

# THE DRAWER BOY



## SYNOPSIS

### Ontario - 1972

Miles, a naive actor from Toronto, turns up at a remote farm run by two men: the ruggedly practical Morgan and the simple-minded Angus. Along with his fellow actors, Miles is collecting stories about rural life in order to make a play.

Through patient research, and a good deal of eavesdropping, Miles uncovers the true story of the two farmer's lives: as school and wartime buddies, Morgan and Angus were stationed in Britain in the 1940s, where they met their future brides. Angus suffered brain damage during the Blitz, and the foursome returned to Ontario to live out their rural dream. When the farmers let the city-boy into their home, Miles' search for a story gradually unearths a devastating truth that threatens to destroy the tranquil lives of his hosts forever.

Beautifully written, funny and moving, *The Drawer Boy* is a multi-award-winning bitter sweet tale of the power of storytelling, friendship, and the very thin line between truth and fiction.

## HISTORY

In the early 1970s a group of actors, led by director Paul Thompson, headed into the rural heartland of southern Ontario and, after interviewing local farmers and their families, created a landmark Canadian theatrical event: The Farm Show. Inspired by the lasting impact on both the local and theatrical communities, Michael Healey wrote *The Drawer Boy* almost two and a half decades later.

The play premiered at Toronto's acclaimed Theatre Passe Muraille, winning the Dora Mavor Moore Award (Canada's leading theatre award) for Best New Play, as well as the Chalmers Canadian Playwriting Award and the Governor General's Literary Award. It has been produced across North America and internationally, and has been translated into German, French and Japanese. It is the most internationally produced Canadian play, and one of the ten most produced plays in the U.S.

Collaborators Aviva Armour-Ostroff and Arturo Perez Torres joined their respective skills in theatre and documentary film making to adapt *The Drawer Boy* into a film.

*Fun Fact: Original Farm Show director Paul Thomson cameos as himself in The Drawer Boy film.*

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Unlike pristine transcripts of our lives, we warp and shift our memories each time we remember. We emphasize, replay and exaggerate the details that fit better the story we tell ourselves, and omit any that don't. We are not consulting a static, unchanging photograph, but rather re-painting a scene. In this view, we re-write our past all the time.

*The Drawer Boy* makes us aware of the important difference between truth and fiction. And in doing so it explores the idea that history is not a static collection of facts but a collective agreement of memories.



**THE DRAWER BOY**  
Canada / Mexico 2017  
98 Minutes  
English  
Subtitles in Spanish and French  
5.1 Surround sound  
4K and 2K Versions

## CONTACT

1 (416) 906 2166  
1 (416) 629 8609  
52 (954) 120 9912

info@opencityworks.com  
arturo@opencityworks.com

141 Brock Avenue  
Toronto, ON  
M6K 2L5  
Canada

OPEN CITY WORKS PRESENTS STUART HUGHES RICHARD CLARKIN & JAKOB EHMAN IN THE DRAWER BOY BASED ON THE PLAY BY MICHAEL HEALEY  
ADAPTED BY ARTURO PÉREZ TORRES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEFFERSON MAPPIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CABOT MCNENLY PRODUCTION DESIGN JOANNE DENTE &  
ARTURO PÉREZ TORRES COSTUME DESIGN JOANNE DENTE MUSIC BY BOB WISEMAN SOUND DESIGN BY L. STU YOUNG EDITED BY HELEN SALCEDO  
PRODUCED BY AVIVA ARMOUR-OSTROFF & ARTURO PÉREZ TORRES ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AVIVA ARMOUR-OSTROFF DIRECTED BY ARTURO PÉREZ TORRES

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