



Media Release

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL PURSUES FUNDING IN PLANNING NEW SEASON

Prescott, September 1, 2008:

With a successful 2008 season wrapped up, planning is already beginning on next year's St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott.

Despite the fact rain affected 40 per cent of performances at the Kinsmen Amphitheatre, the festival's outdoor venue on Prescott's harbourfront, total attendance at 3,827 was up 12 per cent over 2007. An extra week of performances under more stable weather conditions made the difference.

As announced on closing night, the 2009 season will alternate two more of the Bard's finest works, "Measure for Measure" and "The Taming of the Shrew." Craig Walker will direct "Measure for Measure" while Jan Irwin, one of Ottawa's most popular directors, will direct Shakespeare's battle of the sexes, "The Taming of the Shrew".

"We're developing a reputation for presenting professional, superior quality, innovative Shakespeare and we're going to build on it," said artistic director Ian Farthing. "The feedback was outstanding this season."

Sufficient funding remains the major difficulty in mounting the festival, said board chair Sandra Lawn: "We're still a relatively new organization in the process of building a name and a following. Ticket sales alone can't cover costs ranging from actors' fees and publicity, to operating our office on King Street, to paying for the waterfront tent which we use in inclement weather."

Lawn said every avenue of government artistic and economic development funding is being pursued as one means of bolstering the budget of the non-profit festival. Other means are fundraisers and individual and corporate donations.

"Over six years, we've established some recurring fundraisers and we held our first Shakespeare Treasures Tent Sale at the end of the 2008 run which raised more than \$1,800. And I'm proud of community members who've come forward with donations of cash, materials and services. I invite others to step forward with financial support for an event which is putting Prescott and area on the artistic map, creating jobs and boosting tourism."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 613-925-5788 or
www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca

