

To such stuff as dreams are made on.....

On 9 August a happy crowd of picnickers gathered in the garden of Ormesby St Margaret's Village Centre to enjoy an evening of sunshine and rough magic. The Rain or Shine Theatre Company **effortlessly transported the 21st Century audience to a 17th Century desert isle beset by tempest**, their sound effects augmented by a timely contribution from the adjacent car wash and the seagulls overhead.

The Tempest is believed to have been written around 1610-1611 and first performed at Court by the King's Men in the fall of 1611. It was performed again in the winter of 1612–1613 during the festivities in celebration of the marriage of King James's daughter Elizabeth. *The Tempest* is remarkable for being one of only two plays by Shakespeare (the other being *Love's Labor's Lost*) whose plot is entirely original. The play does, however, draw on travel literature of its time—most notably the accounts of a tempest off the Bermudas that separated and nearly wrecked a fleet of colonial ships sailing from Plymouth to Virginia.

The players of the Rain or Shine Company provided **an excellent evening of entertainment**. Their **exceptional clarity of diction** overcame all the challenges of performing outdoors although Ariel did struggle slightly with the exigencies of delivery around the mask and drapery she waved aloft. They even succeeded in making Shakespeare's clowns funny. Humour 400 years old does not always translate well, but Anthony Young and Rob Keeves deserve a special mention for **impeccable comic timing, as the giggles from all ages in the audience could testify**.

Pippa Meekings and Ellis Wells gave a convincing portrayal of young love as Miranda and Ferdinand, while in the 2nd Act James Reynard provided a vivid representation of Prospero's fading powers against the growing ascendance of Ariel. As the sun began to fall, "The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces, the solemn temples, the great globe itself," all dissolved and we went home happy, for our day to be rounded by a sleep.

H L Peck
Ormesby St Margaret Parish Magazine
Editor