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\$57.83 each in our  
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The price does not  
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We apologize for any  
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In partnership with York Region Newspaper Group's Celebration of the Arts

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Nov. 18, 20 & 24

Under the Artistic Direction of Geoffrey Butler

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with the Opera York Orchestra and Chorus.

Nov. 18 - 8:00 pm; Nov. 20 - 2:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Performing Arts Centre, 525 New Westminster Drive, Vaughan (at Clark Ave., behind the Promenade Mall)

Nov. 24 - 8:00 pm, Markham Theatre

TICKETS: \$30, \$25 Subscribers

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# Wright's effort has authentic feel

From page 19.

another of the endless Bennet sisters looking for a mate, but well defined with her own strong character and intelligence.

The Bennets, led by Sutherland, have landed on hard times.

They face eviction from their deteriorating mansion. They live on gruel, while surrounded by beautiful objects and furnishings that remind them of better days.

Mr. Bennet, while a mere shadow of his boisterous wife, is wise and tolerant. And he is outnumbered by six women in his household.

The women seem to have no thoughts in their heads except for marrying up a few notches and wearing the appropriate gowns to ensnare such a husband. It's their escape and their dream to ease their parents' worry.

They gossip and make merry at each others' expense and if they seem like fishwives in the making, the blame rests on the shoulders of their mother, whom another writer would call a "flibbertigibbet" and this writer a screeching meddler.

Imagine the Bennets' delight when a couple of hot new aristocrats come to town. Mr. Bingley and Darcy are rich, handsome and single.

But the intriguingly moody Darcy makes it clear the Bennet girls are beneath his status.

Once the Bingley sets eyes on

Jane Bennet (Ms Pike) and falls for her, the family breathes a sigh of relief. At least one daughter will be well cared for. Onscreen, their passion seems deep and true and weathers the story's plot twists.

Off-screen, actors Ms Pike and Simon Woods, who plays Bingley, had been dating until filming began, when he dumped her (just a little Austen-style gossip). Not to worry, though. Ms Pike has three films coming out this season and is verging on stardom.

Of all the *Pride and Prejudice* adaptations I've seen, this is the most richly detailed and emotionally resonant.

From the shabby antique furnishings and broken china on a peasant's table, to the gorgeous

sensuality and plenty of the rich people's lives, you can nearly reach out and touch the early days of the nineteenth century.

The natural beauty of the Wiltshire countryside with its hills and valleys, misty mountains, ruins and mansions, makes an impressive and powerful backdrop. Mr. Wright has paid much attention to rural and suburban life in Georgian, England.

Rarely have Austen adaptations plumbed emotional depths as Wright's version. It is the balance he has struck between the time frame of the film and the universality of human nature and feelings.

Not bad for a first-time director. And what courage to choose such a dense project for his first feature film.

## Sutherland sentimental favourite

From page 19.

Mr. Wright had a wealth of wonderful English actors to choose from to play Mr. Bennet, but he chose Canada's Donald Sutherland for "sentimental reasons".

Mr. Wright had a bit part in the film Revolution, which he jokes ruined the English film industry for two decades, when he would see Mr. Sutherland's Rolls Royce gliding by. He later saw him in Cold Mountain and

was struck by his strength and tenderness; Mr. Sutherland reminded him of his own father.

But here is Mr. Wright's greatest liberty: he set the film in 1793, when it was actually published as a contemporary story in 1813.

He doesn't like empire-waisted dresses and moved the time line back 20 years, when women's clothing was flattering and body-conscious. Now this man sees things differently.

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