

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Campus Fringe 2000 brings three evenings of theatre to Laurier**

*Amateurs assist with all areas of production, for no reason other than a love of theatre*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – Amateur playwrights, directors, actors and stage personnel will once again offer a mix of original and well-known theatre when the University Players present their annual fringe festival. Campus Fringe 2000 will showcase six short works from March 23 to 25 in Laurier's new studio theatre.

Campus Fringe, now in its fifth year, offers Laurier students and members of the surrounding community an opportunity to mount theatrical productions without having to worry about venues or publicity. The University Players provide funding and other support, and students assist in all areas of production, including writing, directing, acting and technical support. The result is theatre done for no reason other than to experience and entertain.

"I keep coming back to direct in the fringe festival because there are so many energetic students who actively seek out creative experiences," said John Canhoto, director of this year's *Two O 'Clock*. "This is a great place for aspiring playwrights to try out new material. Laurier is very welcoming to members of the Kitchener-Waterloo community who want to be involved.

The six entries in this year's fringe festival include four one-act plays written and directed by students, an original piece by a local playwright, and one well-known play by American playwright Edward Albee. More specifically:

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- Laurier student Melissa Benner has written and is directing a play entitled *The Sights*, involving a conversation between a middle-class traveller and an eccentric street person;
- Nathan Gage and William Brent have written a musical theatre piece called *Vanilla Days: Trials of the Big Bopper*;
- UW student Joanne Cope is directing Christopher Durang's spoof *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, which pokes fun at Tennessee Williams;
- Local playwright John Canhoto is exploring the comedic murder mystery with *Two O'Clock*;
- Student playwright Michael Kearns is also presenting a comedic murder mystery, titled *And Then The Lights Went Out*; and
- Student Michael Sterpin is directing Edward Albee's play about the meeting of two strangers, *The Zoo Story*.

This year's festival will be presented in the University's new studio theatre. Laurier recently purchased the former Waterloo Brewers Hall at 65B Lodge Street in Waterloo, and students have converted the space into a black-box studio.

Four different plays will be performed each night from March 23 to 25. Tickets are \$5 per show, or \$10 per evening, and can be reserved by calling the University Players at (519) 884-0710 ext. 4882.