

MEDIA RELEASE

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FESTIVAL PLAYERS THIRD SEASON OPENS THIS WEEK

(hi res photos available)

Prince Edward County, ON, (July 6, 2009): Festival Players is thrilled to announce the opening of their third season on Thursday, July 9, 2009 with the World Premiere of *Ship of Fire*. Festival Players announced last week that their Board of Directors had green-lighted the entire season despite funding shortfalls.

"Even with the precarious state of our finances in recent months, community support has never wavered. In fact, Opening Night is completely sold out. That, to me, says volumes about the desire for high calibre, professional theatre in the County and the respect for what Festival Players creates," says Artistic Director Sarah Phillips.

Ship of Fire is a true, homegrown musical. The play has been created by County artists Suzanne Pasternak, Marion de Vries, Tom Leighton and Bernie Gaw, and is based on the real life events that took place off the southern shore of Prince Edward County in 1853. Local audiences have enjoyed the workshop development of this play in various incarnations. The show that opens this week is fully staged with new songs, new scenes, and a professional cast of performers and musicians who've graced the stages of Shaw, Stratford and beyond.

The play is directed by Marion de Vries, with musical direction by Tom Leighton. The cast includes Martin Julien, Michael O'Hara, Natasha Pasternak, Eliza-Jane Scott and Stephen Sparks with music provided by Tom Leighton, Zeke Mazurek and Alyssa Wright.

Ship of Fire plays July 8 – 25, 2009 at Mt. Tabor Playhouse in Milford.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 613.471.1991 or emailing boxoffice@festivalplayers.ca

More details about *Ship of Fire* and the entire Festival Players season can be found on their website: www.festivalplayers.ca

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