



Media Release

SHAKESPEARE ACTORS DESCEND ON PRESCOTT

Prescott, June 5, 2009:

It's that time of year again, anticipated in Prescott with as much excitement as the tulips appearing in Ottawa every spring. The professional players are back for another season at the waterfront St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival.

Five weeks before the Festival opens, the actors have arrived from across Ontario and beyond to begin rehearsals in what is shaping up as a bumper summer for fans of the Bard. It's the time when local residents begin to see for themselves the high level of talent gathered to entertain them at the Festival's harbour-side amphitheatre.

The actors are billeted with residents, offering a unique insider's view of the process of putting on a play: "I love hearing them rehearsing and the opportunity to live vicariously through an actor," said Laurie Powers, who is hosting a performer for the second year.

The Taming of the Shrew will feature Alix Sideris and Craig Walker as the sparring lovers, Kate and Petruchio, who utters the immortal line "Come on and kiss me, Kate!" *Measure for Measure* features Kris Joseph as Angelo and Emma Hunter as Isabella. Kris was recently invited to join the 40th anniversary ensemble at the National Arts Centre and Emma has just been honoured with an Outstanding Performance nomination in Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore Awards.

Advance sales for the season have already surpassed last year's figures, representing a steady increase since the Festival was introduced seven years ago, and boding well for attendance this summer.

"People are considering staying closer to home on their holidays, and we hope that the guaranteed good time of our Shakespeare productions will attract them to Prescott," said Ian Farthing, Festival Artistic Director.

The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival's 2009 season featuring *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Measure for Measure* runs July 11th to August 15th at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre at Sandra S. Lawn Harbour in Prescott.

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