

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Atom Egoyan and Mychael Danna discuss Ararat at Laurier *Film on Armenian genocide considered by many to be the pair's most provocative to date*

For Immediate Release

**January 08, 2003
02-03**

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WATERLOO – Award-winning film director Atom Egoyan and film score composer Mychael Danna will discuss their latest film, *Ararat*, during a special lecture-presentation on Monday, January 13 at 7 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Having achieved international success with such films as *Exotica*, *Felicia's Journey* and *The Sweet Hereafter*, Danna and Egoyan have released what's being called their most provocative film to date. *Ararat* deals with the Armenian genocide of 1915.

"Egoyan and Danna are an amazing team," said Jeremy Bell, artist-in-residence with the Laurier's faculty of music and an organizer of the lecture. "Ararat keeps unfolding well after you leave the theatre. I look forward to hearing them uncover the complexities of working on such a difficult theme."

To Egoyan, the most dramatic aspect of this story is not the way it happened, but how it's been denied. Since the end of World War I, Turkey has refused to acknowledge the genocide, creating a generation of Turks who have been raised with this denial. *Ararat* wrestles with this complex issue on three levels: the determination of history, the representation of history and the contemporary realization of history.

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Danna's score is based on emotionally resonant Armenian folk melodies recorded in Yerevan, Armenia's capital and one of the world's oldest cities. It features such instruments as deduk, zurna, tar, dhol, kamancha, shvi, kanon and ney, as well as an eight-voice male choir recorded in a sixth-century stone church in the holy city of Etchmiadzin.

Monday's lecture is open to the public and admission is free. Ararat plays at the Princess Cinema in Waterloo, beginning January 24.