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President takes a role as
WLU mounts Guys and Dolls

Dr. John A. Weir, president of Wilfrid Laurier University, will join other top administrators, faculty and staff--with some students--on stage when the university mounts a production of the musical *Guys and Dolls* later this month.

"It's the kind of thing that could only happen at a small campus," said Dr. Leslie O'Dell, director of the university's Musical Theatre Laurier, in discussing the ambitious staging of the Broadway success.

And she says she hopes to make it an annual event with a musical every fall, featuring mainly faculty and administrators, as a welcome to or welcome back to campus for students. Rehearsals have been under way since April.

It will work at Laurier, she feels, because the barriers between administrators, faculty and staff members and students are much less rigid, something she noticed immediately when she joined the faculty two years ago.

She said it might be awkward at some institutions for a student, the purchasing officer, and two professors to joke with each other and join in a song or two, as they do in the upcoming production.

"We really do get to know each other, but even here we are opening new doors with Guys and Dolls," she said.

Donna Dietrich, a Laurier graphic artist and typesetter, explained it this way: "This being on stage with the dean of students and knowing he's just as nervous and as much of a novice as I am, is a great feeling."

"People who have been defined in terms of their usual offices can take their place in an entirely fresh and refreshing pattern," said Dr. Paul Tiessen, an English professor. "The director of this production has renewed a theatrical spirit pervasive here in the '50s and '60s."

The musical, to be staged in the WLU theatre auditorium, Sept. 19 through 21 is the epic of the gambler who abandons his love of the dice for that of his doll.

Sky Masterson and his true-love, Miss Sarah Brown of the Save-a-Soul Mission, gamble, sing and dance their way into each other's hearts, as a chorus of high-rollers, dolls and mission workers sing favorites such as Luck, Be A Lady Tonight, and the title song, Guys and Dolls.

The curtain rises at 8 p.m. on each of the three nights and there will be a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and \$4 for students and seniors, at the door or from the university's student information centre.