

THE WINTER'S TALE

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By **William Shakespeare**

Directed by **Antoni Cimolino**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 7+

CONTENT ADVISORY

The play explores mature content including references to offstage violence and death.

[Please see the show page for a detailed audience advisory.](#)

SYNOPSIS

Blinded by jealousy, King Leontes falsely accuses his pregnant wife of infidelity, setting into motion a series of catastrophes that will destroy his wife and son and leave his infant daughter abandoned to the elements on a distant island. Seeing the folly of his ways, Leontes vows to live out his days atoning for his actions. Sixteen years later, the king is offered an unlikely chance at redemption. A late play from Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale* offers a beguiling blend of comedy, tragedy and mystery.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship

GRADES 7-8

- The Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Language
- Social Studies: History and Geography

GRADES 9-12

- The Arts
- Canadian and World Studies
- English
- Health and Physical Education

GRADES 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama and Theatre, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, History, Human Rights, Psychology, Social Work and Social Development Studies, Teacher Education

THEMES

- Attachment and Motherhood
- Belief and Faith
- Choices and Consequences
- Gender, Power and Patriarchy
- Family and Friendship
- The Fragility of Ego
- The Illusion and Magic of Theatre
- Jealousy, Betrayal and Paranoia
- Loyalty
- Loss and Love
- Myth and Allegory
- Redemption and Forgiveness
- Second Chances and Rebirth
- Time as a Healer and a Reminder

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- The saying “time heals all wounds” is attributed to the Ancient Greek poet Menander and is still a popular saying across cultures today. Do you believe that, with the passing of time, pain from the past will fade? Explain your thinking.
- What makes a good leader? When someone holds a position of power, what values should guide their actions to ensure they lead responsibly?
- What does it look like to advocate for others? How might someone balance the risks of speaking out against injustice with the need to protect themselves and those they care about? How might these risks be different for different people?

STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND CHATS

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, May 7
- Friday, May 9
- Tuesday, May 13
- Wednesday, May 14
- Tuesday, May 27
- Wednesday, June 4
- Tuesday, June 10
- Tuesday, June 17
- Friday, June 27
- Friday, September 5
- Wednesday, September 10
- Thursday, September 11
- Tuesday, September 16
- Tuesday, September 23
- Wednesday, September 24
- Friday, September 26

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing educate@stratfordfestival.ca.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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