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A Tempest: Based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest;' Adaptation for a Black Theatre

Aimé Césaire

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A Tempest: Based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest;' Adaptation for a Black Theatre Aimé Césaire "Césaire's *Tempest*, in translation by Richard Miller, is a sprightly and song-filled enchantment. The luminous intelligence of Mr. Césaire's meditation on the absurdities of colonialism shines through the antics of the bewildered characters." –*New York Times*

"The weapon of poetry may be Césaire's greatest gift to a modern world still searching for freedom. As one of the last truly great 'universalists' of the twentieth century, he has had a hand in shaping or critiquing many of the major ideologies and movements of the modern world. In his own words: 'Poetic knowledge is born in the great silence of scientific knowledge.'" –from the Introduction

Césaire's rich and insightful adaptation of *The Tempest* draws on contemporary Caribbean society, the African-American experience and African mythology to raise questions about colonialism, racism and their lasting effects.

AIMÉ CÉSAIRE was a world-renowned poet, essayist and dramatist, whose best known works include *Notebook of a Return to My Native Land*, *The Tragedy of King Christophe* and *A Season in the Congo*. He was the founding editor of *Tropiques*, which was instrumental in establishing the use of surrealism as a political weapon. He co-formulated the concept of "negritude," which urges black Africans to reject assimilation and cultivate consciousness of their racial qualities and heritage. Césaire held a number of government positions in his native Martinique, including that of mayor of Fort-de-France. Césaire died in 2008.

RICHARD MILLER has translated many books, both nonfiction and fiction, including works by Roland Barthes, Brassa? and Albert Camus, as well as poetry, many articles and a number of plays. Among his more recent translations are *Scent* by Annick Le Guérer and *Beethoven's Ninth* by Esteban Buch, which was published in 2002. He lives in Paris.

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