film: Boys in the Band

By Robert Fourier

Matt Crowley's play, The Boys in the Band, is an autobiographical story of a group of homosexual, white, middle-class, heterosexual men who are attending a birthday party for a seventy-five-year-old gay man. One of the party guests, who is in his eighties, is possibly an actual character in a film that will be made about the struggle for gay rights. At the end of the party, the guests are left with a sense of the importance of the moment, and the idea of coming out is discussed. The play explores the complex relationships between the characters and the societal pressures they face.

Crowley has made a move with director William Friedkin, who previously directed the film "A Streetcar Named Desire." Luckily, for once, the artistic work of the movie is at least as good as the performances. However, the main character, Tom Rush, has always seemed a bit too self-conscious and has never quite been able to pull off the role of a gay man. Despite this, the movie is a step in the right direction, and it is hoped that it will be followed by more films that explore the lives of gay people.