



## Media Release

May 24, 2011

### Jake's Gift – A Gift of Remembrance this June 6th

Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> will be the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and it also sees the return of *Jake's Gift* to the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott. There couldn't be a better way to commemorate this special occasion than with a trip to see this memorable performance.

*Jake's Gift* is an award-winning, funny and moving play that tells the story of a Canadian World War II veteran who reluctantly returns to Normandy, France, for the 60th anniversary of D-Day. While revisiting the beach he landed on sixty years earlier, Jake encounters Isabelle, a precocious 10-year-old from the local village whose inquisitive nature and charm challenge the old soldier to confront some long-ignored ghosts – most notably, the war-time death of his eldest brother Chester, a once promising young musician.

In June 2004, performer Julia Mackey traveled to Normandy, France, for the 60th anniversary of D-Day. During that eight-day journey, she interviewed dozens of Canadian, British and American veterans who had returned for the ceremonies. The stories they shared with Julia and her own life-long interest in World War II inspired the development of the play.

"I don't know of any other show that has made such a powerful impact on audiences than *Jake's Gift*", says Artistic Director Ian Farthing, "the coincidence of it being performed on D-Day will give the show an added poignancy and resonance. Julia's performance is one of the best I have ever seen – if you missed it in October, don't miss out this time round!"

#### **JAKE'S GIFT**

**Written by and starring Julia Mackey**

**Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm**

**The performance runs for just over one hour, with no intermission.**

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

**All tickets \$20**

**Available by calling 613 925 5788 or online at [www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca](http://www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca)**

*"Julia Mackey delivers a stunning performance"* - CBC Winnipeg

*"A play that wears its maple leaf heart on its sleeve... a two hanky ending"* - Montreal Gazette

The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival's 2011 season featuring *Twelfth Night* and *All's Well That Ends Well* runs July 9 to August 13 at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre at the Sandra S. Lawn Harbour in Prescott.