



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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ONE PLAY: FIVE APPROACHES

*Five world-class theatre artists share how they would tackle Shakespeare's *The Tempest* with UVic students*

The Tempest Orion Project

Public Panel Discussion

March 24, 2017 @ 1pm

International theatre artists discuss a week of experimenting with Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in an interactive panel.

Other Theatre Events

Paul Shaw Lecture:

Production & Event

Management in Canada

March 7, 2017 @ 12:30pm

Join Canadian stage and production legend Paul Shaw – who spearheaded global events such as the 2010 Olympics & Paralympic Torch Relays and Expo 86 – for a public lecture about working in commercial and not-for-profit theatre.

Human Library Project

March 11, 2017

A 50th Anniversary event.
Get up close and personal with Victoria's theatre community: instead of taking out books to read, come borrow specially selected people – listen to their stories, get their unique perspectives, and ask them anything you'd like.

A Queer Trial

April 14, 2017

A new site-specific play by Dr. Jennifer Wise performed in Bastion Square. The play tells the story of two successive juries that acquitted an openly gay man of sodomy charges in Victoria in 1860.

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When the lights dim and the curtain opens, theatre audiences are able to see the final result of performers, directors, designers and technicians working tirelessly for weeks and months. But what happens if you pull back the curtain early, while the play is still being crafted?

The University of Victoria's Department of Theatre invites the public behind the scenes to experience not the product, but the *process* of theatre-making as part of **The Tempest Orion Project**. Internationally renowned acting, applied theatre, designing, directing, and theatre history experts will explore unique ways to approach the same piece of theatre — in this case, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* — and make it resonate with today's audiences.

They will present their ideas and discoveries at a public panel on **Friday March 24, 2017, at 1pm**, concluding a week of interactive workshops where theatre students will have the opportunity to engage directly with five specialists from around the globe. When the students' workshops are over, the public is welcome to join the visiting artists as they share the week's explorations and discoveries, compare and contrast their experiences, and answer questions from the audience.

Each of the five experts coming to this event boasts a truly impressive reputation:

To call **Dr. Ralph Alan Cohen** a Shakespeare expert seems almost an understatement. Based in Virginia at Mary Baldwin University where he is the Gonder Professor of Shakespeare and Performance, he co-founded the American Shakespeare Center and is the Director of Mission there. Dr. Cohen was also the project director for building the Blackfriars Playhouse – an authentic recreation of Shakespeare's 17th century indoor theatre – in Staunton Virginia.

Ontario-based UVic alumnus **David Ferry** brings his extensive experience in theatre as an actor, director, and dramaturge to the project. Ferry's performances have received accolades from Stratford to the Vancouver Playhouse, and his work as a theatre director has taken him across Canada, to Los Angeles and Florence, Italy. He has also recently appeared in films and television series such as *Legion* (FX) and *Suits* (UCP).

Dr. Allison Jeffers arrives from the University of Manchester, where she is an associate of the "In Place of War" project, which explores theatre in places of conflict, Dr. Jeffers' focus includes using participatory theatre with refugees and asylum seekers who were survivors of torture.

Eloise Kazan, a renowned designer based in Mexico, has worked internationally on more than 60 productions of theatre, dance, opera, interior architecture and film. With a portfolio of fantastical and truly ambitious designs – including a wedding dress made entirely of real bullets courtesy of the Mexican military – her work has taken her around the world to places such as Bristol, Croatia, Spain, and New York.

UVic Theatre alumna **Meg Roe** is an acclaimed actor, director, and sound designer. Roe has received critical acclaim with companies such as the Shaw Festival, the Canadian Stage, Quebec's Centaur Theatre, Canada's National Arts Centre, Bard on the Beach, and Arts Club Theatre, where she recently won a Jessie for her outstanding lead performance in a new musical version of *Onegin*. Internationally, she's been featured at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, Center Theater Group in Los Angeles, and Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM in Germany.

The Tempest Orion Project was initiated as a special way to celebrate the Department of Theatre's 50th anniversary. "*This is a gift to our current students*," Dr. Lindgren explains. "*These workshops will give our students opportunities to brainstorm and experiment with world-class theatre artists and scholars. What comes of the process could be very exciting.*"

This event is part of a month of other exciting UVic Theatre events the public is invited to attend, such as a lecture with Canadian stage and production legend Paul Shaw (who spearheaded global events such as the 2010 Olympics & Paralympics Torch Relays) and the innovative Human Library Project. See left for more details.