

5 things to know about Michael Halsall and his first play 'Boxed In'

'Boxed In' is premiering at the John Elliott Theatre on April 13.

VERONICA APPIA
vappia@metroland.com

Georgetown Little Theatre's production of Michael Halsall's new drama *Boxed In* is opening at the John Elliott Theatre on April 13. The newly minted playwright from Halton Hills spoke to the Independent about his writing process and his upcoming Canadian premiere. Here are five things you need to know:

Boxed In is his first play

Halsall is an educator by day, a playwright in his spare time, and a digital media guru somewhere in between. He works as a supply teacher for the Halton, Peel and Upper Grand district school boards and owns his own media company called FingerFrame Media.

Halsall has written children's books before, but has never dabbled in the playwriting realm - until now.

The play was inspired

by Halsall's opinion on "decluttering"

When it comes to the concept of decluttering one's life, Halsall will likely have to pass. A history graduate, Halsall says he believes people leave behind a type of legacy through their belongings.

Boxed In was born out of Halsall's own uneasiness, reading articles about how throwing away old items can bring a sense of peacefulness to people's lives.

"If you go to a museum, what are you looking at? Well, you're looking at people's stuff. So if you go to throw everything away, what represents you to anyone else?" Halsall asked. "I recognize you can't keep everything, but this whole idea of throwing everything out doesn't sit well with me."

It was through these thoughts that Halsall began writing his script for *Boxed In* - one centred on two estranged siblings torn between their differ-

ing opinions about what to do with their deceased parents' belongings.

Boxed In was meant to be a comedy

The more time Halsall spent fleshing out his characters, the more dramatic his play became, he said.

Halsall said he initially began writing about the nature of people's belongings, but as he dove deeper and deeper into the minds of his characters, the story became rich with drama.

The playwriting process began as a personal challenge

Being on the play reading committee for Georgetown Little Theatre, Halsall has read a lot of scripts - some better than others, he said.

Boxed In grew out of a personal challenge Halsall set for himself: to see if he could write his very own play.

"It was originally more for my own amusement. Originally it was just me writing for me," he said.

But after members of

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Movie Night proceeds to Open Door Youth Centre

The Open Door Youth Centre in Georgetown received a nice financial boost recently with the donation of \$8,500 from a local community group's annual Movie Under the Stars fundraiser.

Approximately 700 residents attended Trolls Under the Stars last August outdoors at the Gellert Community Centre as the film *Trolls* was shown on a 40-foot inflatable screen on a wonderful late-summer evening.

The organizing group, consisting of Ola 27 Jiskra, Silvana Bezina and Alana Stroeder, generated \$5,000 from the event and a further \$3,500 was donated by Barb Legere and colleagues at the Scotiabank of Georgetown. With the funds raised by the movie night, clients of the youth centre were provided with holiday gift cards, winter clothing, social engagement through activities offered at the centre and a Thanksgiving dinner from Swiss Chalet.

The centre is located on Guelph Street beside Georgetown District High School in the basement of St. George's Church.

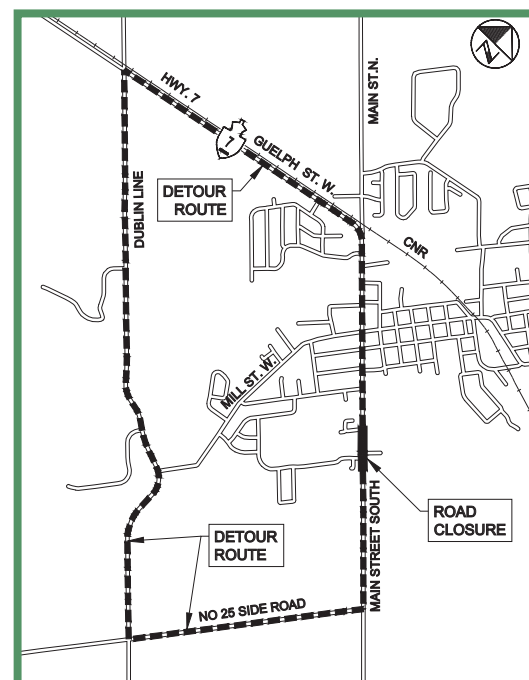


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NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

Wastewater Main Rehabilitation/Replacement on Main Street South in the Town of Halton Hills (Acton)



A temporary road closure is scheduled to take place on Main Street South starting Friday, April 20, 2018 at 7 p.m. to Friday, April 27, 2018 at 7 a.m.

Access for local residents will be maintained at all times.

Contract Number: WS-3091A-17
Project Manager: Rama Garigipati
905-825-6000, ext. 7256
Rama.Garigipati@halton.ca



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2017 a strong year for economic growth and employment in Halton

The 2017 Economic Review points to a strong economy fueled by a highly skilled workforce. Halton reached a four per cent unemployment rate, well below the provincial and national averages. The Review also revealed that Halton residents are among the most educated in Canada, with 75 per cent having attained a post-secondary education. This is one of the reasons why businesses continue to choose Halton as a place to invest. With total construction values reaching \$3.1B in 2017 and three sites shortlisted for Amazon HQ2, Halton's economic outlook is bright. To learn more, visit halton.ca/invest.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, L6M 3L1
Visit halton.ca/meetings for full schedule.

May 23 9:30 a.m. Regional Council



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