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One-woman show about war vet comes to Prescott

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PRESCOTT -- Jake's Gift, an award-winning play about a Canadian war veteran who returns reluctantly to Normandy for the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, is being presented June 6 by the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival.

The play, written and starring Julia Mackey in a one-woman performance, will be presented on the 66th anniversary of the D-Day invasion that turned the tide on the Second World War in favour of the allied forces fighting Germany.

"I don't know of any other show that has made such a powerful impact on audiences than Jake's Gift," said Ian Farthing, artistic director of the Shakespeare Festival, in a news release.

"The coincidence of the play being performed on the D-Day anniversary will give the show added poignancy and resonance," said Farthing.

Mackey travelled to Normandy in June of 2004 for the 60th anniversary where she spoke with dozens of Canadian, British and U.S. veterans about their impressions of the invasion, inspiring her to write Jake's Gift.

The work is recognized for its humour and moving insight as the play's namesake meets a 10-year-old girl from a local village who charms Jake with her inquisitiveness and gets him to confront some ghosts from his past, most notably the war-time death of his older brother Chester.

The performance takes place at 8 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 425 Centre Street and runs for just over an hour without an intermission.

Tickets cost \$20 and are available at 925-5788 or online at www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca.

-- The Recorder and Times

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