

# The Crier

Newsletter  
Winter 2010



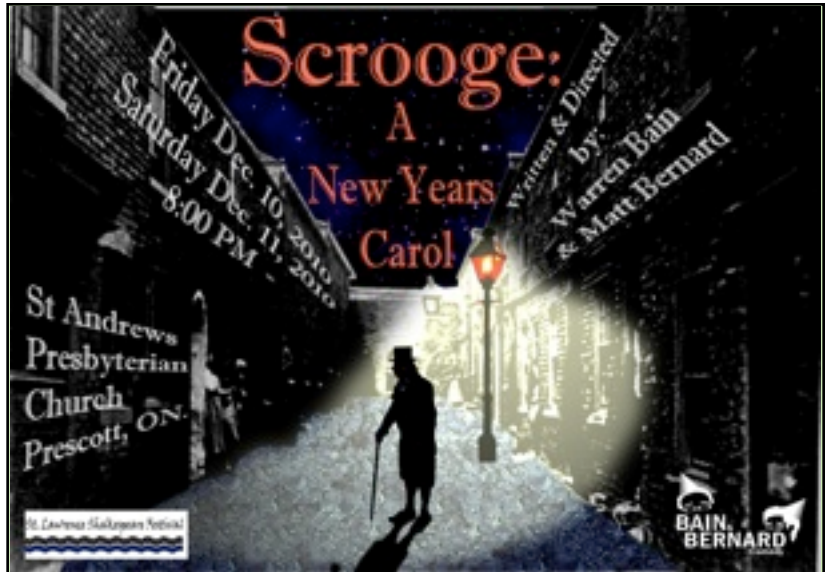
Our 2010 season is over and as the cold nights draw in, the memories of laughter and drama on the banks of the St. Lawrence are fading.

A big thank you to all of our audience, volunteers and supporters for helping to make 2010 yet another record-breaking year for the Festival!

Plans for our 2011 are moving on apace and we hope that you'll be looking forward to our productions of *Twelfth Night* and *All's Well That Ends Well* - more about these shows in our Spring edition of *The Crier*. But we're thrilled that we have already managed to entice one of the stars of 2010, Kerry Ann Doherty, to return to Prescott next summer. You can learn more about this talented actor inside.

One feature of the Festival's growth is the addition of other performances throughout the year. We've already had the wonderful production of *Jake's Gift* (so good that we're negotiating to bring it back in 2011) and we can look forward to the return of Bain and Bernard in December with a wonderfully vaudevillian take on the timeless Dickens story of *Scrooge*. We hope you'll join us!

*Ian Farthing*



## BAIN AND BERNARD RETURN!

Following their triumphant debut at the Festival this summer as part of our Sunday Series, the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival is pleased to announce that Bain and Bernard are returning for another dose of their madcap comedy, this time using Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as their starting point for fun and frolics.

It's after Christmas. All of the main characters from Dickens are here: Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the Cratchit Family, Freddie and Clara - Scrooge's nephew and niece, and all are looking forward to the next big holiday, which is only six days away - New Years Day!

Scrooge is hosting the first and largest annual New Year's Party that England has ever seen, all are invited... but will all come?

Bain & Bernard tackle this elegant classic tale with a swift kick of vaudevillian style which ensures that Christmas will never be the same again...!

**Friday December 10th 8pm**

**Saturday December 11th 8pm**

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 425 Centre Street, Prescott**

**All tickets \$20 (inc. HST)**

**Available online at [www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca](http://www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca)**

**or by calling 613 925 5788**



## 2011 Ticket Prices

*all prices include HST*

Adults	\$25
Students	\$20
Children 12 & under	FREE
Season Pass	\$80

**Looking for a different Christmas present idea? Why not consider buying your loved ones an SLSF Season Pass or gift certificate? Let the joy of Christmas last all summer long! Available now!**

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Our regular feature highlighting news of some of your favourite actors!

**Tyler Murree** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet*) is appearing locally in the Upper Canada Playhouse's production of *A Christmas Carol* until December 12th.

**David Adams** (Shylock) is also appearing in *A Christmas Carol* but at the Western Canada Theatre Company in Kamloops, BC, while artistic director **Ian Farthing** is appearing in yet another production of the Dickens favourite in Chemainus, BC until January 8th.

**Emma Hunter** is reprising her Dora-nominated role in *The Incredible Speediness of Jamie Cavanagh* for Roseneath Theatre, touring schools in Ontario this fall.

Edmonton's Citadel Theatre will be host to a number of SLSF alumni in 2011. **Kris Joseph, Colleen Winton** and **Lana Sugarman** will all be appearing in *The Three Musketeers* and a musical version of *Little Women*. **Kris Joseph** also recently appeared in a successful production of *The Turn of the Screw* inside Laurier House in Ottawa.

**John Koengen** was recently awarded the Audrey Ashley Award for major contribution to theatre by the Capital Critics Circle, "for his extensive, excellent and varied body of work". Our hearty congratulations go out to him on this great honour.

## Shakespeare on the move!

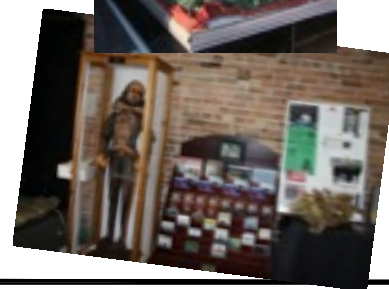
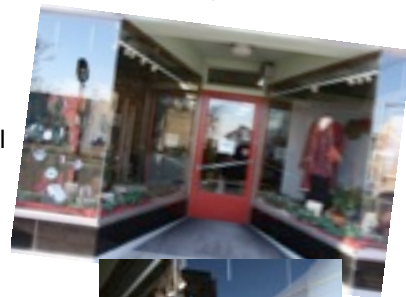
Those of you who live in Prescott will have already noticed that the Festival office has recently moved to a more central location on the main market square.

Formerly Doyle's menswear store, 206 King Street West is one of the prettiest historic buildings in town and will give the Festival a stronger and more visible presence downtown.

We'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped us with the move, particularly Robert Lawn, Peter Martin, Doug De Vries, Lyle Behnke and Brenda Bennett.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Grand Opening on Friday November 19th from 6 - 8pm, the same night as Prescott's Light Up the Night Parade. We'll be offering light refreshments and lots of cheer!

Of course, everyone is welcome to come and view the offices any time at their leisure - or maybe come and buy a 2011 season pass for a Christmas present!

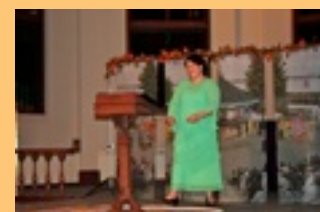


## SHAKESPEARE AND SONG



On a clear and crisp Thanksgiving weekend, over 40 people gathered for a sumptuous 5 course meal in the glorious surroundings of the Chapel at the former Grenville Christian College.

Musical entertainment was provided by Canadian Opera Company mezzo-soprano Megan Latham, singing selections of opera, jazz and songs from the musical theatre canon.



Local musicians Janice McIntyre, Janine Dekker, Cheryl Roberts and Abe Tegrotenhuis also helped to create a wonderful musical backdrop to the dinner.

The evening helped raise over \$4500 for the Festival, which certainly gave us something to be thankful for!

## The Actor Whose Heart is Dancing - an interview with Kerry Ann Doherty

Anyone who saw both of our mainstage productions this year were amazed at the versatility of one actor in particular. Kerry Ann Doherty managed to portray the complex, dark and emotionally volatile character of Lady Macbeth with grace, poise and passion. When audiences came back to see *Trouble on Dibble Street*, many weren't even sure they were watching the same actor as the slow-witted Mrs. Quickly galumphed her way across the stage.

Kerry Ann wasn't originally cast in the season, but when the actor playing Lady Macbeth unexpectedly pulled out, Artistic Director Ian Farthing had to do some quick thinking.

"I was in England at the time and so wasn't able to hold a new round of auditions. So I thought back to the actors we'd already seen and realized Kerry Ann might just fit the bill. She was in Calgary, I was in London, so we arranged to "meet" via webcams over the internet, using Skype."

Kerry Ann remembers the occasion well: "Auditioning over Skype was different. The great thing about it was that I was in familiar surroundings (my sister's basement). Sitting in front of a computer, summoning the spirits, felt easy. Maybe it was because I was just speaking the words and not trying to 'act' it. The weirdest thing was not



Kerry Ann as Mrs. Quickly in *Trouble on Dibble Street*, 2010.

being able to shake Ian's hand before and after."

The unusual audition was enough for Farthing to cast her as Lady Macbeth and he then persuaded Craig Walker that she would be a good fit for Mrs. Quickly in *Trouble on Dibble Street*, too.

"I knew she had the depth we needed for *Macbeth*, but I don't think we'd anticipated just how funny she was going to be as Mrs. Quickly. It was a very gratifying discovery", said Farthing.



Kerry Ann as Lady Macbeth, 2010

An award-winning Irish dancer in her youth, at one point Kerry Ann was set to study dance full time when an accident meant she had to re-think her plans.

"I loved to dance. Feeling the emotion moment to moment through the turn of the head or flick of a finger is beautiful. Dancing is all about expressing emotion and in my twenties I was all about big emotion."

There wasn't a dramatic shift into acting, as she had already graduated from an acting program, but she didn't realize how much of a strength those dance experiences were until much later and it took her a while to love acting as much as she loved dancing.

Her career as an actor has since taken her across the country, with award nominations in Toronto and Edmonton. But even with all of her wide experience, coming to Prescott was still a special experience for her.

"I loved my time in Prescott last summer. I've been bragging to everyone about it. The town was so welcoming to us 'Shakespeares'. The support from the community was fantastic, so it didn't take long to feel at home. And the company that I got to work with every day was a joy. I honestly can't say a bad thing about it. Playing Lady Macbeth was a dream come true and Mrs Quickly was an unexpected treat."

Kerry Ann will be re-joining the Festival in 2011, playing Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and the Widow in *All's Well That Ends Well*. Olivia is a dream role for her:

"She has a great journey, starting off in mourning, shunning the advances of Duke Orsino, then falling head over heels in love with Viola/Sebastian. She starts off so together and a little too sure of herself and it'll be fun to see



A scene from Kerry Ann's current production of *The Great War* at Cameron House in Toronto, running to December 5th.

how and when she loses her poise as she falls in love".

Audiences fell in love with Kerry Ann in 2010 and we're sure you'll enjoy watching her fall in love on stage at the Festival next summer!

## Why I volunteer for Shakespeare

By Don Farnsworth, B.A., CFP



A couple of years ago I began working for one of the banks in Prescott, but didn't know many people in the town. One day I met with Sandra Lawn and asked for suggestions on getting involved and making a difference. She suggested I volunteer for Shakespeare.

The next week, I was sitting in a meeting with Sandra, Ian Farthing (on Skype), Jessie De Vries and Jean Dufour as a member of the fund-raising committee for the Festival. What a great group of people right off the bat with whom to rub shoulders.

I've worked with several charities over the last 30 years or so, and with some of them you really feel as though your contribution is meaningful. It certainly is with Shakespeare.

I get to meet people, and benefit from feeling my efforts mean a great deal to others on the team.

The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival demonstrates what a group of committed people can pull off for Prescott and Eastern Ontario. The value and benefits to the town and its people are significant. To be part of it is dear to me.

I received this email a few weeks ago: "We had a small surplus for the Shakespeare Festival." Whoa! I was elated.

"Do you realize that this means every person who made any size of donation, made a meaningful difference?" I replied.

Think of it. A few small contributions, or invitations to friends getting them to attend, made all the difference here. A few dollars less and we would have been in the red.

Now I've seen statements, plenty of statements, where companies run "in the red" on a regular basis. Usually, though, they have assets to back up the losses, at least for a little while.

SLSF has to break even every year. We did it again.

Since I'm kind of new on the fundraising committee, I was worried, knowing it would go to the wire on this. But you and I, and all the volunteers have accomplished what many others can't. Congratulations!

Next year, when you're wondering if your gift is truly valued, know that it is. And, if you haven't learned to make donations securely online, I recommend it. (Want an info session on how to do that? It can be arranged.)

On behalf of our fund-raising team, thank you for making 2010 a success.



**Don Farnsworth is Certified Financial Planner and was one of the key volunteers behind our successful Shakespeare and Song dinner in October and the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament in September.**

**Thank you Don!**

## UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday Nov 19th, 6 - 8pm**  
Holiday Open House and Grand Opening of the new office!

**Friday Dec 10th, 8pm**  
**Saturday Dec 11th, 8pm**  
Bain and Bernard present:  
Scrooge - A New Year's Carol  
St. Andrew's Church

**Thursday Jan 27th**  
Our Annual General Meeting  
at the Red George Pub - business  
and beer!

**Saturday Feb 19th, 6pm**  
Valentine Dinner and Auction

**Friday May 13th, 8pm**  
**Sat May 14th, 8pm**  
Toad - the Anna Russell Story  
starring Denise Oucharek

**It's now easy to make a  
donation to the  
St. Lawrence  
Shakespeare Festival!**



**You can go online, make your  
donation securely and receive a  
tax receipt for each donation  
immediately by email.**

If you would like to take advantage of  
this new facility, go to our website and  
click on the "Donate Now" image that  
you'll find on our home page. You'll be  
taken straight to the relevant page at  
[www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org)

**Thank you!**