



Hamish MacLean/ Canmore Leader

From left: Jeff Deglow, Andrew Legg and George Smith star in *Gone Fishin'* by Todd McGinnis at Cornerstone Theatre from March 25 to April 2.

## Art imitates life in the middle of a lake

By Hamish MacLean  
Canmore Leader

*Gone Fishin'* by Tom McGinnis puts three brothers in a boat: in a sense they form an odd couple. The three haven't spent time together in a long time. Their father has died and his final wish is for the three siblings to get in a boat and drop their lines by sunrise.

If it seems like an odd final wish to you, you're not alone. That's what Harrison, the youngest of the three, says.

Harrison is played by an actor — Jeff Deglow — with something of a Canmore history.

"He has less of an ideal relationship with his father," Deglow explained Thursday. "He believes his father has been controlling him his

whole life and this is just one last way to control the brothers after he's passed."

"He's a whiner," George Smith, who plays the oldest of the three, Peter, said. "I'm the stoic, responsible older one, who makes sure the job gets done. Because somebody has to."

Smith explained his character's take on the final wish of the brothers' father as a necessary exercise in honouring their father.

Andrew Legg, who plays the middle son, said his character likes fishing.

"I'm half peacemaker, half instigator between the two," Legg said of his character, Paul. "I kind of drive things a little bit."

It's the natural tension that drives the play forward.

Deglow's character left the

farm the brothers grew up on, and now as a stock broker has returned.

"I'm kind of a small town boy who got out," he said. And he's burdened by the brunt of his brothers' resentment the whole way. "I'm the set up and the punchline."

There's a country boy, city boy rivalry going on within the context of being brothers.

"He's there to keep the boat from tipping over," Smith said of Harrison.

Interestingly, Deglow graduated from Canmore Collegiate High School in 2002.

He said that he's the guy that "got out" of this small town and went to school in New York City.

"As a kid that's how I felt, I felt really enclosed in Canmore," he said. "I didn't feel that there was a lot of opportunity and wanted to get out."

He has now spent the last five years in Vancouver. And said he had one of those "are you kidding me?" moments when he first read the script. Deglow can relate to his character's apprehension of being back in the space he thought he had left behind.

There's more.

"I have an interesting relationship with my father," Deglow said. "It's taken me many, many years to come to realize that we didn't have a bad relationship at all, he just didn't understand me — and he supported me 100 per cent, I just didn't understand that support until more 'now' in my life when I'm coming back as an adult."

As an actor he can use that. "It's kind of this really weird parallel — art imitating life, kind of — for this particular show in this particular town for me as an actor."

And to be clear, there are four characters in the play.

"It's not just the three of us in the boat," Deglow said. "Dad is very much there with us, or our ideas of our father is with us."

The play begins in the dark. As does the audience, who will discover the reason for the three to be in the boat along with the brothers.

"You're in the middle of the lake, you can't go anywhere, you've got to talk — that's it," Smith said.

*Gone Fishin'* runs March 25 and 26 and April 1 and 2.

Go to [athecocomer.ca](http://athecocomer.ca) or call (403) 609-0004 for more. [hamish@canmore-leader.com](mailto:hamish@canmore-leader.com)

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