Jerry Talley is running into a few problems in his directing of the Baylor Theater's production of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest."

Talley said that the main trouble lay in the actors' deliveries of the Shakespearean speeches.

"The students are not accustomed to speaking Shakespeare," he said. "Also they are not accustomed to speaking poetry."

Talley said that the Texas accents of some of the actors posed a problem in the early rehearsal, but that they had overcome most of their accents.

"The students are also not accustomed to the flexible and variegated use of the body, which Shakespeare demands," he said.

"The Tempest," which opens Feb. 17, has also necessitated some changes in Studio One.

Talley said that he had decided not to use all five of the stages.

"Instead, I have built a forestage between two of the side stages," he said.

He said that he chose to do the production in Studio One rather than Weston because it fitted the mood better.

"I find Weston somewhat dismal and to me it doesn't create the proper mood for Shakespeare," he said.

Talley said that "The Tempest" was being presented in connection with the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare.

"The Tempest" is generally considered one of Shakespeare's most personal plays, he said.

"It is thought by some critics that he wrote it as a final farewell to the stage," Talley said. It was at least his last play that he wrote by himself since most feel that he did Henry VIII with another man.

"The play is particularly meaningful in that it expresses Shakespeare's reconciliation with the world after a rather tempestuous period of plays—the dark comedies and the dark tragedies," he said.

Talley said some critics believe that the play expresses Shakespeare's concern that man learn to live in a world, but that he master the magical qualities surrounding him.

He said that the play is about a usurped duke who by his magical art brings his enemies to the island where he had been exiled years before.

"The play itself is concerned with the changes wrought in the minds of both Prospero (the duke) and his enemies as a result of their encounter on the magical island," Talley said.

"The Tempest" is the conversion of Alonso, Antonio, and Sebastian, the love story of Ferdinand and Miranda and Prospero's reconciliation to the world, he said.

It is also the story of the beast Caliban and the spirit Ariel.

This will be the second time that Talley has directed "The Tempest." He previously directed the play at University of Oklahoma.

Talley, who has appeared in productions of Shakespeare's "King Lear" and "Othello," did his undergraduate work at Oklahoma Baptist University and at the University of Tulsa. He received his master of arts degree from the University of Arkansas.

He will receive his doctorate from Denver University this spring.