

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Actor Ted Follows to play lead in original production at Laurier

Waterloo, Ont. (Jan. 27) — A cast of 20 students will perform with professional actor and director Ted Follows in an original production at Wilfrid Laurier University beginning Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Janet Wright of the Stratford Festival will direct *The Regeneration of George McGraff*, written by WLU English professor Leslie O'Dell, for four performances in Laurier's Theatre Auditorium from Wednesday, Feb. 1, through Saturday, Feb. 4.

In the play, a lonely George McGraff is talked into renting out space in his large house to university students and, in sharing their lives, he rediscovers his potential for friendships and caring.

"I think the audience will appreciate the mixture of young and old, the coming together of generations," says Follows.

A veteran of Canadian theatre, film and television, Follows worked at the Stratford Festival for eight years, was a founding member of Halifax's Neptune Theatre, and has credits in more than 100 television dramas.

"Less experienced performers will have the marvellous experience of acting with a skilled and sensitive performer," says O'Dell, "of watching him put together his role and bringing it to a state of readiness, of facing an audience with him."

Following auditions, O'Dell wrote the play and shaped the roles not only to accommodate the abilities of individual performers but also to challenge them as they explored the craft of acting under the guidance of Follows and Wright.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performances are \$10 and \$8. They are available at the Purple and Gold store on University Avenue West near King Street North or the Centrespot on campus.

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