



# great river SHAKESPEARE festival

79 E. 3rd St.  
Winona, MN  
55987

## GREAT RIVER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL COMPANY ARRIVES FOR SIXTH SEASON

Contact: Shanna O'Leary, Public Relations Manager  
507-474-7900 Ext. 120  
[publicrelations@grsf.org](mailto:publicrelations@grsf.org)

WINONA, Minn— Company members arrived in Winona to begin work on the Great River Shakespeare Festival's sixth season on Tuesday, May 12. GRSF Board President Gary Evans welcomed the company to Winona, and to Winona State University's Performing Arts Center Theatre, which will house the Festival's 2009 season productions of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, beginning June 25. Festival leaders, other Board members and volunteers from the community were also on hand to greet the company. After a morning of reuniting with old friends and being introduced to new faces, the company got to work with costume fittings and a discussion of the upcoming season. "This is my fifth season in Winona," commented Michael Fitzpatrick, returning Equity actor whose home is New York City, "and it always lifts my spirits to be back in the community."

Six-season veteran Jonathan Gillard Daly will play Prospero in *The Tempest*, and Holofernes, the Pedant, in *Love's Labour's Lost*. Founding company member and six-season veteran Christopher Gerson will take the role of Caliban in *The Tempest*, while Associate Director Doug Scholz-Carlson will play Trinculo. Other returning actors include Fitzpatrick, Tarah Flanagan, Shanara Gabrielle, Chris Mixon, Nicole Rodenburg, David Rudi Utter, Evan Fuller, Brian D. Frederick, Andrew Carlson, Eva Balastrieri, and Nick Demeris.

The Festival's 2009 design team is comprised of veterans of past seasons. Meg Weedon (New York City), who designed GRSF's 2007 season production of *Macbeth* and 2008's *The Merchant of Venice* will design costumes for both 2009 productions; Scott Neale (St. Louis), with the Festival since 2007, designs sets; Lonnie Alcaraz (Irvine, CA) who joined the GRSF in 2008, returns to design lights. Minneapolis-based Sound Designer Katharine Horowitz returns for her third season at the Festival; composers Daniel Kallman (Northfield, MN) and Gregg Coffin (Sacramento, CA), return to compose music for *The Tempest* and *Love's Labour's Lost*, respectively. Kallman has composed music for GRSF's productions of *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Merchant of Venice*; Coffin composed the Festival's 2005 season production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

This season's Intern/Apprentice Acting Company project, *Hamlet*, will play for five performances in the WSU Black Box Theatre during the last week of the Festival, July 21 – 25. The Festival provides internships for college and university students in all areas of technical theatre and administration; in addition, each year 14 actors are selected from graduate and undergraduate acting programs across the country to serve as Apprentice Actors in the company. The Apprentices take classes with GRSF company members, receive understudy assignments in one of the two Festival productions, rehearse and perform their annual project, and fulfill a variety of technical theatre and administrative functions throughout the season as needed.

GRSF is currently developing plans for a three-day series of special events which will augment the season's opening, June 26 – 28. Meanwhile, pre-opening events will take place, including the annual "Chocolate, Shakespeare, and Champagne" benefit for the Winona County Historical Society, Saturday, June 13, at Winona's historic Alexander Mansion bed and breakfast in downtown Winona.

More information about the Festival can be found online at [www.GRSF.org](http://www.GRSF.org). Tickets for the Festival's 2009 season can be purchased online or by calling the box office at (507) 474-7900.