



**Nebraska Shakespeare 2022
Audition Announcement and Information**

***The Tempest* by William Shakespeare**

June 23-26; July 8, 10, 13, 14, 16

AND

***Othello* by William Shakespeare**

June 30 - July 3; 6, 7, 9, 15, 17

Nebraska Shakespeare is committed “**To explore what it means to be human through the creative spirit of Shakespeare**”. We accomplish this through:

- The hiring of diverse staff. We actively seek to include people who have been historically underrepresented both on and off the stage.
- Bringing educational programs to underrepresented areas of our state. We acknowledge the disparity in population density and the economic barriers throughout Nebraska, and we create programs that promote engagement, diversity and embrace gender parity and inclusion.
- An organizational culture that fosters open dialogue. We believe in the core tenants of IDEAB (*inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Belonging*) for all people. These tenants inform every part of our work – from the shows we produce, direct and write, to the talent we hire and mentor, to the way we treat each other as colleagues and collaborators

Our vision “An inclusive world of belonging for every Nebraskan through bold, authentic, artistic experiences. We serve over 40,000 individuals annually through quality theatrical performances, educational programming, events and contests.

Pandemic information: In navigating the pandemic, and the questions still remaining between now and the 2022 season, *Nebraska Shakespeare is requiring all company members to be vaccinated to participate in the 2022 season.* Proof of vaccination cards will be required prior to in-person events. Masks will be required at all during live, in-person portions of the audition process except for you, during your audition time. (Performance guidelines will be provided with the NS Covid Company Manual with contracting terms.) *Due to the pandemic, NS 2022 seeks to hire persons who have access to a vehicle throughout the contract to navigate Omaha and limit congregations in small spaces.*

Pay terms: *Average casting assignment is \$400/week; casting assignments vary and stipends will accommodate; travel stipend and housing as appropriate*
May 23 – July 17, 2022

Auditions: **Video submissions due January 31, 2022**
Email your inquiry to: lmars@nebraskashakespeare.com

Please prepare two monologues of contrasting mood or content (preferably two different characters, with at least one monologue from a Shakespeare play). Keep each monologue to approximately 16 text lines each. Resume and headshot to be sent with the process. Location information of auditions will be sent with your appointment

verification. (Audition limit of 90 seconds); **Videos should be named**, “Last Name, First Name - video”. **Resume should be named**, “Last Name, First Name – Resume” and **Headshot (or photo) should be named**, “Last Name, First Name – Headshot”

Callbacks: Live callbacks currently planned for February 19 and 20, 2022

NE Shakespeare intends to hold live, in-person callbacks in Omaha, NE. You will be contacted if requested for the callback round. *Pandemic status will be taken into consideration and appropriate safety protocols will be in place. Please remain flexible. NS may find it appropriate to convert auditions to Zoom appointments. This will be communicated in due time, should this occur.*

All persons are encouraged to audition. NE Shakespeare is seeking diverse representation in casting. Actors of all abilities, age, races, gender, identities, sexual orientation, body size, countries of origin, religions, and experiences are encouraged to submit. We are desirous of assembling a multi-racial cast representing many ethnicities, cultures, and lived experiences.

The Tempest – Shakespeare on the Green **Synopsis, Character List and Descriptions**

William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, a part of Nebraska Shakespeare on the Green in June and July, 2022, will consist of 15-20 actors. ALL persons are encouraged to audition.

SYNOPSIS of *The Tempest*

SYNOPSIS (Standard)

For twelve years, Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, has been living on a remote, uninhabited Mediterranean Island with only his daughter, Miranda (a young girl who has grown up seeing no other human being but her father), Caliban (the son of the island’s former ruler, a witch named Sycorax), and Ariel (an “airy spirit” who has served as Prospero’s servant). Prospero has learned the magical arts through deep meditative study, and uses his supernatural powers to exert his authority and influence events. At the play’s beginning, he causes a tempest to overtake the surrounding waters, shipwrecking the enemies responsible for his exile. The boat’s passengers are scattered, and the state of the island is thrown into chaos as murder plots, drunken foolery, and love-at-first-sight become the order of the day. But by the end, Prospero has righted the chaos and resolved all conflict, and asks the audience’s indulgence to set him free.

***The Tempest* standard character list:**

Prospero
Miranda
Caliban
Alonso
Antonio
Ferdinand
Gonzalo

Trinculo
Stephano
Ariel
Sebastian
Iris
Ceres
Juno

Adrian
Francisco
Boatswain
Master of the Ship
Mariners, Sailors, Nymphs, Reapers

***The Tempest* standard character descriptions.**

(Gender descriptions are not reflective of casting intentions, or show concept.)

Prospero: Is the former Duke of Milan who was banished by his usurping brother Antonio and the King of Naples twelve years prior to the start of the play, and found refuge on a far off, uninhabited Island in the Mediterranean Sea. He is a magician, having learned the magical arts through years intense study. Throughout the show, he uses his powers to influence events and exert his will. He is father to Miranda, and master to Ariel and Caliban.

Miranda: Daughter of Prospero who has been living on the island since she was two years old, and since that time has never seen another human being. She falls in love with Ferdinand. Miranda demonstrates several moments of strength, willfulness and independence.

Caliban: Caliban is the son of the late Sycorax, a witch who formerly ruled the island. Caliban serves Prospero Caliban delivers some of the most beautiful poetry in the play, usually in his descriptions of the island that he calls home. This role is wonderful for a character actor with a great physical facility.

Alonso: Alonso, King of Naples, was (along with Antonio, Prospero’s brother) responsible for Prospero’s exile from Milan twelve years prior. Despite this, we learn early on that Alonso may be a man who is more easily influenced by those around him than he is intentionally conniving. Evidence of Alonso’s naivete comes from the fact that he continues to associate with the conspiratorial Antonio and Sebastian, who plot to kill him in his sleep. A misguided but well-meaning monarch, Alonso reconciles with Prospero at the play’s end and restores his dukedom, before being reunited joyfully with his son Ferdinand.

Antonio: Antonio is Prospero's conspiratorial younger brother who, with the King of Naples' help, usurped Prospero's dukedom and exiled him from Milan. Antonio and Sebastian are near mirror images of one another: both are younger brothers to more politically powerful, more interested in their own political advancement than anything else.

Ferdinand: Ferdinand is Miranda's romantic counterpart. Son of Alonso, the King of Naples, and heir to the throne, Ferdinand is taken for dead by his father when he is lost at sea after the shipwreck. On another part of the island, he comes upon Miranda and falls in love with her. He is put to the test by Prospero to prove his worthiness, and willingly completes the tasks assigned to him. Ferdinand is earnest, faithful, innocent, and fundamentally good.

Gonzalo: Gonzalo is an advisor to the King of Naples who is travelling with the King's party when the ship is wrecked upon Prospero's island. Years earlier, Gonzalo helped to make sure that Prospero and Miranda were taken care of when they were banished from Naples. Gonzalo is also a glass-half-full kind of a guy, commenting regularly on the beauty of the island, the party's luck in having managed to survive the shipwreck, and on the wonder of the reconciliation between the King and Prospero at the play's end.

Trinculo: Trinculo is King Alonso's court jester who has been shipwrecked along with the rest of the King's party on Prospero's island. Along with his friend Stephano, Trinculo provides a comic foil for the more stately characters.

Stephano: The constantly inebriated Stephano is a butler in Alonso's court and has been shipwrecked along with the rest of the King's party. Together with Stephano's friend Trinculo, they plot to overtake Prospero and become the rulers of the island.

Ariel: Ariel a spirit of the air, and a servant to Prospero. Delightfully mischievous, shape-shifting, and endowed with magical powers, Ariel was saved by Prospero from imprisonment in a tree by the former ruler of the island, a witch named Sycorax, and henceforth has served as a willing helper. Ariel does Prospero's bidding while awaiting imminent liberation from the master's reign.

Sebastian: Sebastian is Alonso's conspiratorial younger brother who, along with Antonio, unsuccessfully plots to kill Alonso in his sleep. Sebastian and Antonio are near mirror images of one another: both are younger brothers to more politically powerful, more interested in their own political advancement than anything else.

Iris: One of three spirits Prospero calls forth to enact a marriage ritual for Ferdinand and Miranda who takes the form of Iris, Juno's messenger and the goddess of the rainbow.

Ceres: One of three spirits Prospero calls forth to enact a marriage ritual for Ferdinand and Miranda who takes the form of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture.

Juno: One of three spirits Prospero calls forth to enact a marriage ritual for Ferdinand and Miranda who takes the form of Juno, queen of the gods.

Adrian: A lord in Alonso, the King of Naples', court and a passenger aboard the shipwrecked vessel, Alonso attempts to comfort the king when he comes to believe that his son, Ferdinand, has drowned after being lost at sea during the storm.

Francisco: A lord in Alonso, the King of Naples', court and a passenger aboard the shipwrecked vessel. Francisco tries to be of some help to the king during the ordeal.

Boatswain: Assistant to the Master of the Ship and member of the crew, the Boatswain issues commands when the ship is suddenly struck by the tempest.

Master of the Ship: In the play's beginning, as the tempest descends upon the King and his companion's vessel, the Master of the Ship attempts to embolden the sailors to continue moving through the storm. His efforts fail, however, as a spell that Ariel makes them lose faith and abandon ship. At the play's end, they bring the group back to Italy.

Othello
By William Shakespeare
Synopsis, Character List and Descriptions

***William Shakespeare's Othello*, a part of Nebraska Shakespeare on the Green in June and July, 2022, will consist of 10-20 actors.**

SYNOPSIS (Standard)

Defying her father and society to follow her heart, Desdemona secretly marries Othello, a powerful general. Despite her father's objections in court, Desdemona remains committed to Othello and follows him from Venice to Cyprus, where he is commissioned to serve. Iago, a junior officer and Othello's most trusted adviser, is tormented by his lack of promotion. Despite Othello's confidence in Iago's honesty, Iago reveals that he is in fact hateful of Othello, and sets out to destroy Othello and Desdemona's happiness, manipulating Othello to serve his own ends. Iago convinces Othello that his wife has been unfaithful with the up-and-coming young soldier Michael Cassio.

As Iago draws Othello and the audience into a web of half-truths, secrets, and betrayal, scandal is fueled; families and friendships destroyed, until a piece of supposed evidence of Desdemona's infidelity, a handkerchief tragically undoes them all. Othello commissions Iago to kill Michael Cassio, and then smothers Desdemona in her bed. When Emilia discovers Othello in the act, she confronts him and explains that it was Iago who tricked them all. Iago kills Emilia, but not before Othello has learned what has been done. Othello commits suicide, and Iago is taken into custody. The play ends before we know what ultimately happens to Iago, but we do know that a profusion of devastation has been left in his wake.

***Othello* standard character list:**

Othello
Iago
Desdemona
Michael Cassio
Emilia

Brabantio
Roderigo
Duke of Venice/Doge
Lodovico
Montano

Bianca
Gratiano
Clown

***Othello* standard character descriptions.**

(Gender descriptions are not reflective of casting intentions, or show concept.)

Othello - A powerful general and a career soldier, Othello is a natural leader and gifted commander; values honesty and integrity above all things, and has inflexible definitions when it comes to morality. Othello, despite his strength as a leader, is vulnerable to insecurities. Othello loves Desdemona deeply, and feels unworthy of such a wonderful woman, which makes him vulnerable to Iago, who twists Othello's ardor into jealousy.

Iago - A standard bearer for the General Othello; this is a position below lieutenant, and Iago makes clear that he is resentful of his lack of promotion, especially when young Cassio is promoted. He is trusted as Othello's most honest adviser, but in fact tells a whole series of half-truths that decimate Othello's marriage and lead to his downfall. Not only is Iago manipulative, he is also capable of murder – both with his own hands and by motivating another. He ultimately kills his own wife, Emilia, when she betrays him.

Desdemona - Daughter of a senator, Desdemona bravely defies her father and society in the name of love. In all other things she is courteous, deferent, kind and sweet. When she sees injustice in the world, she wishes to right it. She believes strongly in the nobility and the good of her husband – and when she notices Michael Cassio being

treated unfairly, she believes it will be easy to show Othello how to right the wrong. Beneath Desdemona's sweet exterior is a spine of steel, and she is capable of bantering with Iago when called upon and responding with dignity and love to Othello's incomprehensible jealousy, until the very end.

Michael Cassio - Michael Cassio, is promoted to become Othello's lieutenant. He is someone easy to admire/feel jealousy towards: A little quick to fight and a lover of drinking, Cassio ends up fighting Roderigo and losing his lieutenantcy. Cassio enlists Desdemona to help reinstate him by charming her husband into forgiving Cassio. It is this interaction that Iago preys upon and exploits as evidence that they are having an affair. Cassio ultimately takes over Othello's former post.

Emilia - Iago's wife. Iago says at one point that he suspects she once had an affair with Othello. When Iago joins Othello in Cyprus, Emilia goes with him and serves as Desdemona's lady-in-waiting. She is a loving and trusted friend to Desdemona, throughout – but she, too, becomes an unwitting accessory to her husband's treachery. Ignored and teased often by her husband, Emilia seizes the opportunity to bestow upon him a handkerchief that Desdemona drops. It is the handkerchief that provides Iago with a tangible piece of (fabricated) "evidence" which allows him to convince Othello of Desdemona's (supposed) unfaithfulness. Emilia discovers Iago's treachery and reveals his deception, at the expense of her own life. She is killed by her husband.

Brabantio - Desdemona's father, a Venetian Senator. He strongly disapproves of his daughter's marriage to Othello, and takes them to court, claiming that his daughter was bewitched. Previously, he has liked Othello very much – just not as a match for his daughter.

Roderigo - A dissolute Venetian who is in love to the point of obsession with Desdemona. He is appalled by her marriage to Othello. Roderigo follows Desdemona in an effort to win her love, despite the fact that she's already married. Roderigo foolishly pays Iago to help him woo Desdemona, and sends long letters and extravagant gifts, which Iago keeps and never gives to Desdemona. He is also lured to fight Cassio. Ultimately, Iago kills Roderigo.

Duke of Venice/Doge - The Duke sends Othello with his new wife, Desdemona, to Cyprus to thwart a Turkish invasion that is supposed to be aimed for the island. The duke is the one who rules that, despite Brabantio's objections, the marriage of Desdemona and Othello is lawful. Later on, he is responsible for making Cassio the Governor of Cyprus in place of Othello and for ordering Othello to be recalled from Cyprus.

Lodovico - Lodovico plays an active role in discovering Iago's treachery by finding a note written by Iago telling Roderigo to kill Cassio, learning that Othello killed Desdemona, discovering Othello's and Iago's plot to kill Cassio and finally learning the sad story of how Othello's handkerchief was used by Iago to manipulate Othello into believing his wife was unfaithful, which led to her death as well as the death of Iago's wife, Emilia. He is a natural leader, Lodovico seizes control of events in the final scene, before placing Cassio in charge.

Montano - A career soldier and a commander, he is Othello's Venetian predecessor in the government of Cyprus.

Bianca - A courtesan, Bianca is Cassio's lover; deeply passionate about Cassio, but feels neglected by him. Feisty temper and a strong will.

Gratiano - Brabantio's brother. A solid, wealthy businessman. He discovers the wounded Cassio.

Clown - The Clown is a licensed fool for entertainment purposes. Cassio pays him to carry a letter to Desdemona.



Fall Tour, 2022
Foundational Information
Tempest

Integral to the Nebraska Shakespeare season is an educational fall tour. This endeavor comprises of ten actors and two technicians (Road Manager and Stage Manager) to round out the company. The managers begin mid-August and actors begin end-August. The tour is projected to end late October/beginning November. The fall tour rehearses for three weeks in Omaha. It then tours throughout the city and state through the beginning of November.

Casting information from the summer auditions is considered valid for the fall tour production. Cast members may be the same or different between companies. All company members are responsible, on the tour, for assisting with load in and load out, as well as light maintenance on production aspects.

All company members must have a driver's license, and capable of driving company vehicles. Special considerations are in order for anyone below the age of 25 due to federal, state, and company driving laws.

All company members must be vaccinated, and show proof of vaccination status for in-person participation. *Due to the pandemic, NS 2022 seeks to hire persons who have access to a vehicle throughout the contract to navigate Omaha and limit congregations in small spaces.* The remainder of the NS pandemic quotas will remain fluid as appropriate, and will be communicated in the NS Covid Company Manual.

Pay terms: \$400/week, travel stipend, housing as appropriate, per diem on the road as appropriate