

Se-e Me Now

LIPA ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER WINTER 2009/2010

Welcome

to the Winter 2009/10 issue of *Se-e Me Now* and find out about the reunion planned for 2010 [Read More](#)

Number 1s For Mads

Mads Hauge's songs top the UK charts [Read more](#)

David Makes Linbury Prize Finals

David Woodhead reaches the final 12 in the prestigious Linbury prize [Read more](#)



A Dream Come True

Rebecca Searle stars in *Les Misérables* [Read More](#)



Living La Vida Out Of A Suitcase

Stephanie Thompson goes on tour with Coldplay [Read More](#)

Conference

LIPA's academic conference 2010 [Read More](#)

Anna-Sophie Aims Higher

Anna-Sophie Mertens strategy of aiming high pays off [Read more](#)

Rock Solid Contract For Dancer Chloe

Chloe Bass gets her teeth into a vampire role and a great contract [Read more](#)



Behind The Scenes At The Museum

Rebecca Hubbard tells us why the museum sector is an ideal career choice [Read more](#)

Eyolf Stiksrud

We are sorry to inform you of the death of Eyolf Stiksrud [Read More](#)

Joanne Bridges The Gap

Joanne Merritt helps pupils make the move to secondary school via a lost island [Read More](#)

Sell A Door Opens To Rave Reviews

2009 graduates triumph at the Edinburgh Fringe. We talk to Artistic Director David Hutchinson [Read more](#) and [view the company](#)



David Hutchinson
as Mo

Rob In The Spotlight

Rob Gilbert wins Spotlight award and films with Jack Black [Read more](#)

Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit

Songstress Lindsey Cleary takes a leaf out of Nell Gwyn's book [Read more](#)

When Worlds Collide

The man creating the sound effects could well be Joe Cochrane [Read more](#)

Sets On A Shoestring

Katie Sunderalingam goes bargain hunting [Read more](#)

Making Light Work Of Echo & The Bunnymen

Damien Jackson lights the cult Liverpool band [Read more](#)

Ben Eddon- The Apprentice

Ben wins the chance to become the Apprentice – in the West End [Read More](#)

Swords And Sandals At The O2

Jonathan Bird in a Roman spectacle [Read more](#)



Lucky Dips

We caught up with 2008 Diploma graduates. To find out where their studies led them [Click here](#)

LIPA Alumni Enterprise Champions Update

Help for entrepreneurs and freelancers [Read more](#)

Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2009/10 issue of *Se-e Me Now*. For 2010 we are planning a reunion for those who graduated from our Degree, Diploma, MA or CPD programmes in 2002, 2003 and 2004. So if you saw *Spiderman* at the cinema, couldn't get Beyoncé's *Crazy in Love* out of your head, or watched *Million Dollar Baby* sweep the board at the Oscars in your final year at LIPA, this is for you. Please save the date – Saturday 15th May, more details will follow shortly.

Don't forget you can network with other alumni by registering on the website www.lipa.ac.uk/alumni You can also keep in touch by joining our groups on facebook and myspace, just follow the links from the alumni site.

Finally, if you have any suggestions for services you would like us to provide or would like to update your contact details please send a quick email to alumni@lipa.ac.uk

Number 1s For Mads

Newcomer Pixie Lott leapt to the top of the UK charts to provide the sound of summer with successive number one hits, *Mama Do* and *Boys and Girls*. Both tracks were co-written and produced by 1998 Music graduate Mads Hauge.

Norwegian Mads has been working with Pixie for the last two years, he explains: "Universal Music contacted me to say that they had a new young artist looking for a songwriter. I wrote a couple of songs with and for Pixie, along with my collaborator Phil Thornalley. She likes big female voices like Mariah Carey and Whitney, but aiming at a classic sound. It was a great songwriting challenge: the three songs we wrote and produced for the album were chosen as singles and two of them topped the UK charts. Having started working with Pixie when she was just 16, it's been great to see her blossom and be able to hold a show and

perform in front of thousands. But she's still the same hard-working girl, a real-pro with a great attitude."

Mads previously scored a top 10 hit in several countries with the Natasha Bedingfield song *Soulmate*, which he co-wrote with fellow LIPA alumnus David Tench. Again with David, he worked on an arena tour for Girls Aloud where he played guitar and mixed the *Live from Wembley* DVD. Mads is still working with Pixie, on the de-luxe edition of her *Turn It Up* album. He's also writing for Kylie and for a couple of tracks on Boyzone's new album. He has a new project involving one of the world's top female singers but, intriguingly, he can't say who at the moment - he has been sworn to secrecy. Mads tells us "I just enjoy making music, whether it's working with a new artist and helping them to find their musical identity or with the biggest names in pop."

David Makes Linbury Prize Finals



Photo by Sheila Burnett

Since graduating in Theatre and Performance Design just a few months ago, David Woodhead already has an impressive achievement to add to his CV: he was one of the 12 finalists in the prestigious Linbury Prize for Stage Design. The biennial prize, hosted by the National Theatre, is open to new graduates in theatre design. David submitted a portfolio of his designs, then made it through the first selection day and the subsequent director's day, beating more than 100 talented young designers in order to reach the finals. The 22 year-old explained how he felt when he heard the news: "The interview stage was very nerve-wracking but also incredibly exciting; just being able to show your work to so many influential people was great. The whole interview process was a bit of a rollercoaster of emotions... always waiting for the phone to ring, hopefully with good news! When I got the call to say I had gotten to the final twelve I couldn't believe it!"

Each of the finalists was awarded £1,250

to pay for materials for the final exhibition and the chance to work with a professional theatre company. David worked with The Royal & Derngate Theatre on their production of *The Duchess of Malfi*.

"Having Linbury on your CV definitely helps in trying to get a foot in the door," David told us. He has since been gaining an insight into the profession from one of the biggest names in stage design, assisting Olivier award-winning designer Christopher Oram, and working for 2003 graduate Morgan Large on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Novello Theatre.

[Return to Page 1](#)

A Dream Come True

Rebecca Seale (Acting 1999) is no stranger to *Les Misérables*, but since the summer she's been taking on the principal role of Fantine in the West End production of the worldwide hit. "I've covered Eponine before now and was the first cover for Fantine for a year, so I already knew the show, but it's really nice to be able to make the part mine, it's such a dramatic role. We do eight shows a week, which can be quite tiring, but it's sold out every night and the audiences keep you going."



She admits that the SuBo effect does bring some extra pressures with it – "Everyone knows *I dreamed a dream* so well now, and I can't deny that Susan Boyle has raised the profile of the character." But that does have its advantages and Rebecca has been interviewed on both ITV and Five since last year's *Britain's Got Talent*.

Rebecca has always loved singing as well as acting and often found herself performing in musical shows at LIPA. After graduating she went on to do a Postgraduate Diploma in voice from Trinity College of Music and was a founder member of Charles Court Opera.

This is her third year with the show and her current contract takes her until June, but she has a particular reason for wanting to stay with the production for another year. She explains: "It will be the 25th anniversary of *Les Mis* in October, and it would be a very special year to be part of the Company."

Conference 2010

June 2010 will see LIPA's second major academic conference, on the theme of Collaboration and Musical Theatre Education, and unlike many conferences, it is being developed along the principles of interaction, collaboration and development.

Lydia Bates, conference co-ordinator says: "We want to get away from the idea that conferences are about people sitting in a lecture theatre listening to people giving papers. In

an environment like LIPA with a subject as involved as teaching Musical Theatre, we felt it was important to give the creativity of the people involved full reign." Details of who will be coming to the conference are under-wraps at the moment, but you can keep up to date with developments by following @Lipa_Pro on twitter, checking out the conference pages on LIPA's website or e-mailing l.bates@lipa.ac.uk to be added to the conference e-mail list.

Anna-Sophie Aims Higher

When Anna-Sophie Mertens graduated from the Management degree last summer she decided to aim high when applying for jobs. Her strategy paid off when she landed the job of Event Manager at the Contemporary Urban Centre (CUC) in Liverpool. The venue is on a grand scale - 170,000 square foot incorporating a cinema, a rehearsal studio and theatre, facilities for large-scale events, a 430 capacity theatre, seven conferences rooms, the Buddleia Restaurant and the Beer House. Anna-Sophie tells us: "I thought it would be a great

opportunity to work in a challenging environment, working on conferencing, private events as well as performances of all sorts. I was confident I had a chance at getting the job because I gained experience in all of these areas both at LIPA as well as outside of university. When I actually got the job I was ecstatic and couldn't believe the opportunity I had been given, especially because jobs have been rare due to the recession."

Anna-Sophie, from Germany, heads a team of six, along with locum staff and volunteers. She started work at the CUC in September. Highlights so far have included organising a three-day conference for the Institute of

Living La Vida Out Of A Suitcase

Stephanie Thompson has spent most of this year living out of a suitcase, but it's a small price to pay for the experience of working with one of the biggest bands in the world. Steph, who graduated in Sound Technology in 1999, is currently working as a Sound Engineer with Coldplay on their *Viva La Vida* tour.

The tour has seen her travel back and forth across the globe from New York to London, to Japan and back again with Coldplay performing in venues ranging from a free promotional gig at the Brixton Academy before an audience of 2,000 lucky fans, to Wembley Stadium and a crowd of 70,000.

Aside from the fact that Steph doesn't much like flying, working with the band has been a pleasure, she tells us: "They are such nice guys, very creative and talented. They are also just about the hardest working bunch of people you could hope to meet."

Steph is unfazed by globe-trotting or working with big names, her past freelance work has included multi-artist shows such as Live Earth, a Nelson Mandela concert, the Brit Awards and the MTV European Awards and she has also worked with artists including Robbie Williams. The tour ends in Mexico in March, when Steph gets the chance to unpack and spend time settling into her new flat.

Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship with over 400 delegates and the Radio City Local Hero Awards, for which she had to liaise closely with security staff and be prepared for all eventualities. She explains "We simply couldn't estimate how many fans would turn up during the day trying to catch a glimpse of JLS, especially after their show in Birmingham had to get cancelled due to a crowd surge... it all went smoothly in the end!"

The CUC often recruits events staff on a casual basis, check the website for job vacancies or to enquire about staging an event.

(www.contemporaryurbancentre.org/)

[Return to Page 1](#)

Rock Solid Contract For Dancer Chloe

Vampires are making the headlines at the moment – from *Twilight* to *True Blood*, it's hard to escape from bloodsuckers on screen. *Vampires Rock* is a live production with its finger on the pulse of popular culture. The musical stage show follows the search of the larger than life, but undead, Baron Von Rockula for an eternal bride, against a soundtrack of classic rock anthems. Dancing in the show is 2005 Dance graduate Chloe Bass, and she is really getting her teeth into the role. She tells us: "As one of the Baron's vampires I help to take his bride over to the dark side, dripping fake blood from my fangs across the front row of the audience, so the role involves a lot of acting as well as dancing. The audience really get involved in the production, *Rocky Horror Show* style, joining in with the lines, dancing in the aisles and dressing up. Some fans come to see the show again and again – I know of people who have been to 15 performances." The tour started in September and plays to packed venues across the UK until the final performance in February. This is 26



either, most of the time it's who you are off stage that is the most important thing."

(www.vampiresrock.com)

year-old Chloe's second year with the production and she feels lucky to have a contract taking her through to 2013. She has learnt a lot from the show's stars Steve Steinman and Toyah Willcox. She says: "Toyah has taught me so much, she is the most professional person I have ever met. Her energy on stage is outstanding every night." Chloe next appears in *Bad Boy Johnny*, for the same company, Rockman Music, in which she plays a nun – rather different from her role as a corset-clad vampire. Chloe's advice to others looking to launch a successful stage career is: "Never feel too good for any job, I think it's the little holiday park jobs that I have done that have taught me a lot about performance and being professional, it's not just the dancer on stage

Behind The Scenes At The Museum

Museums may not be an obvious choice of career for performing arts graduates but Rebecca Hubbard, Head of PR, Marketing and Events at the National Army Museum, believes that her job offers her the ideal chance to utilise all of her skills. She advises: "Don't write off museums as a potential employer, it's a great opportunity to work in an arts sector which is actively engaging with the public on a daily basis."

After graduating from the Management programme in 2005 Rebecca worked as a temporary Press Assistant for the Imperial War Museum, then spent time as an Account Executive working on PR campaigns for a diverse range of clients – from HMS Belfast to the New York City Ballet. She moved to the National Army Museum, in Chelsea, 18 months ago and after six months was promoted to her current role in charge of a

team of four. She explains her enthusiasm for the job: "I absolutely love working with the Army themselves both serving and ex-service personnel. The soldiers and veterans have such wonderful stories and you get a real sense of pride in helping them to express these. I also really enjoy the current affairs element of the job. Whilst the historical collection is fascinating, it's the role of our Army today and capturing the social history of the 21st century which gives me a real buzz." Recent projects include a family-friendly exhibition based on the work of children's author and illustrator Michael Foreman, launching two new gallery spaces, a photographic exhibition of pictures taken in the mid 19th century and a Ghurkha culture evening. Rebecca concludes: "It's a great environment in which to be a PR professional as many of the contacts and links that you make help to directly benefit and enhance the museums collection and preserve our heritage for the future."

Eyolf Stiksrud

We learnt with great sadness that Eyolf Stiksrud died from a brain tumour in November. Eyolf, from Norway, graduated in 2009 from the Diploma in Popular Music and Sound Technology programme. He had been ill before he came to study at LIPA, but had been given the all clear and decided to go back to training and put all of his efforts into his music.

Kaya Herstad, LIPA graduate and teacher and a friend of Eyolf said: "It was a sad and shocking message to hear that Eyolf did not make it - but it was a pleasure getting to know him through the Make it Break it Awards. As a musician Eyolf was incredibly diverse and so he was in the subjects he liked to discuss and I really appreciated the conversations and the music. And even if the conversations have come to an end, his music will live on forever."

Our sincere condolences go out to Eyolf's family, friends and loved ones.

Joanne Bridges The Gap

The transition from primary to secondary school can be difficult for some pupils. 2006 Community Arts graduate Joanne Merritt has been working with Artis, an organisation that promotes creativity in schools, on its Mind the Gap programme aimed at making the move easier. The project has seen her creating a desert island scenario and making the pages of the *Times Educational Supplement*. Pupils spent part of their secondary school visit day on the team-working sessions, Joanne explains: "There were at least two specialists in each workshop, as some sessions had up to

60 children present. The aim was to make the sessions fun and fully engaging, and encourage the children to meet and make friends with their future classmates from other primary schools. The workshops that I ran were called Mission Possible and the children had a series of tasks to complete before finding the treasure. All of the activities were group based and the tasks involved skills in Performing Arts as well as skills such as coordination, communication and confidence building. Artis prepares the structure of the session plans for you, but you have creative licence on the plan. Every specialist works in a

different way and has their own style."

The Artis programme was a great success, reaching 2,000 pupils in 12 secondary schools around England and was featured in the TES. Pupils responding to questionnaires and filmed interviews said that they felt less scared and more confident in their new school and made friends easily. As well as running workshops Joanne acts as a Mentor for Artis, advising a group of specialists, observing them at work and fine-tuning the project plans.

Sell A Door Opens To Rave Reviews

When Sell a Door Theatre Company decided to take no less than four shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival there were worries that the LIPA graduates and students involved had over-reached themselves.



By Order of Ignorance

But their hard work and dedication paid off when they took the Festival by storm, opening to rave reviews and earning the only 5 star review for a musical for *Falsettoland*. *The Scotsman* said: "The energy is immense ...Then there's the music. Finn's score is a gem, mixing songs of yearning with comic masterpieces, and it's beautifully rendered here by Michael Bradley and Rebecca Phillips. You may not know the music going in, but you'll be looking to buy it when you leave." We caught up with Artistic Director, 2009 Acting graduate David Hutchinson, who explained how the festival success had opened a number of doors for the company: "Two of the shows have already transferred to London theatres. *Six Ways* transferred to Jermyn Street Theatre for a showcase in front of producers and agents in September and The Greenwich Playhouse picked up *By Order of Ignorance*, which we are currently producing back to back with another of our productions, *Blue/Orange*, until December. Finally the Dublin International Festival is pushing hard to bring our production of *Falsettoland* to the Irish capital this May. Depending on whether we can secure the rights, this could lead to a third show transferring from its Edinburgh run. It's great to have such fantastic opportunities on offer to us to do what we love across the country, but it has also been great meeting and working with a number of artists to further the life and develop these projects." For the next year the Company are producing a regular season nationwide with slots at the Greenwich Playhouse, Edinburgh Fringe and Unity Theatre, Liverpool. Sell a Door's success is a great example of collaborative working, with 2009 graduates, current students and teaching staff all involved. The team are always looking for new writers, directors, choreographers, technical staff and actors to bring their work onboard and send huge thanks to everyone who has supported their productions. (www.selladoor.com/)

[Click to view the Sell a Door Theatre Company](#)

Rob In The Spotlight

For one of Sell a Door's founder members, Rob Gilbert, the Company's Edinburgh triumph wasn't the only success of the summer. Rob won the best male actor runner-up title and a £1,000 prize, when his performance in the Spotlight Showcase contest wowed judges including Greg Wise and Meera Syal. With just three minutes to demonstrate his acting virtuosity Rob says: "It was a bit daunting, having the time limit, but it's more than you get in most auditions. I chose two pieces that contrasted and showed the extremes of my castability."

August saw Rob filming alongside Jack Black in *Gulliver's Travels*. He describes his role: "I play Mark who takes Gulliver's (Jack Black's) job in the mail room once he has been promoted up the ladder at the travel magazine where he works. My agent got me the audition. They were looking for authentic Americans, I'm a dual citizen so I put on the accent and got the job." The 2009 Acting graduate is currently overseeing Sell a Door's London production of *By Order of Ignorance*, which he wrote and directed, and writing a new musical to premier at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2010, he also writes and plays music.

Past winner of the Spotlight Showcases include the cream of British theatre talent: Albert Finney, Judi Dench and Jim Broadbent all picked up awards.

[Return to Page 1](#)

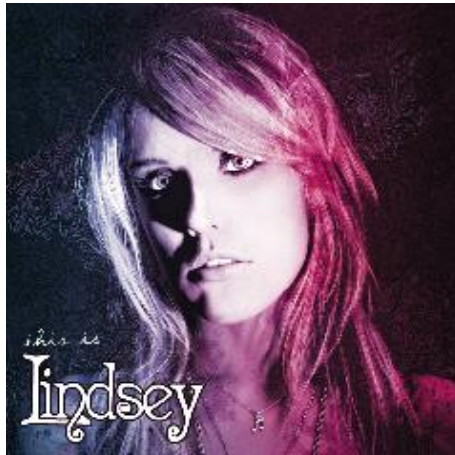
Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit

Artists are increasingly using new media to launch their music in ever more inventive ways. But 2003 Music graduate Lindsey Cleary* may well be the first to come up with the Nell Gwynn approach to financing her album *This is Lindsey*. In October 2008 Lindsey launched the Pick an Orange Project (POP), with each song represented by an orange and each orange divided into 10 segments. Fans and supporters paid £100 for each segment, in return for a share of the profits, and Lindsey managed to raise more than the £12,000 she needed to make the album, over a period of five months.

She tells us about POP: "I launched the project by broadcasting acoustic versions of my songs on youtube. It started with friends and family, but a couple of months into the project I was being contacted by strangers who wanted to invest, which was amazing. Someone I'd never met gave £2,000 for the track *Heaven*. The great thing is that the investors then become promoters of the album."

Lindsey wrote and produced the tracks and LIPA graduates Marcus Bonfanti, Jon Bath, Scott

Wiber and Stephanie Powling (Lindsey's sister), performed on the album, which was released in November. With a promotional tour scheduled for early in the New Year, she is currently in talks with a management company and hopes to license the album to a major label. Lindsey recently toured with fellow



alumna Sandi Thom supporting Blues legend Joe Bonamassa. She also continues to work as a session singer, with past gigs including *Atomic Kitten* and *Michael Ball*, while she waits for her project to bear fruit. www.thisislindsey.com

* Lindsey Powling whilst at LIPA

Sets On A Shoestring

As a freelance Art Director based in Los Angeles Katie Sunderalingam has her share of glamorous assignments, such as prop styling a recent fashion shoot for *Lucky* magazine and designing a music video shown on MTV channels. But the 2005 Theatre and Performance Design graduate attributes her success partly to her thrifty shopping skills.

For Katie the low budget projects can be the most rewarding, she has recently been working with students from the American Film Institute, where the biggest challenge was limited funds. She tells us: "The last project had \$200 for the art department. From that I had to dress four locations and buy props. I frequent the 99 cent store in these situations! However, the projects I have done with them are true collaborations, which makes the long hours tolerable, and the results very satisfying."

Katie recently worked on the reality TV show *The Colony* for the Discovery Channel. She says: "*The Colony* was fun. I started on the job as a prop 'greeker'. The contestants have a supply room of cans of food. To ensure that the branded food was not recognizable, I had to repaint and adjust 40% of the labels. I also dressed some of the sets, including a very spooky disused hospital, which we were advised to navigate in groups, due to its sheer size and temperamental lighting!"

When she first arrived in Los Angeles Katie did a lot of cold calling and worked hard to make contacts and get her foot in the door, she reflects "I have found it challenging to work as a young female in the art department. It has been important for me to prove that what I might lack in brute strength, I make up for in organizational skills, in the ability to shop for appropriate props and furniture, and compositional skills when set dressing."

When Worlds Collide

If you recall the awe-inspiring footage of the Discovery Channel documentary series *Raging Planet*, you were listening to the sound of the earth quaking created by Sound Technology graduate Joe Cochrane. Joe is a Dubbing Mixer for Post Production company, The Mews, having worked his way up after starting as a runner in what was then Rainbow Post, and gaining hands-on experience in the video and technical sides of the industry.

He describes his work on long-form documentaries including *Raging Planet* and *Christianity: A History*, screened on Ch4 earlier this year: "I usually have a few days to churn out an hour long doc - in that time I'll be editing the audio, track-laying sound effects, recording the voice over, etc. The final mix usually takes place in an 8-hour client attended session. After it's approved you've got to make all of the client's deliverables, which is certainly the most important but boring part of the process. Having a tape sent back from the States because you cut off the end of a show would be pretty embarrassing!"

The *Christianity* series was interesting for history buff Joe, and involved recording presenters including Cherie Blair. Working in HD presents a new set of challenges, Joe tells us "With standard def you're dealing with four channels to tape. The latest HD-CAM SR tapes have twelve. Then you throw in Dolby surround encoding and all the loveliness that comes with that. Technically HD can be a nightmare, but the creative potential makes it worth it. Designing the aural destruction of CGI planets colliding with each other can take a long time, but the result is awesome!"

Joe, from California, is currently working on *Slips* for MTV; sound design for a new series called *Engineering the Universe*; and mixing *How the Earth Was Made*, a series for the History Channel. In his spare time he drums with two bands, The GrooveWorkers and Fragments of Faith and is making preparations for his wedding to fellow 2005 LIPA graduate Clare Bolton. Performing arts obviously remains close to their hearts – the pair are writing a musical for their wedding ceremony.

www.themews.tv

Making Light Work Of Echo & The Bunnymen

When Echo & The Bunnymen released their acclaimed *Ocean Rain* album, famously marketed as "the greatest album ever made" Damien Jackson was a baby. Twenty-five years down the line the 2006 Theatre and Performance Technology graduate was lighting the Liverpool cult band as they celebrated the anniversary of the album release on the American leg of their tour, where they played the track list in full alongside a 12 piece orchestra. Soon after graduation Damien started working at the Carling Academy in Liverpool (now the O2 Academy) as Assistant Technical Manager. Part of his role was to programme and operate lighting for

bands playing at the Academy. In 2007 Damien worked with the Bunnymen on two of their gigs and the band were so impressed with his artistic input that they asked him to join them on tour. He reluctantly turned them down because of his full-time work commitments, but jumped at the chance when the band approached him again earlier this year, after he had left his job to work as a freelance Lighting Designer. Their latest tour of the UK and USA went from Wolverhampton to LA. Damien explains how he achieved the effects he wanted for the *Ocean Rain* gigs: "The brief I was given from the management was very much an 80s look... Typically, Bunnymen have

NO front light on them (a specific request from the lead singer) lots of atmosphere on stage and frequent strobe. I added eight floor cans across the stage floor, and mixed with on stage smoke, this created great silhouette effects. I also ran video projection from FOH, through the band onto a white cyc - as there is no front light this added a rippling texture onto the figures of the band." Damien has recently toured with power rock band Dragonforce, and worked with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. January sees him head off for sunnier shores when he tours with the Bunnymen and Florence & The Machine in Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Ben Eddon - The Apprentice

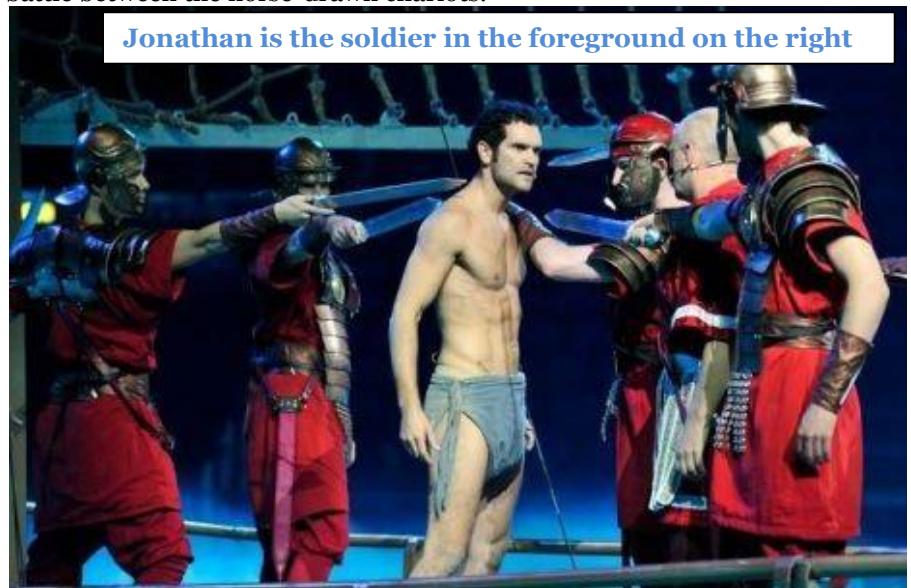
This autumn Ben Eddon became the apprentice – luckily for him not the sidekick to straight talking cockney businessman Sir Alan Sugar, but honing his stagecraft on the West End show *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Since graduating in Theatre and Performance Technology earlier this year Ben has made an impressive start to his career. His first job was as Assistant Production Manager at the Welsh National Opera, where he spent five weeks working on the WNO Youth production of *Sweeney Todd* the musical thriller about the infamous demon barber. Ben applied for the Theatre Royal, Haymarket Masterclass Apprentice Scheme and beat off other hopefuls to win the role of Technical Apprentice. After his paid placement he left the show, but obviously made a good impression as he was invited back as Sound Operator and Cover Assistant Stage Manager. Ben tells us: "Working on *Breakfast at Tiffany's* has proved to be a great introduction to the West End. The cast and crew are a really friendly group. I'm not really a star-struck type of person, but Anna Friel is lovely. To work in the West End you really need to get your face known, and I have already had an offer to work on *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* which I hope to be able to take up when *Breakfast at Tiffany's* ends in January.

[Return to Page 1](#)

Swords And Sandals At The O2

Say the words 'chariot race' to most people and the first thing that will spring to mind is the epic film *Ben Hur*. Now the story is being re-created live on tour, and 2009 Dance graduate Jonathan Bird is one of the performers in the spectacular show.

Ben Hur Live premièred at the O2 Arena in London in September with a cast of 400, 46 horses, donkeys, falcons, eagles and doves. Audiences of up to 14,000 people came to watch the extravaganza, which includes the iconic battle between the horse-drawn chariots.



Jonathan is the soldier in the foreground on the right

Jonathan first heard about the show sitting at a computer in the LIPA LRC, when he found several emails in his inbox about the audition forwarded to him by someone he didn't know. Ten minutes later he got a call from his Dad who had seen the same advert in *The Stage* magazine. Jonathan applied, then had two days to find out about *Ben Hur*, before his audition. Jonathan describes his roles: "I play a citizen of Jerusalem, a Roman soldier where I get to fight off invading pirates, an erotic dancer who performs to the new Roman Commander, Messalah, and a trainee gladiator. As a citizen of Jerusalem I'm able to perform out in the audience and get to interact with them which can be daunting because of the different language barriers." Since the O2 performances the show has toured around Germany and Vienna. Jonathan's contract ends in Belgium at the end of January, but he may have the opportunity of staying with the show for another year, which will mean donning his sword and helmet around North and South America.

Lucky Dips

We recently surveyed all students who completed our four Diploma courses in 2008, to find out their career and training outcomes, just over a year after they left us. The programmes aim to help students to either make the next step into degree-level study within higher education or to move directly into employment.

Nicholas Abery, On the BSc in Ecology and Conservation degree programme at the University of Sussex. Spent six months working on wildlife conservation projects in Africa before travelling around South America **Niamh Allen**, On the BA (Hons) in Creative and Performing Arts degree programme at Liverpool Hope University **Amy Allington**, Fitness instructor, she is also training in beauty therapy. She spent a year travelling around Australia and aims to return to singing in the future **Lisa Ambalavanar**, Dancer and street dance teacher working all over the country, with a move to London planned for mid 2010 **Rebecca Bailey**, On a second year diploma course at Bodywork/Cambridge Performing Arts specialising in Musical Theatre **James Barber**, Studying for a degree at Sheffield Hallam University to pursue a career in journalism. He is a member of the 5 man comedy improvisation troupe The Antics and is currently working as a backroom member of staff for BBC Radio Sheffield. He spent a year with a Shakespeare for schools touring production based in Manchester **Katie Bernstein**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting (Performing Arts) degree programme **Anette Boge**, Third year dancer at Bårdar Academy in Oslo. She has appeared in the ensemble of *Grease* in Oslo Spekterum and in November danced and sang in and choreographed for a show at Lillestrøm Kulturhus. She is in the process of starting a company with other dancers from Bårdar Academy **Benjamin Brown**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Eleanor Brownlie**,

Studying French and Business in Kent, having spent a year au-pairing in France **Sarah Buchanan-Pascall**, Undertaking a Masters in Counselling and working as an Occupational Therapist in Australia. She continues to perform in amateur musical theatre and has appeared as Miss Lynch in *Grease* and Ethel in *Footloose* **Hannah Byrne**, On the London Studio Centre BA (Hons) Performing Arts degree course **Petru Calinescu**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Danielle Carter**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting (Performing Arts) degree programme **Peter Coleman**, On the Mountview Music Theatre degree programme **Emma Dickinson**, At the London Studio Centre on the BA (Hons) Theatre Dance Course **Laura Dunn**, At Middlesex University, on the Dance Performance degree **Louise Durrant**, At Masters Performing Arts College on a three year Dance and Musical Theatre course **Elisabeth Eide**, On the Masters in Law programme at the University of Oslo. Also working as a legal adviser with a few organisations that promote music projects and other projects related to youth and art. A recent project, Rap Election, aimed to increase the participation at the election in Norway **Alicia Esquino**, Freelance dance teacher to Drama students at Pretoria University, she has also been involved in dancing workshops in South Africa and was an adjudicator for a large dance festival **Laura Fitton**, On a Liverpool John Moores University Dance degree programme **Elizabeth Fogg**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) programme, she was also one of a party of LIPA dancers who worked at Disney through the summer **Adrian Garcia Fernandez**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music degree programme **Diletta Gari**, Studying Foreign Languages and Literature at the Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna. She is also studying music privately, playing in two

bands which are active on the Bologna independent music scene, and gives guitar lessons **Victoria Gaskell**, On the BA (Hons) in Dance and Theatre Performance degree programme at Doreen Bird **Phil Gornell**, Front of House Sound Engineer for UK band, Bring Me the Horizon, currently on tour in the USA. He also tour manages San Francisco's Set Your Goals **Oliver Hamilton**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Brittany Hayes**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Victoria Haynes**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Nuria Herrero Bahamontes**, Filmed 13 episodes of a TV sitcom *Singles* for Canal 9, currently filming *El Dios de Madera*, a film starring award-winning Spanish actress Marisa Paredes, directed by Vicente Molina Foix; to be released in September 2010 **Franke Horton**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Albert Howel Evans**, Studying languages part-time at a London college and working in a nightclub **Nicola Howell**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Freja Karoline Albech Kristoffersen**, Working with physical theatre group Stella Polaris and singing with bands Goylem Space Klezmer and Traett Maend, alongside her day job. This summer she went to Jenin refugee camp on the West Bank with the theatre company Kompani Linge working with young people in political theatre. The group created and performed a new play and subsequently toured colleges in Norway performing and talking about their experiences **Fiona Larkin**, At the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on the Popular Music (session musician) course **Tome Levi**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Bryony Loasby**, Taking classes for ISTD qualifications in order to teach dance **Skyla Loureda**, On the BA (Hons) Fashion Journalism

degree programme at the London College of Fashion **Samantha Lubin**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Maylén Mæland**, On a three year bachelor programme in Business & Culture. She has also been touring as a back-up singer for Margit Bakken and has been working on her song-writing **Oliver Marriage**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting (Performing Arts) degree programme **Naomi Mather**, Marketing Assistant at Baa Bar Limited. She will be paying the Orkney Blues Festival at the end of the month and continues to play the blues alongside her 9-5 job **Victoria Mifflin**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Maria Moe Pettersson**, Currently studying Spanish language and Cuban history, culture, literature and cinema in Havana, Cuba (until the end of this year) **Christopher Nicholls**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Michael Peterson**, Established his own business in dance, singing, drama and guitar and drums classes: M.A.D (Making A Difference) in St Helens **Malin Pettersen**, Studying psychology at a University in Oslo. She plays with the band Lucky Lips, soon to record their first album, and with other music projects, as well as songwriting **Dominique Planter**, Has spent time travelling and has recently returned from Australia. She is currently preparing to audition for degree courses and planning her next trip away before starting next September. She is also working with a producer developing her own sound **Kate Playdon**, Studying on the Acting

course at Doreen Bird. She will be appearing in panto over Christmas, and recently reached the semi-finals of a singing competition **Carly Poole**, On the BA (Hons) Dance Studies degree programme at Liverpool John Moores University. She is also involved with their dance company JUMP IN which works with people of all ages who have disabilities **Nicole Rebeiro**, Spent one year studying on the degree in Popular Music performance at Vocaltech; currently in the recording studio creating a demo CD of covers with different arrangements, and her own songs **Adam Rosa**, At the University of Glasgow, doing Theatre Studies **Carlos Ruiz De Assin Fierro**, Working in Madrid for the record company El Volcán Música, which manages several well known Spanish artists such as Los Planetas and Los Delinquentes, and distributes Manu Chao. Last year he studied for a higher diploma in voice at Vocaltech **Charlotte Ryder**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Jessica Samuel**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) degree programme **Sabrina Sauer**, On the BA in Music degree programme at University College Falmouth Inc. Dartington College of Arts **Christan Slawinski**, Member of the band The Branco Heist, they have just signed a management deal with Pride & Joy Management and have spent the last year playing in London and the UK, including venues such as the O2 Dome and Kentish Town Forum supporting The Buzzcocks and From The Jam. Trips to New York and Europe are scheduled for 2010. He also works full-time at John Lewis **Stehanie Smith**, Teaches dance

in Newcastle in a private dance school and for Gateshead council; she is making preparations for setting up her own private dance school **Benjamin Stevens**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance (Performing Arts) degree programme **Sharisse Stewart**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting (Performing Arts) degree programme **Rachael Taylor**, Vocal Coach for 1640 Productions Showtime Academy in Sunbury, Surrey (<http://www.1640productions.com/>). She has also been a principal performer in five shows in the West End called *Sunday Night Live at Her Majesty's Theatre* **Emma Walker**, Studying photography at the Arts University College, Bournemouth **Hollie West**, Started studying mathematics at The University of Kent this September. She spent a year working as an Assistant Manager in a fine dining restaurant, while teaching singing, dance and drama to 4-8 year olds at two stagecoach performing arts schools at the weekend **Adam Wilson**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting (Performing Arts) degree programme.

Key

Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting)

Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance)

Diploma in Performing Arts (Song)

Diploma in Popular Music and Sound Technology

[Return to Page 1](#)

Sell A Door DIRECTORS

(Please contact the Director for the appropriate area if you are interested in working with the Company)

Richard Adams	Marketing Director
Alison Carter	Community Director
Robert Gilbert	Literary Director
David Hutchinson	Artistic Director
Phillip Wright	Managing Director

LIPA GRADUATES (Stage names in brackets)

Emily Barlow (Actor in London Transfer of *Six Ways*) Acting 08
Michael Bradley (Musical Director of *Falsettoland* and MD and Composer of *Six Ways*) Music 09
Alison Carter (Marketing and Promotion) Acting 09
Paddy Clarke (Actor in *Falsettoland* and Actor and Writer of *Six Ways*) Acting 08
Sam Dunn (Thackray) (Actor in *Falsettoland* and *Six Ways*) Acting 09
John Edon (Actor in *By Order of Ignorance*) Acting 07
Robert Gilbert (Writer of *By Order of Ignorance*) Acting 09
Jamie Haining (Lighting Designer *Six Ways* and *Falsettoland* and Sound Designer of *By Order of Ignorance*) Theatre and Performance Technology 09
David Hutchinson (Actor in *By Order of Ignorance*, Director of *Falsettoland*, Writer of *Six Ways*) Acting 09
Terri O'Brien (O'Ryan) (Actor in *Falsettoland* and Edinburgh version of *Six Ways*) Acting 09
Scott Stevens (Weston) (Actor in *Falsettoland*) Acting 09
Rachel Tyagi (Stage Manager on *Six Ways* and *By Order of Ignorance*) Theatre and Performance Technology 09
Carl Vorwerk (Actor in *By Order of Ignorance*) Acting 09
David Woodhead (Designer of *Six Ways* and *Falsettoland*) Theatre & Performance Design 09
Phillip Wright (Rowntree) (Actor in *Falsettoland* and Producer of *Sell a Door*) Acting 09

LIPA CURRENT STUDENTS

Richard Adams (Marketing and Promotion)
Katie Bernstein (Actor *Six Ways* and *Falsettoland*)
Herman Gambhir (Actor *Bollocks*)
Victoria Hardy (Actor *Six Ways* and *Falsettoland*)
Jessie Lilley (Actor *Bollocks*)
Dieter Loosemore (Actor *Bollocks*)
Rebecca Phillips (Saxophone on *Falsettoland*)
Adam Search (Actor *Six Ways*)
James Stanley Thomas (Actor *Bollocks*)
Katie Williamson (Producer, Director and Actor *Bollocks*)

TEACHING STAFF

Ruth Alexander-Rubin (Advice on *Six Ways*)
Gillian Lemon (Director of *Six Ways*)
Nick Phillips (Mentor on *Six Ways* and *Falsettoland*)
Sally Rapiere (Movement on *Falsettoland*)

LIPA Alumni Enterprise Champions Update

LIPA has a fantastic opportunity to support graduate entrepreneurs, including self-employed freelancers, who are considering launching their own business. The NW Enterprise Champions offer business support, training, guidance, mentoring and coaching.

Practically we are linked to business advisors who will help you with everything from business plans to marketing and we will be running a number of events and courses.

Personally we on the team all run our own businesses either as freelancers or small companies. Finally we are also interested in looking at not just the technical side but also encouraging confidence and the right mindset.

Eligibility: graduating students or anyone who has graduated in the last five years (from any higher education institution).

Contact:

o.du-monceau@lipa.ac.uk for an application form

Stories by Jan Buchanan, with thanks to Lydia Bates, Olivia du Monceau and Corinne Lewis. Special thanks to all of the graduates who appear in this newsletter

CONTACT US

E: alumni@lipa.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)151 330 3261
F: +44(0)151 330 3131
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
Mount Street
Liverpool
L1 9HF
UK

WISHING OUR READERS A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL 2010 FROM ALL AT LIPA

[Return to Page 1](#)