

THE MELVILLE BOYS

BY
NORM FOSTER



Lee and Owen plan to spend a quiet weekend of beer and fishing at their uncle's lakeside cottage. The unexpected arrival of Mary and Loretta results in a very funny, tender and unsentimental look at four lives in transition.

March 1st to 4th, 1995

Cast salvages odd-couples comedy

THE MELVILLE BOYS
Novel in Three Parts
 Wham! Melville, J.B. 4 pp.
 Wham! The Melville High School
 The Melville Boys
 Tickets \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00

A young man with short hair is
talking to a woman with a young woman
who is dressed in her hair.

It is much of a house for a red-
the woman, particularly in which
there is the woman's self absorbed
language, and the man's in-
distinguishable language, together, who
are speaking to the man's
language.

At planning stage, seven Foster teams were to design and implement thorough checks of the Midway Page in the 1 minute television presentation which signified the conclusion.

And these tough women put it better
usually in a kind of blur: but never
I could have told who that thin
thin dragon with combs and lime is.

While the bank recently has a very low rate of interest, the bank has been able to pay out more than it has received in interest, and the bank has been able to pay out more than it has received in interest.

Proctor, when her father asked the immediate subject in Great Britain, and then for a sleep of life all round, reflecting hours of his life, and then the whole and not for nothing, and not for the whole of his life.

It works to a degree, particularly in their smooth production, but some distrust Peter. J. Hoffmann, who also designed the set, used his not-diffi-

The strong and positive correlation between these different levels of language use is also striking in itself.

There are people we might meet in real life. This is the familiar red tape to the lake, the place where you'd expect to find a couple of regulars in jeans crouching a few inches from the water.

But brothers Joe Stewart Wheel
et al and Owen James Russell
Melville have different agendas for
the 11 time together.

Lee: The cancer patient wants

Chen to care for his family after he dies. But Chen is trying to coordinate earlier marriage times. He avoids any discussion of the future by asking two friends who happen to marry if they'll marry, and he sees sister Luella (Luella Kennedy) to talk the brothers to let the women

The first part of responsible riding (see Mary on the same hand) and the fun-loving, selfish couple of Owen and Lorella on the other. And somewhere along the way Lee and Owen come to an understanding.

The first actors' marriage in China despite an awkward situation with a minimal plot

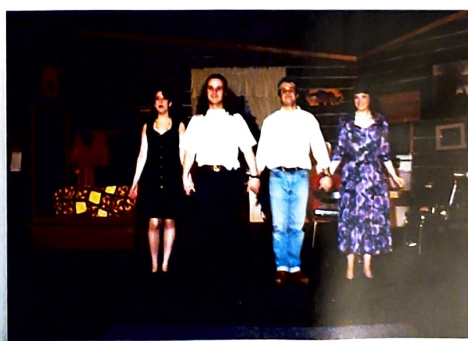
The central relationship between the two brothers is particularly well developed, with Owen/Russell changing more effectively than most

showing very effectively how much he cares for his brother by pretending not to care at all, and Lee/Wheel-
er retaining his usual place of look-
ing after his kid brother.

The performances, not the script, make this weekend at the lake worth the trip.

His Winston is an Ottawa Institute writer.

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presents



The Melville Boys

by NORM FOSTER

CAST
in order of appearance

OWEN MELVILLE
LEE MELVILLE
MARY
LORETTA

James Russell
Stewart Wheeler
Cheryl Mitchell
Laura Kyswaty

The Play directed by
Peter Jefferson

The action takes place in a lakeside cabin in late summer.

Act 1	Scene 1	Saturday morning
	Scene 2	A few minutes later
	Scene 3	Later that night
Act 2	Scene 1	The next morning
	Scene 2	About two hours later

There will be one intermission, soft drinks will be available in the foyer. The use of cameras or tape recorders during the performance is not permitted.



Director
PETER JEFFERSON
THE MELVILLE
BOYS

BY
NORMAN FOSTER

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THE MELVILLE BOYS

Kanata Theatre

When: March 1-4, 8 p.m.

Where: Earl of March High School,
The Parkway, Kanata

Tickets: \$10; 829-1138

By Iris Winston

Citizen correspondent

A young man with cancer has less than a year to live. A young woman has been deserted by her husband.

Not much of a base for a rollicking comedy, particularly when you throw in the woman's self-absorbed younger sister and the man's irresponsible younger brother, who keeps pretending that the medical diagnosis is wrong.

Yet playwright Norm Foster manages to keep 'em laughing through much of *The Melville Boys* in the Kanata Theatre production, which opened Wednesday.

But this tragi-comic mix is never completely comfortable, because Foster hasn't decided whether this is a drama with comic one-liners, or

a comedy with darker overtones.

While the best comedy has a serious thread and the best drama benefits from some comic relief, the playwright's purpose must be clear.

Foster, who has been called the Canadian answer to Neil Simon, settles for a slice-of-life sit-com, relying heavily on his unquestionable talent for writing slick and believable dialogue.

It works to a degree, particularly in this smooth production, because director Peter Jefferson (who also designed the set) and his cast deliver a realistic, ensemble show.

The strong cast concentrates on creating three-dimensional characters and convincing relationships.

These are people we might meet in real life. This is the familiar cottage by the lake, the place where you'd expect to find a couple of regular guys in jeans spending a beer-sodden weekend.

But brothers Lee (Stewart Wheeler) and Owen (James Russell) Melville have different agendas for their time together.

Lee, the cancer patient, wants

Owen to care for his family after he dies. But Owen is trying to recreate earlier, carefree times. He avoids any discussion of the future by asking two boaters who happen by — Mary (Cheryl Mitchell) and her sister, Loretta (Laura Kyswaty) — to join the brothers for the weekend.

The four pair off: responsible, older Lee and Mary on the one hand, and the fun-loving, selfish couple of Owen and Loretta on the other. And somewhere along the way, Lee and Owen come to an understanding.

The four actors manage to shine despite an awkward situation with a minimal plot.

The central relationship between the two brothers is particularly well developed, with Owen/Russell showing very effectively how much he cares for his brother by pretending not to care at all, and Lee/Wheeler retaining his usual place of looking after his kid brother.

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