

The Story

The Drawer Boy is a Canadian play that has garnered acclaim both at home and abroad. It is the story of a young actor from Toronto who comes to live and work on a farm to gather material for a play he and other actors are making about farming life. The young actor, Miles, is taken in by two farmers, Morgan and Angus, who are childhood friends and veterans of World War II. Angus returned from the war with brain damage that has taken away his memory; Morgan is his care-giver and the repository of the memories that Angus has lost. The play is both humorous as Miles, who knows nothing about farming, is faced with ridiculous chores and concepts about farming given to him by Morgan; it is also dramatically moving as Miles' search for truth leads to unsettling discoveries for both actor and farmers.

The Drawer Boy is Angus who has the skill of creating construction drawings. It also refers to Miles who "draws" a picture of the lives of two men, wounded by war and by life.

The Characters

Miles is a young, naïve, enthusiastically intense actor. He is a city boy and has absolutely no knowledge of farming. He is one of a group of actors who are gathering information about what a farming life is like. All the stories gathered will be woven into a play that will be performed first for the residents of the farming community in which the young actors have been living and working.

Angus is a World War II veteran suffering from memory loss as the result of a severe head wound he suffered when caught in the London blitz. Before the war he was a bright young man. He produced construction drawings for a farmhouse that he and Morgan planned to build after the war on land they owned. Sadly Angus' war wounds have taken away his long and short-term memory so he has to be constantly reminded of the names of people and everyday objects. However, Angus does possess some remarkable savant syndrome abilities. He can rapidly and accurately perform arithmetical calculations in his head and he has an uncanny ability of keeping a running count of stars in the night skies.

Morgan grew up with Angus and was the one who urged him to sign up for the army so they could be together in the "great adventure" of war. He and Angus long had plans of building a farmhouse on the land they co-owned and raising their two families together. They even met two women in England and brought them back to Canada to be their wives. Morgan feels responsible for Angus's wounds and becomes a care-giver and protector of his lifelong friend. Morgan is a troubled man with a somewhat jaundiced view of life. However he is endlessly patient with Angus and with constantly having to tell him things he has told him countless times before. Although he does agree to allow Miles to live with them and observe them he tells Miles many things about farming that are ridiculous. Eventually he comes to see Miles' observations as painful intrusions on both his and Angus' privacy and the life they share together.

NOTE: Actors playing Angus & Morgan should be or be able to be made to look in the 40 – 60+ age range. Actors playing Miles should be or look to be in the early 20's.