

INSPIRED BY SHAKESPEARE'S *THE TEMPEST*, *ROUGH MAGIC*  
CREATES A VERTICAL WORLD TO TELL THE STORY OF ARIEL AND  
CALIBAN AT THIS YEAR'S TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 Set on a mystical island, *Rough Magic* follows the innocent beginnings and volatile consequences of a relationship between two unlikely beings: Ariel, an airy sprite; and Caliban, a ground-dwelling mortal. An intricate weaving of theatre, aerial work and music, the show confronts ideas of freedom and otherness through a story inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Theatre Arcturus is owned and operated by **LINDSAY BELLAIRE**, *Artistic Director* and **PHILLIP PSUTKA**, *Executive Director*. An award-winning theatre company, Arcturus creates visually stunning plays that weave aerial arts into the world of the story. They blend the rigorous training of an aerialist with that of the actor to create a seamless combination. In their world, characters work in harmony with gravity but are not bound by it. They may climb or take flight at any moment. **This is aerial theatre, where the boundaries of physicality and truthful storytelling are pushed, and sometimes the world turns upside down.**

The development of *ROUGH MAGIC* was generously supported in part by the Ontario Arts Council. Inspired by *The Tempest*, the play tells the story of Ariel and Caliban, from the moment they meet on the island to the moment of the shipwreck that begins Shakespeare's play. The piece is written almost entirely in verse, continuing the style of heightened language that the play is inspired by. The story of *ROUGH MAGIC*, although completely original, was developed through meticulous scouring of Shakespeare's text and other research materials. It seeks to paint a fuller picture of the two beings that inhabited the island before the arrival of Prospero and Miranda by drawing a story between key events that are mentioned in *The Tempest*: the banishment and death of Sycorax, Caliban's advances on Miranda, Ariel's 12 year imprisonment, and the enslavement of both Ariel and Caliban by Prospero.

The creative process for *ROUGH MAGIC* employed the same process used for *WEIRD*, which has toured to theaters and schools across Ontario, winning the Cutting-Edge Award at the 2016 Toronto Fringe Festival, and Best of Fest at the 2015 Ottawa Fringe Festival, where it was shortlisted for Critics' Pick and named #1 show to see by Metro News. *ROUGH MAGIC* is Psutka's second play written in the style of Shakespeare.

**Theatre Arcturus**, in association with **Toronto Fringe**, presents ***ROUGH MAGIC***

Written by Phillip Psutka • Directed by Kevin Hammond • Featuring: Lindsay Bellaire, Phillip Psutka  
Fight Director: Phillip Psutka • Aerial Choreographer: Lindsay Bellaire • Stage Manager: Lisa Sciannella  
Composer: Rachel C. Léger • Costume Designer: Lisa Magill

Opens **Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>** and runs to **July 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**Location:** Randolph Theatre, 736 Bathurst St, Toronto ON

**Performances:** July 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00pm • July 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm • July 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:45pm • July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm • July 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm • July 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:45pm • July 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm

*Please note that there is absolutely no latecomer seating.*

**Tickets:**

On Sale: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Purchase Online: [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com)

By Phone: 416-966-1062

In Person: During the festival at our main box office at the Fringe Club at Scadding Court -- 707 Dundas St. W.

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*\*The show contains some mature language and themes and may not be appropriate for all ages.*