

# *The Stratford Festival of Canada*

Their names are legendary now, but in 1952 they were simply visionary people with a unique idea: to establish a festival of Shakespearean theatre in the small southwestern Ontario city of Stratford. They were Stratford-born journalist Tom Patterson, respected stage director Tyrone Guthrie and renowned designer Tanya Moiseiwitsch. Their dream came true on the night of July 13, 1953, when actor Alec Guinness stepped onto Moiseiwitsch's revolutionary thrust stage, erected under a specially constructed tent, to speak the opening words of *Richard III*. An extraordinary adventure in Canadian cultural life had begun.

In the years since, internationally acclaimed performers such as Brian Bedford, Douglas Campbell, Brent Carver, Hume Cronyn, Cynthia Dale, Colm Feore, Megan Follows, Lorne Greene, Paul Gross, Julie Harris, Martha Henry, William Hutt, James Mason, John Neville, Nicholas Pennell, Christopher Plummer, Douglas Rain, Kate Reid, Jason Robards, Paul Scofield, William Shatner, Maggie Smith, Jessica Tandy, Peter Ustinov and Al Waxman have graced the stages at the Stratford Festival. The Festival has set benchmarks for the production of theatre, both classical and contemporary, on the North American continent.

Today the Festival employs more than 840 people, (460 year round) features 750 performances over a 30 week season in four theatres, records more than 600,000 admissions each year and brings more than \$180 million annually to the regional economy.

Four percent of the Festival's revenue now comes from government funding and it has achieved a higher percentage of earned revenue against operating expenses than any other arts organization in Canada.

In 2002, the Avon Theatre was completely renovated with new seating, lighting, foyer, theatre store and restrooms. A fourth theatre space, The Studio Theatre, was added. This 250 seat theatre is a home to new works, experimental work and rarely produced plays. These additions celebrate the milestone of 50 seasons of outstanding Canadian theatre.



## THE STRATFORD FESTIVAL OF CANADA

P.O. Box 520, 55 Queen Street  
STRATFORD, Ont. N5A 6V2  
(519) 271-4040 Fax (519) 271-2734  
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[www.stratfordfestival.ca](http://www.stratfordfestival.ca)

Explore the entertaining opportunities at the world renowned Stratford Festival of Canada, the largest and most celebrated repertory theatre in North America. Musicals, modern and classical drama. Laughter, tears and heartache. Powerfully performed and tenderly felt – You'll find them all at Stratford in four distinctive venues:

**The Festival Theatre:** Seats 1,824. Magnificently renovated for the 1997 Season. Revolutionary thrust stage.

**The Avon Theatre:** Totally renovated in 2003. Seats 1,105. Proscenium arch stage.

The **Tom Patterson Theatre** with its elongated thrust stage seats 487.

**The Studio Theatre**, new in 2002, seats 256. Watch for new works here.

CALL	<b>January 2 to May 21, 2007</b>
CENTRE/MAIN	Monday to Saturday
TICKET	9 am - 5 pm
HOURS	Sunday 9 am - 2 pm
	<b>May 22 to October 28, 2007</b>
	Monday to Friday
	9 am - 8 pm
	Saturday
	9 am - 5 pm
	Sunday
	9 am - 2 pm
SEASONAL	<b>December 23 - January 1</b>
HOLIDAYS	<b>Good Friday (April 6)</b> <b>Easter Sunday (April 8)</b> <b>Labour Day (September 3)</b>

HOURS	2:00 pm. Matinee 8:00 pm. Evening
ADMISSION	Ticket prices vary. Substantial savings throughout the season for groups. Contact the Call Centre for details.
GROUP RATES	Groups of 20 or more enjoy exceptional savings all season long!

### *2007 Playbill*

**April 10, 2007 – November 4, 2007**

King Lear  
Oklahoma!  
The Merchant of Venice  
An Ideal Husband  
To Kill a Mockingbird  
My One and Only  
The Comedy of Errors  
Othello  
Of Mice and Men  
A Delicate Balance  
The Blonde, the Brunette  
and the Vengeful Redhead  
Shakespeare's Will  
The Odyssey  
Pentecost

**The Stratford Festival of Canada will arrange receptions, guest speakers, guided Backstage, Costume Warehouse and garden tours with your tour package. Phone (519) 273-1600 or 1-800-567-1600 to make arrangements.**