

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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WLU hosts theatre camp for high school students during March break

Waterloo, Ont. (Feb. 17) — Thirty high school students with a serious interest in acting or dramatic writing will have the opportunity to work with theatre professionals during a camp at Wilfrid Laurier University March 14 to 19.

Applications for the 24 acting and six writing places at the Laurier Experience Theatre School will be accepted until Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Centred on life study improvisation, the camp is designed to help its acting participants not only find and develop a character but also to remain in character and its writing participants, to begin to master the craft of writing monologues. Workshop topics will range from story telling and stage fighting to accents and language as music.

The camp will have its climax when, in character, the participants attend the New Play Festival at the university at 2 p.m. on March 19, and present an extended improvisation with monologues during intermission.

Leslie O'Dell, a professor of theatre at Laurier and text consultant at the Stratford Festival, says the camp will introduce participants to the training they would receive in theatre studies at post-secondary institutions or in professional training programs. "The experience will be intense, challenging, and thrilling — so much is going to be learned in such a short time."

Kate Henig, a Dora award-winning actress, will guide the training for actors; Sunil Kuruvilla, an award-winning playwright and part-time lecturer at Laurier, will provide guidance for the writers. Additional workshops will be led by theatre professionals and university faculty members.

Only the first 40 applicants for the acting places will be invited to present a two-minute monologue and participate in a 90-minute audition workshop on Sunday, Feb. 26. Applications for the writing places must include a sample of dramatic writing from four to 15 pages in length; only the first 20 will be accepted. All applications must have a signature of support from a high school teacher.

The camp fees are \$95 plus a \$5 application fee. Forms are available from drama teachers at most area high schools and from Theatre Laurier.

The New Play Festival on March 19 will comprise three original one-act plays presented by the students of four acting, directing, play writing, and production courses at Laurier. Admission is free.

The Laurier Experience Theatre School

March 14 to 19

Theatre Auditorium
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo

Tuesday, March 14

7 p.m. Introductions and Assignments

Wednesday, March 15

10 a.m. Actors: The Challenge of the Monologue/ Writers: Writing for One
12 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. The Life Study Technique
2 p.m. The Soliloquy
3 p.m. Actors: Story Telling/ Writers: Characterization Through Story
5 p.m. Dinner and Research on Subject for Life Study
8 p.m. Sharing Discoveries from Research

Thursday, March 16

10 a.m. Writing and Improvisation Time
11 a.m. Actors: Interaction in Character/ Writers: Monologues Critiqued
12 p.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Actors: Characterization in Depth/ Writers: Language as Music
3:15 p.m. Lecture: Analysis of Text
4 p.m. Preparation: Integration of Characterization and Monologue
5:30 p.m. Presentation and Critique of Life-Study Improvisation
7 p.m. Supper Break
8 p.m. Improvisation as Exploration

Friday, March 17

12 p.m. Actors: Emotional Complexity
2 p.m. Break and Preparation
2:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for New Play Festival
8 p.m. Film

Saturday, March 18 -

10 a.m. Concurrent Workshops: masks, acting Shakespeare, Laban's system
and of characterization through movement, comedic business, accents, warm ups,
1 p.m. acting for singers, stage fighting
4:30 p.m. Final Dress Rehearsal for New Play Festival

Sunday, March 19

12 p.m. Stage Call for All Participants
2 p.m. Performance of New Play Festival
4 p.m. Strike New Play Festival
5:30 p.m. Private Adjudication of Life Study Improvisation
8 p.m. Certificates Awarded