stage.

Guest Artist Spotlight:

Elizabeth STREIFF



Elizabeth Streiff

Elizabeth Streiff, performing in Concordia's *The Tempest* as Prospero, has been a professional actor in St. Paul and beyond for many years now. She received her formal training from Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory of Prof. Actor Training in Sarasota FL in 1981. She has toured in the one-person show *Plowshares and Petticoats* and worked as an adjunct faculty member at Boise State University.