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Festival Laurier puts spotlight on theatre

Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo is offering rare backstage passes for a look behind the illusions of the theatre during Stagestruck Jan. 10 to 14.

Sponsored by the university's cultural affairs committee, the student union and Theatre Laurier, this year's Festival Laurier will celebrate the secrets and seduction and the grease paint and glory of the theatre.

Christopher Newton, artistic director of the Shaw Festival, will share some personal experiences of theatre life during an informal session in the Theatre Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 10. His presentation, which will be followed by a question-and-answer session, is free and open to the public.

On Jan. 14, backstage tours of the Theatre Auditorium will feature discussions with Earl Stieler, a theatrical make-up artist from Waterloo; Terry Hynes, sound and prop man at the Centre in the Square and technical director/designer for Theatre Laurier; and Doug Paraschuk, design co-ordinator, and Gary Thorne, assistant costume designer, both with the Stratford

Festival. The tours will run at 20-minute intervals from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The highlight of the festival will be Theatre Laurier's production of Alan Ayckbourn's A Chorus of Disapproval, voted best comedy at the London Standard Drama Awards in 1985.

It is about a diffident North County widower who attempts to escape his loneliness by joining an amateur operatic society in his area. Purely by accident, he advances from a one-line part to the lead in the society's production of The Beggar's Opera.

The director is Leslie O'Dell, founder of Theatre Laurier and an English professor at the university. The 15-member cast includes Rev. Paul Bosch of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and Richard Walsh of Laurier's psychology department. Student volunteers are also involved backstage but professionals have been hired to oversee lighting, costume design, set design and make-up.

The play will be presented Jan. 12, 13, and 14 at 8 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium. Tickets go on sale Jan. 3 at the student union's information booth. Reserved seats are \$6 each with a discount price of \$4 for students and seniors. General admission seats are \$3.

Other activities include:

*a performance by professional mime artist Mark E. Mason in the Concourse of the Central Teaching Building at noon on Jan. 10.

*a variety of arias presented by senior opera students in the recital hall of the John Aird Centre at 7 p.m. on Jan. 11.

* an appearance by the Second City comedy company in the Turret of the Student Union Building at 9:45 p.m. on Jan. 11. Tickets are \$2 for Laurier students and \$4 for others.

*broadway melodies presented by music students at wilf's at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 13.

*the screening of a variety of theatre-related movies and short films in the Concourse from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m from Jan. 9 to 13.

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For more information, contact Sheila Gatensby at (519) 884-1970 ext. 2882.



Note: You are invited to make use of the above logo for the event.