

St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival actors reveal themselves

By NATHAN WILLARD

PRISCOTT - Last week media was invited to observe some a few scenes from the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival plays *Twelfth Night* and *All's Well that Ends Well*. Quincy Armourer and Elena Juatco gave a brief excerpt of the play *Twelfth Night*, while Bruce Beaton and Warren Bain showed us a passage from *All's Well that Ends Well*. All four took some time to answer questions from reporters.

Elena Juatco

This is Juatco's first year at the festival and has always wanted to do Shakespeare. The director of *Twelfth Night*, Craig Walker, was Juatco's professor at Queen's University. Walker introduced the festival to Juatco and she could not resist the opportunity.

Juatco is originally from Vancouver and has made her way out East for schooling. She has a major in biology and a minor in drama. However, it was drama that has won her over. She has been in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrel*, which was played in her hometown of Vancouver, and *Snow White and the Group of Seven* in Toronto. This summer, she finds herself as Helena in *All's Well that Ends Well* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*.

She has really enjoyed her time here in Prescott and has enjoyed her first



In the play *Twelfth Night*, Duke Orsino (left), played by Quincy Armourer, has a heart to heart discussion with Cesario, played by Elena Juatco.

experience at the Shakespeare Festival.

"Prescott's lovely, I have been in many towns... but this community has really backed-up and supported this festival," said Juatco.

Quincy Armourer

Quincy has come back to the festival after a few years of hiatus at the Stratford Festival in Southern Ontario. Armourer plays First Lord in *All's Well that Ends Well* and Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*. He indicated that he really enjoyed his first time at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in 2000 and has wanted to come back for another performance.

Armorer is from Montreal and a graduate from Concordia University. He loves to partake in Shakespearean plays and finds a level of enjoyment here in

"Shakespeare is what I have done mostly with respect to acting," said Armourer. "It is what I like to do the most."

Armorer stated that one of the neat things about the Festival in Prescott is the Kinsmen Amphitheatre. He loves the outdoors and finds it very freeing.

"You don't have to worry about lighting sets... it is like doing the play like they originally did in the Elizabethan Theatre," said Armourer. "[Also] the audience seems much more closer and the level of interaction works so well."

Armorer has a great sense of humour as well. When asked how old he was, he responded by saying with a smile and a chuckle, "I am not 30 but



In the play *All's Well that Ends Well*, Warren Bain plays the character Bertram, the young Count Rossillion (right). Bertram talks to the King of France, played by Bruce Beaton, as to the person that he ought to marry.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN WILLARD

Warren Bain

This is Bain's third year back to the Festival. This year, he plays Bertram in *All's Well that Ends Well* and Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*. Bain is a graduate of Ryerson University and was born and raised in Toronto.

He has also done Vaudeville plays all over Ontario. He even did one of his Vaudeville plays here in Prescott. This is a small testament to how much he really enjoys coming back to Prescott for the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival.

"Coming here is just like coming home," said Bain. "This place is very beautiful... it look so picturesque."

He also indicates that one of the reasons why he

high level of work ethic.

"The caliber of work is extraordinarily high, very creative and they are open to all kinds of ideas and suggestions," said Bain.

Bruce Beaton

This is Beaton's first year at the Festival. He has been a close friend with Craig Walker, director of *Twelfth Night*, for 20 years. Craig invited Beaton to try out for the festival and it has worked out really well for him. Beaton has never done much Shakespeare before but has always had an urge to try it out, and what better opportunity than do to so at this year's Festival.

Beaton, 47 years old, has a degree in English and a minor in drama. He also attended LAMDA College as a postgraduate degree.

Beaton admits that finding his way into Shakespeare was somewhat fascinating.

"In high school, I found Shakespeare to be rather horrible. However, once I went to University and started to understand the language, the story made sense and I started to enjoy it," said Beaton.

It is this type of learning experience that Beaton wants to bring to the stage.

"This is our challenge, we have to make the story accessible to the viewer," said Beaton.

Beaton is originally from Toronto and has enjoyed his experience here in Prescott.

"The experience here has been great and yet one of the biggest challenges I have ever had in my career," said Beaton.