

Playwright John Gray graces County stage

The Festival Players Reading Series giving audiences up-close access to writers and performers

The Festival Players of Prince Edward County presented another instalment in their Playwrights Reading Series with acclaimed Order of Canada recipient John Gray.

Gray is the author and composer of *Amelia: The Girl Who Wants to Fly* which will be featured in the Festival Players 2010 season. On Thursday evening he delighted an audience of about 70 at Books & Company with both music from his theatre works and readings from his former *Globe & Mail* newspaper column. He also gave the audience a preview of *Amelia* as he was joined onstage by the Eliza-Jane Scott, who has the title role as Amelia Earhart, and Rick Zimmerman who plays her husband.

A celebrated playwright, Gray is much lauded for his work including *18 Wheels*, *Don Messer's Jubilee* and *Rock and Roll*. Gray is likely best known for the award-winning musical *Billy Bishop Goes to War* which was co-created by Eric Peterson. Peterson, who is known most recently for his role in the television series *Corner Gas*, accompanied Gray to the reading and joined him onstage to perform a song.

Amelia is the final presentation in the Festival Players 2010 season and will begin its run on August 10. The company's other two productions, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* and *Tempting Providence*, will run in June and July.

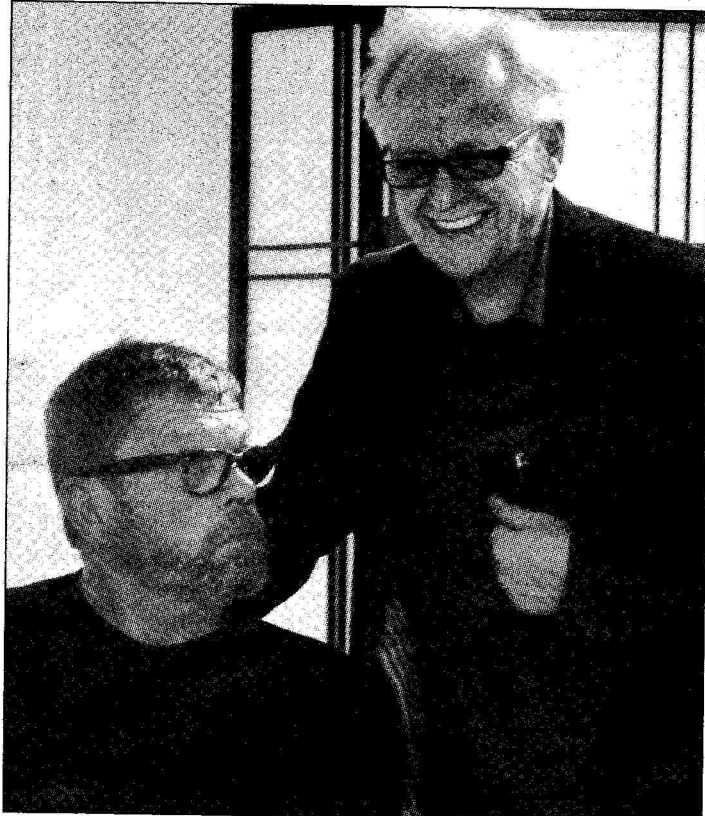


PHOTO: KATHLEEN SABYAN

Playwright John Gray (seated) with actor Eric Peterson of *Corner Gas* and *Street Legal* fame perform a song from *Billy Bishop Goes to War*. Festival Players will produce Gray's play *Amelia: The Girl Who Wants to Fly* this summer.