



Media Release

FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CAST FOR 2009 SEASON

Prescott, March 30, 2009:

After receiving hundreds of submissions for its 2009 season, auditions for the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival were held in Ottawa and Toronto in February.

Half of the actors this summer will be returning from previous years and half will be visiting Prescott for the first time.

"I think it's important to find a balance between seeing familiar actors on stage and bringing in fresh new talent to the company," said Ian Farthing, Artistic Director of the Festival, who added that the quality of the actors who were auditioning this year was higher than any previous year.

Heading the cast of *The Taming of the Shrew* will be Alix Sideris as Kate and Craig Walker as Petruchio. Walker will also be directing *Measure for Measure*, which features Kris Joseph and Emma Hunter. Other Festival favourites who are returning include Michael MacDonald, Lana Sugarman and David Whiteley.

New faces include actors with many years of experience who have worked at Stratford, Mirvish Productions, the NAC and across the country. They include Montreal-based Greg Kramer, Ottawa-based John Koensgen and Doreen Taylor-Claxton and Toronto-based Marc Bondy, Brent Buchanan and Charlotte Gowdy. The Festival is also welcoming newcomer Warren Bain, who will be making his professional debut in Prescott after graduating from Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto this June. Speaking of his upcoming debut, Bain said "Joining the professional acting community comes with new changes and experiences. I'm overjoyed to be welcomed by the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival; it's a great place to start!"

The company's mission is to provide diverse audiences with an inspirational and accessible theatrical experience of the highest professional standard.

The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival's 2009 season featuring *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Measure for Measure* runs July 11 to August 15 at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre at Sandra S. Lawn Harbour in Prescott. The Festival also boasts the ever-popular Sunday Series and the Young Artists Training Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 613-925-5788 or www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca