



UMass Amherst
FINE ARTS CENTER
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2007

WHAT: Center Series presents: 4D art with Shakespeare's *La Tempête/The Tempest*

WHEN: Monday, March 12 at 7:30pm

WHERE: Concert Hall

University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets**

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Virtual and Live Actors combine for High-Tech Version of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

After having dazzled audiences with other high-tech performances, the creators at 4D art have chosen a masterpiece of classic repertoire for their first collaboration with the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde of Canada. They deploy all their expertise to execute the "quaint device" that Shakespeare dreamed about some 400 years ago. The "stuff that dreams are made on" is transformed, in our digital age, into evanescence and pure magic. 4D brings their production of *La Tempête/The Tempest* to the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Monday, March 12 at 7:30pm. Performed in French with English supertitles.

The multimedia creators Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon, in collaboration with the director Denise Guilbault, proffer a highly inspired theatrical production of Shakespeare's legacy play, translated into French by Normand Charette. Thanks to the virtual technology at their disposal, spells, visions and poetry create a previously unimaginable storm that appeals not only to the senses, but also to the mind, conveying the dreamy opulence of the work.

In this daring production, there are only four actual human beings present on stage; Ariel, Prospero, Miranda and Ferdinand. The other performers are ghostly holographic-like projections which appear life-sized, larger than life and as close-ups. The special effects used throughout the play are astonishing, powerful and the tricks to the magical production are kept closely guarded. In fact, the production staff must sign a non-disclosure agreement so to not give away the secrets behind the magic.

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The directors believe that the magic of theatre performances can sometimes be found, quite simply, in the haziness that surrounds the boundaries between dreams and reality. In *The Tempest*, Shakespeare decided to concentrate on that grey zone, to make it his theme, and to create a universe in which the certainties disappear, the eternal becomes ephemeral, and human nature is revealed from the inside.

“The illusion is striking, flawless, as if the theatre and the movies were becoming one. As if the play is happening in Shakespeare’s mind.” writes Claudia Morissette of *Première*. Matt Radz of the *Gazette Theatre Critic* calls the production “A landmark combination of computer chips and dramatic art.” Even with all the 21st century wizardry applied to this classic, the production remains true to Shakespeare’s legendary story of betrayal, isolation, revenge and reconciliation.

Founded in 1983, 4D art Lemieux/Pilon is based in Montreal. The multidisciplinary company has presented more than 300 performances of its various productions including *Grand Hôtel des Etrangers* (1995), *Orféo* (1998), and *Anima* (2001).

Art in Science Exhibit: View striking artistic images of scientific subjects in the Fine Arts Center lobby March 8 – March 12 produced by the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center’s VISUAL program. The exhibit is part of our on-going efforts to celebrate the art in science and the science in art. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

To view a clip of the production go to www.fineartscenter.com or http://www.4dart.com/4Dart.html/en/tempete_set.html. For high-resolution images go to www.fineartscenter.com/press.

Tickets are \$35, \$25, \$15; Youth 17 and under are \$15; and Five College Students are \$15. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or tickets may be safely purchased online at www.fineartscenter.com. This performance is sponsored by Bank of America, The Valley Advocate, 93.9 The River and the UMass Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life.

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