

## Season

**July 14th - August 11th**  
**Kinsmen Amphitheatre**  
 Sandra S. Lawn Harbour  
 Water Street East  
 Prescott, ON



**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
 by William Shakespeare

**Romeo & Juliet**  
 by William Shakespeare



July 15  
 Salamander Theatre presents...  
**Measure for Measure**

July 22  
 A Company of Fools presents...  
**Twelfth Night**

July 29  
**Revelers Showcase**



## Welcome

Initiated last year, *The Crier* is an occasional newsletter for our friends and supporters. Filled with snippets of information and short articles, this is your chance to learn more about what's going on at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Enjoy!

*Ian Farthing*

Ian Farthing, Artistic Director



## Season Pass\*

For only \$60 you can buy a 2007 Season Pass which will entitle you to attend any of our shows as many times as you like during the summer. *\*The season pass is not valid for Opening or Closing nights.*



If you see both mainstage shows and three of our Sunday Series events, you will already have saved yourself money. And you can keep coming back for more!

**Season passes make great gift ideas for your family and friends – so don't delay, buy today!**

Available in Prescott at... Royal Bank, House of Flowers - Pages Bookstore, Young's of Prescott

## Tickets



Adults .....	\$20.00
Seniors (60+) .....	\$16.00
Students (Youth 13 & over; College & University Students) .....	\$16.00
Children (12 & under) .....	FREE
Sunday Series .....	\$10.00
Preview Night (Prescott residents - presentation of ID is required) .....	\$10.00
Season Pass .....	\$60.00
Gift Certificates are available .....	Please contact the Festival

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## Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo?

by Perry Mucci



I should probably preface this article by saying that I'm the kind of actor who is happy playing any kind of role on stage - large, small, screaming lines from the wings - whatever. It's the excitement of being there, participating in the creative act with other performers and giving the audience a chance to put reality on hold for a few hours that gets my motor humming. But then there are those characters you would give your eye teeth to play and I doubt that there is any male actor working today who hasn't wanted to be Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. I'm certainly no exception.

Having the opportunity to play this character is thrilling. Romeo gets to pine and wax poetic, experience love at first sight, climb the wall, kiss the girl, fight hand to hand with his enemies, die in the arms of his love and do it reciting some of the most beautiful language ever written. I just glance over the pages and think "I really get to do that!"

However, the prospect of portraying Romeo is also more than a little daunting. Every character you play demands a certain amount of emotional vulnerability, but the journey that both of the title characters experience in this play is extreme. Adding to the pressure is the fact that everyone has a perception of who *Romeo and Juliet* are and what they represent. Their names are synonymous with young love, passion, romance and tragedy. Even those who have never read or seen the play before come to the theatre with certain expectations. I know it will be a challenge to try to put the iconic image of Romeo aside while attempting to develop a unique character during rehearsal.

Even with all that swirling in my head, I'm very excited to be returning to Prescott and the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival for another year. The people and the setting always make me feel like it's summer vacation. I look forward to seeing the returning actors and those who will be new to the ensemble. And let's be honest, can you think of a better place to perform *Romeo and Juliet* than in an outdoor amphitheatre on the banks of the St. Lawrence? I know that it's going to be an amazing season.

*Perry Mucci has been a regular face in Prescott over the past few years. Audiences will remember seeing him as one of the Dromio twins in Comedie of Errors, as the handsome Sebastian in Twelfth Night and as the wronged lover Claudio in Much Adoe. He has also recently starred in a movie called Sidekick, playing second fiddle to a superhero.*

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### FUN FACTS

Shakespeare is seen as one of the world's literary giants, but he never attended university.

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### St. Lawrence Shakespeare Staff

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**Ian Farthing**  
Artistic Director

**Jessie Ritchie**  
General Manager

### Summer of Love



Our 2007 season will be a Summer of Love both on and off the stage. Not one but **two** of the Festival's favourite actors will be getting married once the plays have come to a close in August. Ross Neill (*Much Adoe*) is marrying the beautiful and talented Kimy McLaren in Montreal, while Amanda Levencrowne (*Comedie of Errors* and *Much Adoe*) is marrying her fiancé Art, also an actor, in Ottawa. One special night last summer, Art surprised Mandy by secretly arranging to have all the actors remain on stage at the end of the show, then leaping down from the audience to declare his love. It was such a romantic moment and we want to wish all of the Festival's lovebirds happiness and joy in their upcoming nuptials.

## Valentine's Fundraising Dinner

Thank you to all those who attended our second annual Valentine's Dinner in February. A full house at the Prescott Golf Club enjoyed an elegant evening which also helped us to raise over \$3,000 for the Festival!

Shakespeare wrote in *Twelfth Night*: "If music be the food of love, play on..." and during the evening we were treated to a veritable feast of songs ranging from musical theatre, jazz and even some opera thrown in for good measure!

Those of you who saw *Much Adoe* last summer will remember the larger than life Ross Neill, but you may not know that he is also a very gifted singer. When he sang the *Tonight* duet from *West Side Story* with his fiancée Kimy McLaren, also an opera singer, there was not a dry eye to be seen in the house.

As one of last year's Revelers, Anwyn Musico was seen on stage dressed as a young boy. But all thoughts of boyhood were banished from memory with her vibrant rendition of a song from *Thoroughly Modern Millie* called *Gimme Gimme* and the beautiful ballad *A Quiet Thing...* leaving us in no doubt that this local student has a very bright future ahead of her.

Those who remember our production of *Twelfth Night* in 2005 will remember Ian Farthing shamelessly flirting with the crowd with his rendition of *Somebody Loves Me* and the reprise he performed during the cabaret got

everyone singing and clapping along.

Guests were also treated to a little sneak preview of the summer season, with a performance of a short scene from both *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

After some of the most devilishly delicious desserts ever seen in Prescott, the esteemed Barry Laushway doffed the auctioneer's hat and deftly directed us through some lively bidding for a number of sterling auction items. These included a weekend at the Royal York in Toronto with Leafs tickets (courtesy of the Royal Bank); stays at the Delta Chelsea hotel in Toronto (courtesy of the Prescott Journal); tickets to one of Canada's top choirs - Chor Leoni, for their August concert in Ottawa; two delightful handmade cushions courtesy of Nancy Casselman; and a painting by renowned local artist Evan LeClair.

### Volunteering

Hundreds of volunteers contribute to the success of the Festival by contributing their time, talent and enthusiasm. If you are interested in volunteering please contact us directly at 613-925-5788



Photos by Lynne Chagnon



### Do you have a spare bedroom?

This year the Festival will be welcoming actors, directors and



stage managers from across the continent, from Seattle, Chicago and New York, from Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. Of course, they all need somewhere to stay while they're in town! If you have a spare room, perhaps you would like to consider billeting someone from the company? All it requires is a room of their own and some space in the fridge – you won't be asked to cook for them. And when one of our actors goes on to become a big star you can brag to your friends "I put him up in Prescott!"

Anyone who might be interested, please contact Judie Martin for more details on 613-925-1820

### FUN FACTS

Did you know that April 23<sup>rd</sup> is Shakespeare's birthday?

## Shakespeare in the movies



Some of you like to get a head start by watching movie versions of the plays you'll be seeing this summer, so here are some recommendations to help you along the way!

### *Romeo and Juliet*



Franco Zeffereilli directed a fabulous, traditional period version in 1968 starring Olivia Hussey, Leonard Whiting and

Michael York.



For a more contemporary take on the play, Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* in 1996 was set in modern L.A. Starring Leonardo di Caprio and a host of famous faces, this version is a great one to introduce

your kids and grandkids to Shakespeare!

And of course, just for fun, you might want to watch *West Side*



*Story*, one of the greatest musicals of all time, which is based on the Romeo and Juliet story.

### *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



One of the best versions is a 1996 adaptation from the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by Adrian Noble. It

manages to capture the feeling of a theatre production while still working well on film. It stars Lindsay Duncan (*Mansfield Park*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*), Alex Jennings (*who played Prince Charles in The Queen*) and a hilarious performance from Desmond Barrit as Bottom.

Hollywood also has a big-name version which is worth a look from 1999, starring Michelle Pfeiffer, Stanley Tucci, Rupert Everett,



Kevin Kline, Calista Flockhart and Dominic West. If you watch this version, take a look at what some of the other performers are rehearsing while the Mechanicals are waiting for word from the Duke. One group of players is rehearsing the Greek tragedy Oedipus Rex and another pair of players are rehearsing a scene from Shakespeare's play Othello!

Shakespeare's plays, sonnets and poems are also available on the web, we invite you to visit the following sites and enjoy...  
<http://www.absoluteshakespeare.com>  
[www.playshakespeare.com](http://www.playshakespeare.com)

**New for 2007**

## One Week Acting Intensive

Education Director: Molly Lyons

**Drama training for all levels  
Ages 13 and up!**

Whether you've only taken a few drama classes at school or whether you're seriously considering a career in theatre, this week is for you!

As well as getting specialized training from some of the best instructors, you also have the opportunity for a showcase performance as part of the Festival's Sunday Series.

Workshop includes...  
 Improvisation, stage combat, text, Shakespeare, voice, and performance.

**Fee: \$100 per student**

Further details are available on our website, or by calling the festival at 613-925-5788.

