

A Review of The Winter's Tale which we saw at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey  
By Jack Wooldridge

Leontes, the king of Sicilia, believes that his wife, the Queen Hermione, is having an affair with Polixenes, his brother and the king of Bohemia. He plots to have Polixenes murdered, but Polixenes is warned and escapes back to Bohemia. Leontes, in a wild rage, has his wife thrown into jail, and their baby daughter left in some far-off place. He has his queen put on trial, and sends for Apollo's Oracle to give sentence. When the word of the Oracle arrives, it declares that Leontes is a tyrant and Polixenes and Hermione are innocent. Leontes declares the word of the Oracle to be false, and immediately his son is struck down dead. Hearing this news, the Queen faints and dies soon after. Leontes' eyes are opened, and he realizes just how much he threw away. Meanwhile, his child is abandoned off the coast of Bohemia. How on Earth can The Winter's Tale ever have a happy ending? You'll have to watch a production of it and see!

We went to see The Winter's Tale at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, and it was an awesome production of Shakespeare's timeless play. It also had some new additions, like a revolving platform in the center of the stage that was very effective and added an extra element of drama to some of the more moving scenes. The actors were all very good, and the play was, in effect, two very different separate halves. The first half was in Sicilia and was very violent, moody, and sad, but the second half was quite funny, in a very timeless way (someone having all his clothes stolen without him noticing it is very funny wherever you come from). It all wrapped up very nicely, and the last scene was extremely moving.