



Media Release

**SLSF ANNOUNCES 2016 CAST FOR SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTIONS
and TITLE & DATES of COMMUNITY SHOW**

February 25, 2016 - The St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival presented its 2016 cast and artistic team to local patrons and supporters at last week's sold-out Snowflake Dinner!

Returning for his 2nd consecutive year, playing the title role in *Julius Caesar*, is veteran actor **Richard Sheridan Willis**. Richard quickly became a favourite with audiences last season for his performances in *Comedy of Errors* and *Romeo & Juliet*, as well as his one man show *Strolling Player*. For more information about Richard, please visit <http://dickywillis.wix.com/richardwillis>

Also returning for his 2nd season is the award-winning fight director... actor, singer, dancer and choreographer, **Jonathan Purvis**. Jonathan will be playing the iconic Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar* and Don Pedro in *Much Ado*. He will also be fight directing and choreographing both shows.

Returning for her 7th season, playing Portia in *Julius Caesar*, performing in *Much Ado*, and providing the musical direction for both show is Festival mainstay **Melissa Morris**. And rounding out our returning performers is Ottawa-based actress **Gabrielle Lazarovitz**. Gabbie was last seen at the Festival in 2014 and will be playing the lead female role of Beatrice in *Much Ado*.

New to Prescott this summer are **Ash Knight**, **Jesse Nerenberg**, and **Michael Man**. Ash will be playing the male lead of Benedict in *Much Ado*, as well as the key role of Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. Ash trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and has worked at the Stratford Festival and the Ugandan National Theatre, among others. Jesse is playing the villainous Cassius in *Julius Caesar* and Don John in *Much Ado*, and Michael plays Octavius. Some patrons may remember Michael, as he played piano for our Snowflake Dinner last year.

Also new this season are **Sarah English**, who plays Portia in *Julius Caesar* and Hero in *Much Ado*, **Trevor Pease** and **Tyler Seguin**. Trevor will be playing Claudio in *Much Ado*, and Tyler...is not the hockey player!

Participating in the Revellers Program for emerging artists are **Dejah Dixon-Green** of the National Theatre School and **Audrey Clairman** of Ryerson University.

The production of *Julius Caesar* will include **20 local extras** as Roman Soldiers and Senators, making for a cast of 32!! "This is a thrilling first for the Festival!", said artistic director Rona Waddington, "Not only will a cast of 32 be exciting to watch but it will lend great scale and dynamic to the show! Being able to put 20 community members up on our mainstage, in a professional production, is something that's only going to happen once! I'm so grateful to the Canadian Actors Equity Association for getting behind it!"

The title and dates of the Festival's fundraising community play were also announced. Local amateur thespians will be bringing to life the beloved story of *Anne of Green Gables*. This year there will be 3 performances. There are roles for all ages and **casting has just begun!**

MAINSTAGE DETAILS:

Julius Caesar, directed by Rona Waddington

Opens Saturday July 16th, then runs in repertory until Saturday August 20th

Much Ado About Nothing, directed by Eric Coates

Opens Wednesday July 20, then runs in repertory until Saturday August 20th

COMMUNITY SHOW DETAILS:

Anne of Green Gables, directed by Rona Waddington

Friday, August 26 at 7pm

Saturday, August 27, at 1pm

Saturday, August 27, at 7pm

Box Office: 613 925 5788

Online sales at www.stlawrenceshakespeare.ca

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