



Jamie Campbell (right) and one year. The video featured Edgar Thatcher (middle) were all original song On The Line, for proms as their first video was shot on original purposes Halton Hills at Poppy's in Georgetown May 28. Residents, they have mostly toured the musical duo is called The Edgar the Southern Ontario university etc. James Company, and have been cult. (Photo by Charlie Gibbs) working professionally in music for

LIGHTS, CAMERA Poppy's Lounge turns into video recording studio

By CHARLIE GIBBS
Herald Special

Poppy's Restaurant and Tavern in Georgetown may not seem like the place to film a music video, but for The Edgar James Company, it was exactly what they were looking for.

The music duo, made up of Halton Hills residents Edgar Thatcher and Jamie Campbell, both 27, had their first music video filmed May 28 in Poppy's lower bar, to a private audience of about 75 friends and relatives.

The purpose of the video is to provide a publicity tool for potential sponsors and employers, Edgar said. The group has been together for a total of about three years, but they just started playing professionally in September of 1986.

The video was filmed by Ted Regan Productions of Toronto, and involved the duo on stage singing their original song On The Line, combined with shots of the audience. On The Line is in "contemporary soft rock" style.

"The whole purpose of writing the song was to show our diversity from acoustic guitar to drums and synthesizers," Jamie said.

On The Line was written especially for the video, because it features dramatic contrasts in styles. The

song deals with taking chances, and not being afraid to do what you believe in.

Both Edgar and Jamie sing and play acoustic guitar in the group, while Edgar also plays electric guitar and Jamie plays keyboard.

On The Line had been previously recorded in Escarpment Sound in Acton and that version was played on a sound system while The Edgar James Company lip-sang the song for the video.

It was easier to obtain a perfect sound in the recording studio than while filming the video, Jamie said.

The group features some original songs, with cover material ranging from Simon and Garfunkel to the more musically complex numbers of the Beatles. The Edgar James Company has mostly performed on the university circuit in Southern Ontario over the last year.

"We're taking the chance at music," Edgar said. Both he and Jamie have degrees with the University of Guelph, where they originally met.

The group was able to do a video after they won a bid at a Fantasy Auction in Toronto, and was given over \$7,000 worth of equipment and services for a mere \$320.

The video will be produced on VHS and Beta, Jamie said.

Fun of a one-room school

Local broadcaster Jack Carpenter and Georgetown Arts Council will present a reading by Robert Biddle, a former school principal and now a published writer and raconteur.

Mr. Biddle will give two performances at the John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown June 9 and 10 at 8 p.m.

Mr. Biddle's stories focus on his experiences as a teacher and principal in a one room school. His sense of humor and his ability to capture the heart of small town life

have been compared to Mark Twain or Charles Dickens.

Tickets are \$6 each and are available at Flora's Fashions, 40 Main St., Georgetown and Village Variety Shoppe, Mill Street, Acton.

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100 years of school in song

By CHARLIE GIBBS
Herald Special

If you're a former student of Georgetown District High School, you might find yourself being portrayed by a present student in a musical revue, as part of the school's Centennial celebrations this summer.

"100 Years in Review" is said to be one of the highlights of Centennial. It will be performed by modern-day music and drama students at the John Elliott Theatre eight times, from June 30 - July 4, 1987.

"The musical revue deals with the life and times of GDHS over the last 100 years," said Joan Silk, artistic director for the production.

"It's a gift from the students now to the students of the past," said Jim Broughton, producer of the revue.

Anita Blake, music director and vocal coach, describes the show as "an audio-visual delight."

"100 Years in Review" has been primarily the result of Mr. Broughton's longstanding interest in music and drama, combined with his interest in the Centennial celebrations. For about one year, Mr. Broughton has been interviewing former students, researching materials, writing scripts and collecting slides for the show.

Through a series of short vignettes, the story of GDHS is told right from the hiring of the first principal, Mr. Clark.

The revue also examines a turn-of-the-century classroom, a rag-time picnic, World War I impacts on Georgetown, the 20's and 30's, World War II, the 40's and 50's, and finally modern day.

The revue explains how GDHS became known as "home of the Rebels", while it rekindles fond memories such as the traditional kidnapping of teachers.

Playing themselves in the revue will be current principal Barb Singleton and math teacher Sheena Kewley.

"The show will cater to anyone who has ever been connected with GDHS, as a student, parent or community member," Mr. Broughton said.

"This is something for the entire school and the entire town," said Mrs. Silk.

Not only will producing the revue be fun, Mr. Broughton felt, but it will be historical. Present day students involved in the production will learn about the past, while former students will rekindle old memories.

Accompanying the hour and a quarter show will be a complex slide show in the back ground, and a live band on stage.

The revue is truly an "original" project, as not only was the script itself researched and written by Mr. Broughton and Mrs. Silk, but the 20 musical numbers were arranged by Mrs. Blake.

"The show has singing, acting, dancing and lots of fun," Mrs. Blake said.

Mrs. Silk felt that "one of the greatest things you can do is relive memories."

Drama-music production for GDHS reunion

the HERALD Entertainment

Some former students who will be depicted in the revue are Ernie Pierce, Bob McMenemy, June Evens (nee Frank), and Jack Evens. Former principals represented will be Mr. Barber, Mr. Clark, Mr. Lambert and Mr. Ross.

The revue involves current-day students at GDHS from Grades nine through 13.

"This is the kind of thing where there are no lead parts. Everyone has a moment," Mrs. Blake said.

This is the first musical revue in which Mr. Broughton has been involved, but his involvement with drama and music has made up for his relative inexperience. Last year, Mr. Broughton wrote a few scenes of "The Trouble With Growing Up Is..." which was performed at the John Elliott Theatre in January of 1986.

This show featured Edgar Thatcher, Jamie Campbell, Diane Dekker and Victor Hansen.

Accordingly, Mrs. Silk is no veteran to the theatre. She was director of the GDHS musical Anne of Green Gables several years ago, and helped direct Lil Abner at the school.

In addition, Mrs. Blake has had much experience as a musical director. She was involved in GDHS's Pirates of Penzance last year, and has been conducting the Wind Ensemble and Stage Band for the past two years.

"It's been a really great learning experience. I've genuinely enjoyed it," Mr. Broughton said.

"I'm really excited about it," Mrs. Silk summed up.

Other staff members of GDHS involved in the revue are Fat Ball who is in charge of costumes, Russell Lanney as pianist, Robert Morrow for publicity and Kathy Bowman for

tickets. Parent Sandra Greig will be doing the choreography for the revue.

Tickets for "100 Years in Review" are now on sale for \$3 for adults, and \$2 for children under 12. Tickets are available at selected stores around town, including Neil's Music, and the Cultural Centre's box office is open for ticket every Tuesday from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

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