

## LOCAL/REGIONAL

# Stage North brings Melville Boys to town

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Fort St. John

Keep your women locked up and beer well hidden because the Melville boys are coming to town.

The Melville Boys, presented by Stage North, is not a typical play.

Written by Norm Foster, the play is a dramatic comedy about two brothers who learn to face their fears, and each other, in less than 24 hours.

"If people aren't theater goers this is the play to see," said actor/director Blair Scott. "It will touch something in everyone."

The play is set in a cabin on a lake. Two brothers decided to spend the weekend together, while facing some serious problems.

Lee, played by Dave Eaton, is dying of cancer.

While Lee feels it is time to face the inevitability of his death, Owen, played by Scott, is not ready to face reality.

"It's about two brothers trying to cope with the hard life has dealt them," said Scott.

Throw in two confused women, Mary played by Terry Landry and Loretta played by Chelsea McPeake, and you've set the stage for one heck of an emotional ride.

"In the beginning of the show

it's four mixed up people," said Scott.

"In the end they've sorted out a lot of stuff."

The cast is young and vibrant. The characters are well cast and the chemistry looks to be on the money.

"I love it, it's a lot of work," said Eaton. "And unlike these guys I'm learning and doing it."

The play is being produced by Sue Popesku and the stage manager is Christine McGhghy.

The play hits the stage April 9, at the cultural centre. Tickets are \$15.50 each and there is a reception after the first performance.

Following performances are April 10, 15-17.



Natalie Poole photo

The Melville Boys hits the cultural centre April 9, and stars Chelsea McPeake, Blair Scott, Terry Landry and Dave Eaton.



Graham Andrews photo

## NOISE IS ON

*NOV 1999*

Director Tom Kirschner and the rest of the Stage North crew are revealing the group's most recent work at the North Peace Cultural Centre this week. Noises Off debuts on Nov. 18. with additional shows on Nov. 19, 20, 26 and 27. Shown here, cast members show off the elaborate stage the play will be using. All show times are at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are available from the cultural centre box office.

# Cinderella – A Musical Comedy showcase of North Peace talent

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The northern lights will be focused on the North Peace Cultural Centre Friday night as Stage North presents *Cinderella — A Musical Comedy*.

“Adults will enjoy the funny, unique characters in this well-known fairytale and children will be transported into a comical fairyland,” said producer Sue Popesku.

The play, written and directed by Fort St. John native June Ainsworth, is an English pantomime of the age-old fairytale. The play is a parody of the original version with role-reversal and audience participation.

“Local talent bubbles over the stage into the audience with this pantomime version of *Cinderella*. A surprise gift will be won by a lucky person at each show,” said Popesku.

Stage North is a local community-based acting troupe. The actors and crew are a mesh of local talent who enjoy what they do.

Cast members include Ashley Okrainec as Cinderella, Leah Shaw as the Prince, Larry Evans and Dave Batterham play the ugly stepsisters,



Natalie Poole photo

**Ashley Okrainec plays Cinderella in *Cinderella — A Musical Comedy*, Feb. 19, 20, 26 and 27 at the North Peace Cultural Centre.**

and Dave Eaton as Moneybags.

However, Popesku was quick to point out that a play is more than the actors.

“If you don’t have costumes then you don’t have a show,” she said of the professionalism of wardrobe mistress Arden Dunfield.

“You tend to forget the backstage crew.”

The curtain opens on Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. Performances continue on Feb. 20, 26 and 27 as well as a matinee on Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at the cultural centre.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1999



## SIZING UP CINDERELLA'S FOOT

*FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1999*

Natalie Poole photo

The cast of this year's Stage North performance, *Cinderella*, were hard at work rehearsing Wednesday night. The Prince, right, played by Leah Shaw, sizes up a foot of Cinderella, played by Ashley Okrainec. Larry Evans plays one of the ugly sisters in the quirky adaptation of the classic fairy tale. Other performers include Tyla Lutz as the Duke and Dave Batterham as the other ugly sister. The performances start on Feb. 19 and run for six shows.