



NEWS

FROM

Wilfrid Laurier University

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Coverage is invited.

Woman filmmaker to speak
show films at WLU March 6

Dr. Kathleen Shannon, the National Film Board executive producer of Studio D, which has won international acclaim for films that fight the war against sexism and racism, will speak and show scenes from studio works March 6 at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Appearing during the week that marks International Women's Day, Shannon will speak at 7 p.m. in Room 101 of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, in a meeting open to the public.

Earlier, at 5:30 p.m., a buffet dinner will be presented by the sponsoring groups, the Wilfrid Laurier University women's studies committee and the WLU cultural affairs committee. Tickets at \$7.50 are available in advance by calling WLU at 884-1970, ext. 2081.

Following the talk, there will be a reception and a chance to talk with Shannon in the university's Paul Martin Centre.

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The speaker will be discussing the beginning of the second decade for the film board's studio D, which was created to meet the particular needs of women filmmakers and audiences.

Its mandate is to provide training for women with emphasis on the film crafts, to increase the employment of professional women filmmakers, to meet the specific information needs of women audiences, to maintain an environment where women can explore a female esthetic, and to bring a women's perspective to social issues through the medium of film.

The studio has won many awards, including two Academy Awards for *I'll Find a way* (1978) and *If You Love This Planet* (1982), and the award of the *Salon des Femmes* in 1982 for *Not a Love Story*.

Shannon, who was given the task of starting the women's film unit and has headed it ever since, has said, "We profoundly believe in the films we make. Our primary identity is that we are women, living in Canada at this time in history.

"The people in the studio represent a broad range of perspectives. We don't insist on one narrow and specific brand of feminist politics, but recognize and value the diversity which is encompassed by the feminism of this century."

Among recent films made by Studio D are *Dream of a Free Country*, and *Abortion: Stories from North and South*.

In the first, Nicaraguan women speak of their participation in the revolution and the building of a new society. The second presents a historical and cross-cultural view of the realities of abortion, without taking sides in the polarized debate over when life begins.