

An opinionated survey of the week's events

JULY
12-18

THEATER

DEVIANT CRAFT: Winners of an Obie for The Convention of Cartography, playwright David Hancock and producer-director Melanie Joseph team up again to premiere Hancock's latest play, set in "a special penal colony for women who have committed violent crimes" but also exhibit "remarkable aptitude in science, art, and technology." Like the inmates who perfrom Marat/Sade, the women stage a quirky version of The Tempest, from which crupts as much autobiography as Shakespeare. It's performed in the incomparably spooky and breezy Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, July 13 through August 6 at 8, Art in the Anchorage, Cadman Plaza West and Old Front Street, Brooklyn, 969-8062. (Stone)

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DEVIANT CRAFT: David Hancock is the

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most audacious and provocative play-wright to emerge on the Off-Broadway scene in the '90s. In last year's Obie-winning Conventions of Cartography, he managed to give a new twist to the oldest of theatrical themes, illusion and reality. And in his new play, a kind

of William Shakespeare's The Tempest as Performed by the Inmates of the Phlogiston Foundation, a prison for women convicted of violent crimes, he addresses issues of creativity, freedom, and, most of all, the redemptive potential of theater. If the Tempest in Central Park is a relentlessly political interpretation, Hancock's treatment is rigorously metaphysical. Rough magic has rarely been more raw, more visionary. Through August 6, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Cadman Plaza West and Front Street, Brooklyn, 969-8062. (Wetzsteon)