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Bedtime Stories director promises plenty of laughter

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The director of Milton Players Theatre Group's latest production says he rarely laughs out loud when he's reading a play, even if it's funny.

Trying to decipher if it's something he'd like to direct, Dennis Curley takes the task seriously. That wasn't the case with *Bedtime Stories*, which he just happened to be reading, at bedtime.

He was roaring — full-on, rib-hurting laughter — while his wife Sandra, beside him in bed was trying to read a book.

"I don't do that," he laughed. "But I'm reading it, and I'm like, 'I've got to do this show.'"

Bedtime Stories will take to the stage at the Milton Centre for the Arts Friday, May 2 to 3 and Thursday, May 8 to 10 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m.

Norm Foster's *Bedtime Stories* is a six-tier plot that delivers snapshots of life through familiar and common characters. One story follows Lou and Betsy, a couple who agree to be in-



Milton Players Theatre Group actors Michael Chew and Huw Evans rehearse for Norm Foster's *Bedtime Stories*. Performances are set for Friday, May 2 to 3 and Thursday, May 8 to 10 and on Sunday, May 4 at the Milton Centre for the Arts. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

timate on live-radio for \$5,000; another follows two high school friends who rekindle an old friendship; the third involves a break-in, which leads to a crazy discovery between two people; the fourth is about Tommy Quick, a shock rocker, and one of his admiring fans; and the fifth involves the owner of a dance club who has to fire an all-too-eager dancer. The final plot brings the audience back to the beginning and wraps everything up. "It's cleverly written and if the people will come, they will laugh their heads off," Curley promised. "We're also doing things a little different than usual plays."

He explained that set changes are quite drastic, with totally different settings involving major modifications. To keep the audience entertained, Curley is having the stage hands dress as maids, complete with black and white aprons, to change the sets. The audience can watch as the transformation takes place.

"There's massive changeover, the same furniture, but that takes time and we want to keep the audience entertained," Curley said, noting they'll already be captivated by that point, because the play makes them think.

"It's a play the audience has to give some

thought to, and there are things they have to think about that are said from one scene to the next," he said. "There's a lot of little things."

Even the actors in the play, who Curley says are brilliant, are cracking up watching it as it comes together.

"It's all local acting and I've heard it said if you pick the right cast, it's already 50 per cent directed," he said, acknowledging that this is the case with *Bedtime Stories*. "I'm going to sit back and get a pat on the back, but I'm not sure I deserve it."

"They've done an amazing job as ac- **A&L6**

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