



Media Release

Shakespeare Festival ready for 2011 season

The actors and directors have arrived in Prescott and the town is starting to buzz with excitement about the upcoming season.

Advance sales are up by 150% over last year's figures. "It is encouraging to see such an increase," said General Manager Rebecca Campbell, "we hope this is a sign of larger audiences to come all the way through the summer".

The two mainstage plays will be *Twelfth Night* and *All's Well That Ends Well*, both romantic comedies, but two very different productions. For *Twelfth Night*, director Craig Walker will be infusing the play with an Irish flavour – audiences will enjoy lots of toe-tapping Celtic music mixed with uproarious laughter. *All's Well That Ends Well* will be set in a magical fairytale land where the heroine must rely on more than just magic to win her happily ever after, with director Janet Irwin at the helm.

2011 sees the return to the Festival stage of Artistic Director Ian Farthing after four years behind the scenes, who will be playing the role of Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*.

"One of the reasons I wanted to do this play at this time was the presence of Ian Farthing", said director Craig Walker. "Malvolio is probably the touchstone character of the play, and Ian's ability to be very funny combined with the ability to move from authority to wounded dignity with extreme vulnerability makes him ideal casting for this role".

Amongst those returning to Prescott this summer will be audience favourites Kerry Ann Doherty, Warren Bain and Quincy Armorer, while new faces include Canadian Idol finalist Elena Juatco and recent St. Lawrence College Music Theatre graduate Dan Thompson.

The Festival is announcing three new initiatives for the 2011 season, starting with the addition of a **Wednesday matinee each week**.

Next is the creation of **two Pay What You Can Previews** at the start of the season. Farthing explains: "Although our ticket prices are very reasonable, we know there will always be people who still can't afford to go. We want to make Shakespeare available to all, regardless of financial circumstance and this is one way for us to enable that. And don't forget that **kids aged 12 and under can see Shakespeare for free all season long!**"

And if you're the sort of person that wants to read up on the play before you come, but never have the time, you'll love the **new Tuesday Talks**. At 6.30pm each Tuesday, there will be a lively and entertaining 15 minute introduction to the plays, where you can learn more about the story, the characters, themes of the play and maybe even a bit of backstage gossip thrown in for good measure!

In addition, don't miss our four **Sunday Series** events which showcase local and emerging talent; including Brockville operatic stars Christopher Coyea and Alex Fleuriau Chateau, local choir Village Voyces, returning Festival actor Daniel Giverin and the participants from our Young Artist's Training Program - there really is something for everyone this summer in Prescott.

For more information or to book tickets:

Call 613-925-5788 or visit www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca

www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca