
THE SHAKESPEARE PROPHECY PROJECT

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May 17, 2017

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I have attached a formal play proposal for this production of. It includes a summary of my plan, my major edits to the script, my sketches for costume and set designs, as well as our budget and marketing strategy.

Rationale:

296 words (including the heading and signature)

My target audience is America's youth, because most students in the public school system are required to analyze at least one of Shakespeare's works. But today, the ease of finding innovative approaches to presenting stories through the social media has made it difficult to engage students with Shakespeare in the classroom. The language barrier between our contemporary English and Shakespeare's Elizabethan English also presents a challenge for engaging youth with *The Tempest*. Recently, Broadway plays such as *Hamilton* have successfully reclaimed the power of live production by presenting a traditional story by manipulating language and pronunciation in a unique way. We, too, can captivate students as we reinvent a classic story with our incorporation of visuals with the setting and costuming, and with our reformatted script, which presents the intended meaning of the lines in a scene, and its overall tone in a relatable way.

I have explored literary texts such as *The Tempest* during Part Four of our workshop series on Language and Literature. I've chosen to produce a modern version of *The Tempest* because its text is rich with motifs and themes, which allows us to explore how these themes are developed through literary devices, such as symbolism with the storm and diction for each exchange of dialogue, and how the effect of these devices can be amplified through live performance.

With this new rendition, I can transform the audience's experience of watching *The Tempest 2.0: New Sensations*. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding my proposal.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROPHECY PROJECT



The Tempest 2.0: New Sensations

Prepared for: **The International Baccalaureate Organization**

Prepared by: Dominique Ahadzi, CEO of **The Shakespeare Prophecy Project**

May 17, 2017

Proposal number: 180-5034

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rating

PG-13

Run Timeline

3-4 Weeks

An Overview of The New Production

This modern rendition of *The Tempest* will feature the same storyline with some narration to put the scene into context, a greater parallel between the backdrop and the weather conditions described in the play, and more musical numbers during the scenes, especially ones that feature songs and poetry. It will be more of a recount of events, as we will see key parts of the story in the characters' point of view rather than in third person limited.

MAJOR EDITS TO THE SCRIPT

The play opens with a roar of thunder and a lightning bolt, with a backdrop of a dark sky. This will occur before any of the characters speak so that the audience is initially paralyzed with the same fear that the characters on the ship are experiencing.

In the lines where the characters are not expressing their thoughts to any particular person, that character will be spotlighted as though they are filming a reality T.V. confessional; This will occur, for example, in Gonzalo's last four speeches (Act 1, Scene 1), and in Prospero's backstory (Act 1, Scene 2). The small details that they say seem to have little relevance of the moment, but those details will be crucial to the audience's understanding of the plot as the play progresses, so they will be performed in isolation. Ariel and Prospero will be the main characters that perform their parts in this manner, as they are the link between the split-up passengers, as well as the most active characters in the story.

Another major change will be that parts where Ariel performs his magic will be turned into a mini-musical number because we see throughout the original play that the magic performed by Ariel and other supernatural beings, like the gods in Act 5, is accompanied by music.

SAMPLE OF THE SCRIPT

In 3.3.70-101, Ariel confronts Antonio, Alonso and Sebastian about their actions against Prospero. Although Shakespeare originally did not write this text in the form of a song, we feel that adding some base-driven , key of C-minor background music in this scene will highlight the intense mood.



You — are three men of sin, whom Des - tiny, That hath to — nstrument

Photos by the candidate (using music-generating software).

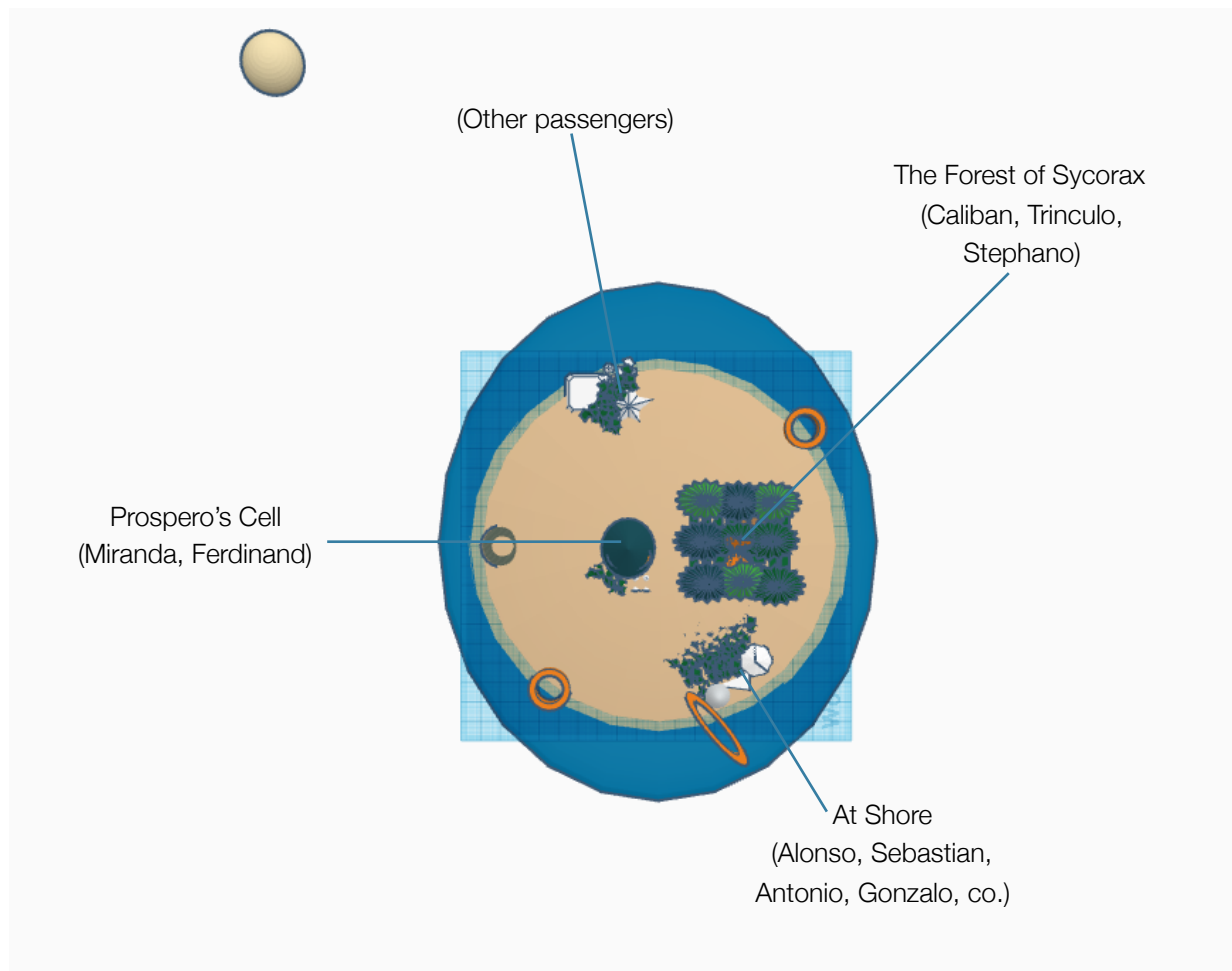
SET DESIGN



Set of the island, including Prospero's cell, the woods where Caliban lives, and more (Model and background created by the candidate, citation for background photos in Works Cited).

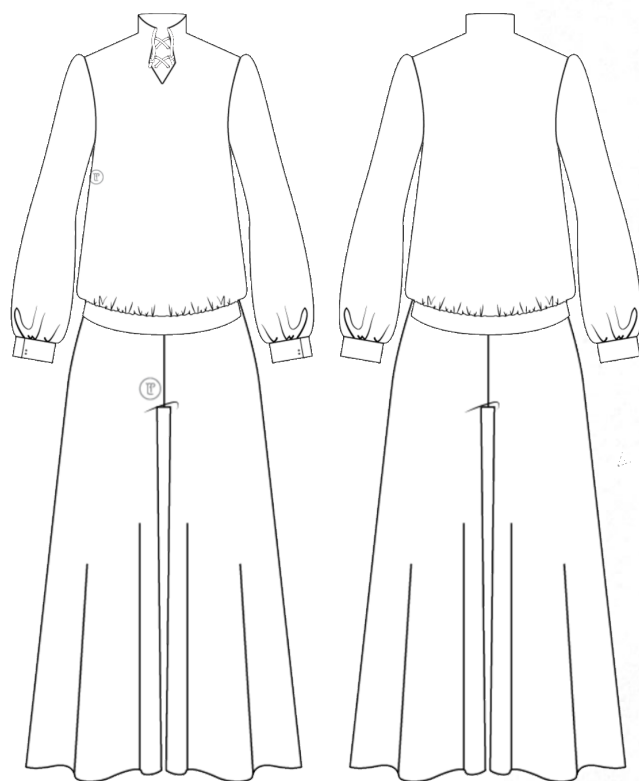
The characters will wander about the island, and even pass through each other's scenes, without being visibly affected by the setting that the other characters are trapped in, or being able to see the characters outside of their group. For example, I would like to have Ferdinand and Alonso pass one another without noticing whenever one of them mentions or thinks of the other. This will amplify the existing effect of the dramatic irony in this play.

Some characters scenes may occur in the background while a particular group has the spotlight. When it is time to shift attention to a different group, the lights will focus more on that group; to the characters, it will feel as though the sun as beaming on them, but the audience will know who to focus on, bearing in mind that these events are not actually happening in the isolation that the characters feel, they just can't see or hear each other due to the curse.

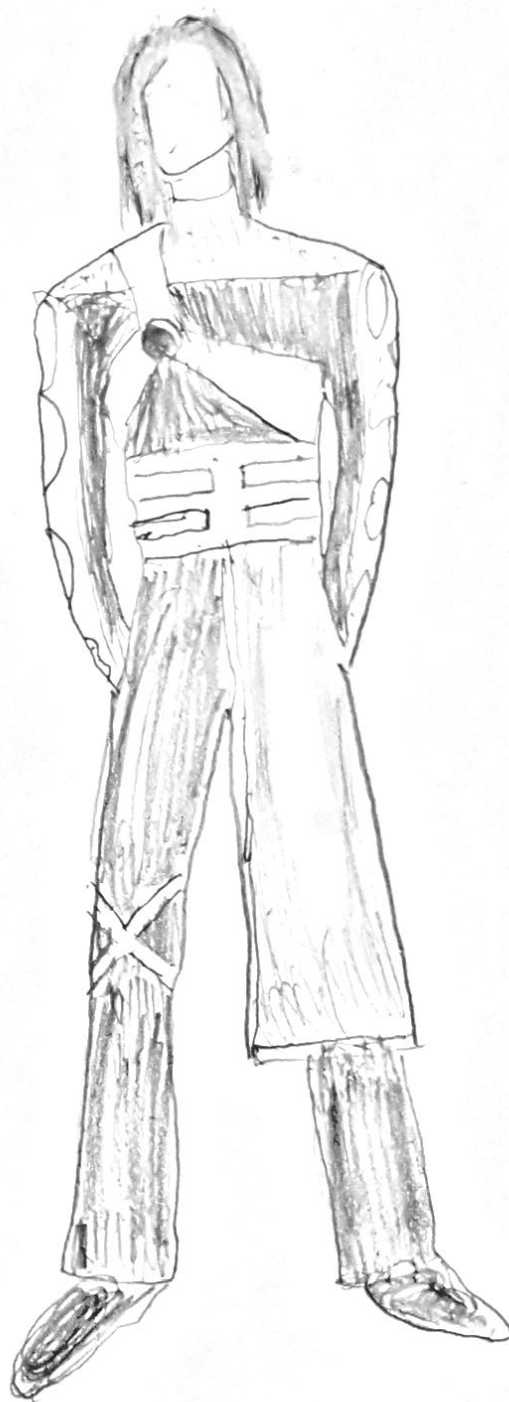


Map of the set

COSTUME DESIGNS



Prospero will have one outfit change, while the other characters remain in the same outfit. This change will occur as Prospero reveals himself to King Alonso and the others in order to symbolize what Prospero was once (duke), and has become (the tyrant of a small island in the Caribbean) as a result of them sending him and his daughter off to die at sea (Sketched by the candidate).





Miranda



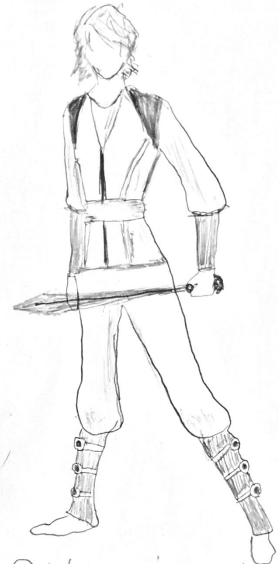
Ferdinand

Miranda is young, gorgeous, innocent, and well mannered, so she will wear a simple, short dress in a grey or white color to represent this. Ferdinand is also young, and full of valor, as represented by his minor embellishments, but he is a simple man at heart (Sketched by the candidate).

These figures, like Ferdinand, are dressed in dramatic irony to their social status. Alonso wears his regular king's attire with a large cape; it's enough for him to sink into it and hide. Antonio and Sebastian are listed as one here because of the parallel between the two of them, in terms of their roles in the kingdom and in the play. Gonzalo is not dressed as nobly as the others due to his lower status, but he still has a respectable ensemble which shows that the power he may show in the play is not external (Sketched by the candidate).



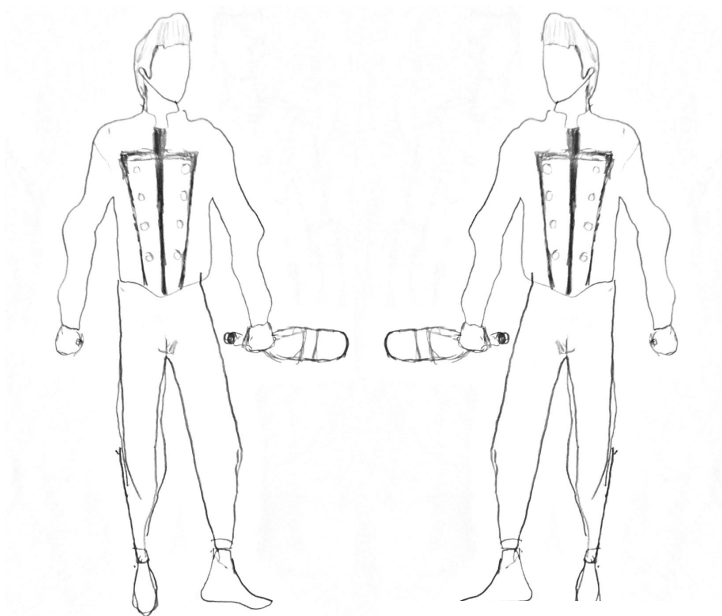
Gonzalo & Co.



Antonio, Sebastian



Alonso



Stephano &
Trinculo



These costumes are reflective of the personalities or descriptions of the characters; Stephano and Trinculo, two drunk butlers, and Caliban, a hideous monster (Sketched by the Candidate, Photo by *Travel Studies*).

Ariel is tiny, majestic and powerful; his skin sparkles in the sunlight, he can fly at the speed of light, and he looks much like a guardian angel. This reflects his role throughout the play as he goes from group to group (Sketched by the candidate).



MARKETING STRATEGY

This new version of the play will be branded as "The Tempest 2.0: New Sensations". Our promotional posters, one featuring the image attached on the cover of the proposal, will set the tone of the play with a mysterious hue of background colors, with hints of earth tones to highlight the element of nature in the original script. This collection of posters will give the public a preview of how each character sees the situation with the storm, or a revelation that the character has in the midst of this chaos.



Left: The proportional poster for Miranda, where she first opens her eyes to a world beyond the island (Created by the candidate) | Right: The promotional poster for the play (Created by the candidate with sources images).

Word Count : 994

WORKS CITED

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Rationale

This written task explores textual biases in famous periodicals, as studied in Part 2: Language in Mass Communication, and how it connects to their agenda. I chose to mimic CNN by creating an original layout of a satirical parody of their website, titled *The Social Constitution*. I created headlines and articles that mimic the negative tone in their current political articles. I also traded the crimson color of CNN for a cooler-toned blue. This alludes to a departure from the colors associated with the Republican party. It also sets a cooler, harsher tone for the written task, as I will highlight the reoccurrence of pessimistic language in these political news articles.

CNN has been known to show an obvious bias against the Trump Administration. For example, they posted an article to their Facebook page with the headline “How Donald Trump is benefiting from ‘Donald Trump fatigue’”. Before I opened the article, the writer’s choice of words indicated to me that in their view, Donald Trump is so privileged that he would benefit from a seemingly uncomfortable situation. This irony of the phrase “benefiting from Donald Trump fatigue” paints the president as spoiled. This tone continues throughout; the article discusses the media controversy that Trump is in the midst of, and how his social media practices are unbecoming of a president. He often comments that these stories are ‘fake news’, and that the media outlet that published the story are perpetrators of criticism towards him. Yet he praises periodicals that that are biased in favor of him: like Fox News. Trump’s media rhetoric shows that bias cannot be avoided. News outlets are supposedly responsible for filtering through bias to represent the truth; but as we’ve seen with CNN, the truth is simply a matter of which bias to emphasize.

Word Count: 299

25 BANNED TRAVEL DESTINATIONS



CLICK TO FIND OUT

Switzerland is now issuing an advisory against trips to these locations. Yikes!

By Angsley P. Swarthmore | Jul 23, 2017

Following the decision of the incumbent United States president to temporarily ban all travel to 7 (predominantly Muslim) nations, Switzerland has decided to implement a temporary ban of its own: beginning in August of this year, if your country is facing or has faced the handshake shingles epidemic within the past 5 months, you will be prevented from entering the country. Watch to see if your state country made the list!

[Read More >>](#)

TRENDING:

Hold the Graduation Caps! US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Announces New Graduation Requirements for High School Students

By Douglas List | Jul 18, 2017

In order to ensure that their high school students meet these targets and grow into intellectual people, the US Department of Education will be adding Grades 13 and 14 to **all** secondary schools by September 2019. [Read More >>](#)



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3

The Second Civil War? California, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, and others to secede from the Union

By Patrick Manlove Jr. | Jul 1, 2017

The states' just released a joint statement (delivered by California Governor Jerry Brown), citing that Donald Drumpf-Trump has embarrassed them and their forefathers for the last time. New York has already taken legal action to disown the incumbent president. [Read More >>](#)

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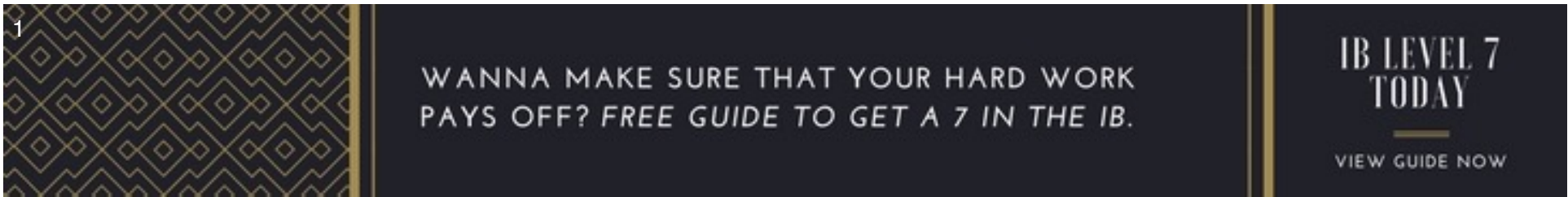
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Health

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Advocacy

The Public Consensus
(Against the President)



Hold the Graduation Caps! US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Announces New Graduation Requirements for High School Students

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By [Douglas List](#), TSC White House ~~Spy~~ Correspondent
Updated 1:04 AM ET, Sun July 23, 2017



Story Highlights

Several states have criticized these requirements for being discriminatory.

The US Department of Education to add Grades 13 and 14 to **all** secondary schools, effective September 2019.

are taken care of by the law, and that they are “adequately prepared to face the real world.”

This plan includes a review of their legal status in the US—to ensure that students are receiving proper resources for their education. Many, like New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, have called this measure out for what it is: “means for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] to track down undocumented students and then deny them diplomas for their hard work, as well as deport their families. [The administration] will stop at nothing to promote an antagonistic view of immigrants.”

Washington (TSC) — At a press conference held at the White House on Friday night, Secretary DeVos announced a new set of targets that the Classes of 2018 and on will have to meet in order to obtain a US High School Diploma.

After receiving backlash over what many of Donald ~~Drumpf~~'s associates, including DeVos herself (unofficially), [call a failure on the President's part to protect all students from discrimination](#), she has declared her dedication to ensuring that all students

TOP STORIES

President Trump to hire Russian songwriter Yury Chernavsky to rewrite the National Anthem

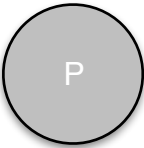


The Second Civil War? California, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, and others to secede from the Union





The Second Civil War? California, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, and others to secede from the Union



By [Patrick Manlove Jr](#), TSC Reporter
Updated 3:08 PM ET, Wed July 12, 2017



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Story Highlights

The states are discussing their succession in Congress.

New York to appear in front of the Supreme Court to revoke Trump’s New York birth certificate.

California (TSC) — Following the Senator’s Referendum on July 1, the representatives of California, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Delaware have resolved to put forth a proposal to secede from the Union and form a brand new nation, called the Big League of America (BLA). This decision comes only weeks after President Donald Trump announced that the US was pulling out of the Paris Agreement.

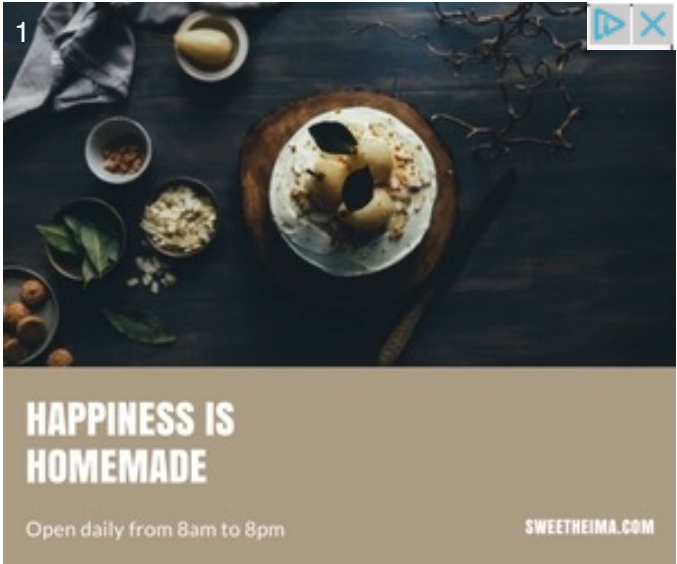
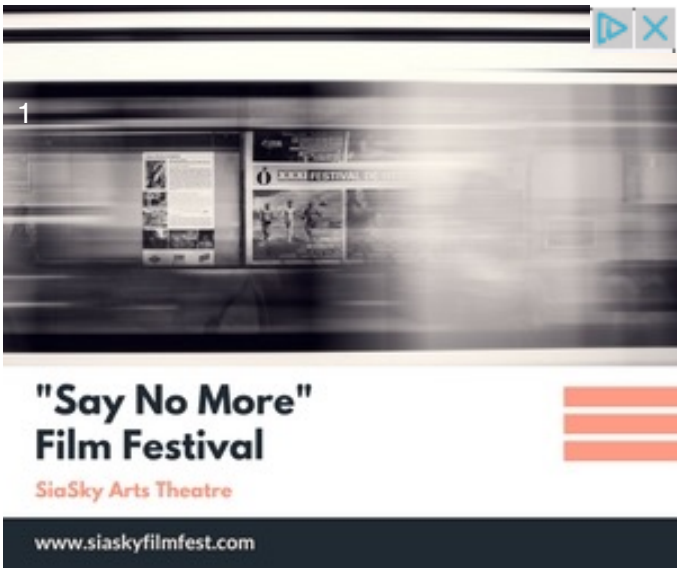
“Donald J. Trump is a poor representative at best,” comments Governor Chris Sununu of New Hampshire. “To put it simply, he is an embarrassment to our states, and an even bigger embarrassment to his country.”

Succession papers are already in the works; the governors are set to attend a congressional meeting next month to discuss negotiations, such as ownership of public buildings and monuments, sharing resources, trade and more. But there is one issue that has not yet been resolved: how to ensure that Donald Trump is not regarded as a natural-born citizen of the new nation, as he was born in Queens, New York City. A representative from the Empire State will, separately, appear before the Supreme Court to repeal Trump’s New York City birth certificate.

TOP STORIES

Dear Mr. President: They’re Just Not That Into You!

At the urging of President Trump, all US Public High Schools will now be required to offer classes about US-Russia Foreign Relations



Works Cited

(referenced by number in the task)

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