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Contact:
Matti Keltanen
Finn-Brit Players
+358 40 716 1102
matti@finnbritplayers.com
www.finnbritplayers.com

The Finn-Brit Players Present Shakespeare's THE WINTER'S TALE

Helsinki, 7/8/2006 — The Finn-Brit Players, Finland's longest-running English-language theatre company, will celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2006 with a production of William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* at Helsinki's **Aleksanterin teatteri**. There will be only three performances: **Saturday, November 4 at 19:00, and Sunday, November 5 at 13:00 and 19:00**. Tickets are €15/11, or €10 for groups of 10 or more.

The story: When King Leontes becomes convinced that his wife is carrying the child of his best friend, his obsessive jealousy becomes an instrument of terrible destruction. Friends, family, and trusted advisors all fall victim to his blind rage before Leontes recognizes his error and falls into a state of boundless remorse. Sixteen years later, his abandoned daughter unknowingly sets the stage for the redemption of all.

One of Shakespeare's last plays, *The Winter's Tale* is rich in poetry, subtle in its psychological workings, and experiments with mixing comedy and tragedy, pastoral and courtly drama. With a truly huge cast and a wonderful stage at the Aleksanterinteatteri, this year's fall production celebrates 25 years of the Finn-Brit Players by pulling out all the stops. The production is co-directed by Adrian Goldman and Johanna MacDonald, combining their diverse approaches to Shakespeare and his stage.

About the co-directors: Adrian Goldman, a native of England, has been directing theatre for 27 years, working in the UK, USA, and Finland, and is also an actor. Johanna MacDonald is a Finnish-Canadian actor and director professionally trained in Toronto. She currently also works with Teatteri Naamio ja Höyhen in Helsinki.

About the Finn-Brit Players: The Finn-Brit Players is a Helsinki-based amateur drama society whose origins date back to the early 1950s. Since becoming active again in 1981, we have staged over thirty productions. The choice of plays has included musicals, murder mysteries, classics, comedies, Shakespeare, children's entertainment, and drama.

For a modest annual membership fee (10 Euros), anyone can join, and the group is open to all ages. Actors, directors and vital support crew have come from every continent. Although English is the working language, we welcome anyone interested in actively participating in live theatre.

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