

\*hi-res photo of playwright attached

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **Playwright John Gray coming to Picton**

**Prince Edward County, ON, (April 11, 2010):** John Gray, celebrated playwright and composer, is coming to town as part of the Festival Players Playwrights Reading Series. Gray's new version of his musical *Amelia: The Girl Who Wants to Fly*, plays in the 2010 season. Gray will be at Books & Company in Picton, on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Admission is free and there will be a wine and cheese reception.

Halifax-born, Vancouver-based playwright and composer John Gray is best known for his award-winning and internationally acclaimed musical about a World War I flying ace, *Billy Bishop Goes to War*. Gray recently reprised his original role in that show, with co-creator Eric Peterson, over two sold-out runs at Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto.

Come meet the playwright, and be treated to a preview of the show itself. Eliza-Jane Scott, who starred in both *Ship of Fire* and *Colours in the Storm* in 2009 and who will take on the title role in *Amelia* this year, will perform a brief excerpt from the play.

Gray has garnered many prestigious awards for his work, including Dora Mavor Moore Awards for *Rock and Roll*, and the Los Angeles Critics Drama Award, the Governor General's Award, and the Chalmers Canadian Play Award for *Billy Bishop Goes to War*. He has won several National Magazine Awards and penned a popular series of Victorian mystery novels. Gray was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2000. A legend in Canadian theatre, he will regale you with tales sure to amuse and inform.

*Amelia* is the story of the meteoric rise and mysterious disappearance of the legendary Amelia Earhart, pioneering aviatrix. Earhart rose to unimaginable heights, literally and figuratively. This new musical re-imagines her transformation from the "girl next door" to the iconic first woman in flight. Inspiring, insightful and entertaining. It's part biography, part love story, part thrill of the flight - and chock full of wonderful music.

For more information: 613.399.5677 or [www.festivalplayers.ca](http://www.festivalplayers.ca)

**Playwrights Reading Series Thursday, April 29, 7pm**  
**With *Amelia* playwright John Gray**  
**Books & Company, 289 Main Street, Picton**

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