ALUMNI NEWSLETTER THREE • SUMMER 2003

See me now

THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

PARADISE FOUND FOR EMMA

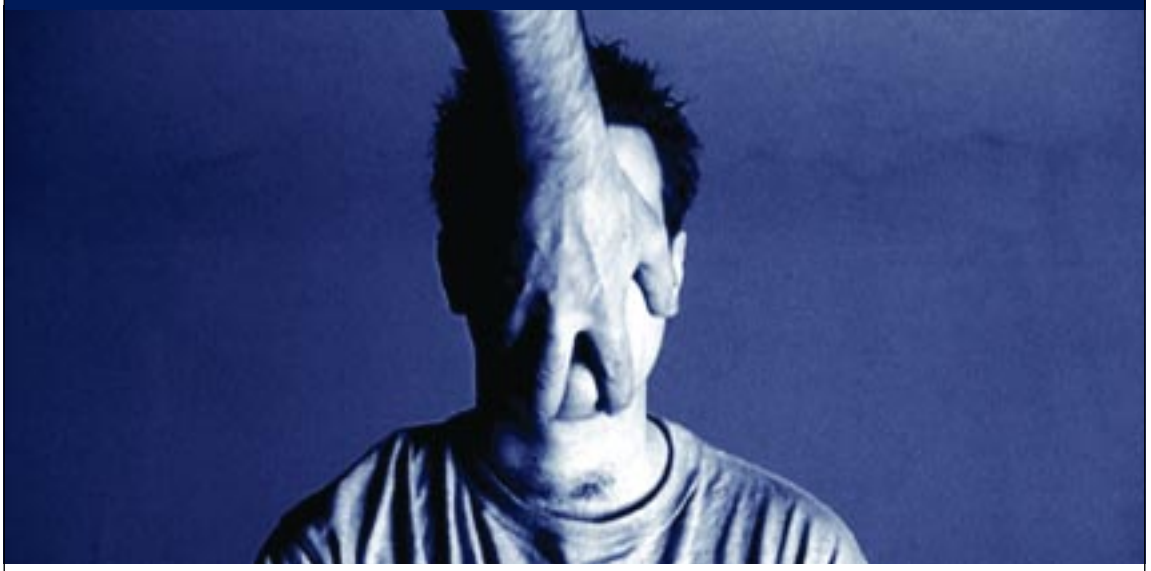
Viva Las Vegas! Emma Annetts struck it lucky at auditions in London for a spectacular show. The 23 year old, who graduated in dance in 2001, is one of just three British dancers signed up for the Celine Dion show at the newly opened $95m 4,000-seat Las Vegas Coliseum.

The music and dance spectacular is directed by Franco Dragone, the creator of the Cirque du Soleil – one of the reasons Emma took the job.

The cast includes a team of 70 dancers, musicians and artists with the French Canadian star headlining the show at the Coliseum, which is part of the Caesar's Palace complex.

continued on page 17.

Meet the Management graduate… ON TOP OF THE POPS



Jan Burton *(Enterprise Management)* graduated in 1999 expecting to work for a major record company or in radio. Instead he ended up signing a five-album deal and appearing on Top of the Pops.

The singer-songwriter's fortunes took a dramatic turn when he teamed up with Mike Tournier, one time member of the group Fluke. Their two man group, Syntax, recorded a debut single *Pray,* which won massive praise from some of the country's top DJs including Pete Tong, Digweed, Sasha and Oakenfold.

● *Full story continues on page 4.*

Here come the brides

Katy Reeves (1998 Dance) who plays the role of Celeste in the BBC1 Sunday evening drama *Down to Earth,* got hitched in the last series wearing pink.

Rachel Leskovac's (1998 Dance) character Ciara looked beautiful in her traditional white dress in the final episode of ITV1's popular drama *At Home with the Braithwaites.* In true Braithwaite style Ciara's big day takes a back seat while dramatic twists and turns surrounding the disaster-prone family unfold. Ciara does make it to the alter in the end though.

We've just heard that Rachel will be playing one of the new nurses in the next series of BBC1's *Holby City.* Watch out for her as Nurse Kelly Yorke.

Gail works on Danny Boyle film

Gail Burland (2002 Management graduate) is working as a Production Assistant with London-based Mission Pictures.

Her job has brought her back to Liverpool where she is working on *Millions,* a film by Danny Boyle of *Trainspotters* and *The Beach* fame.

"It's a twelve hour a day, six days a week job but it's great," says Gail who helped set up the pre-production arrangements in Netherley, where much of the filming will take place.

Gail's tasks include distributing schedules and scripts for the film written by Frank Cottrell Boyce.

LA woman

Lynette Howell (2000 Management graduate) is soaking up the sunshine and enjoying the Hollywood scene in an LA based-dream job in theatre producing.

For her final year LIPA placement Lynette worked for one of the top musical theatre casting directors in London and as a result of that, started working as Production Co-ordinator on a new musical called *Napolean* directly after graduating. The producers - a company called East of Doheny - offered her a job in the States as Head of Theatre and Office Manager. She is now responsible for developing new projects, optioning properties, attaching writers, directors, workshopping and overseeing all aspects leading up to production. She also seeks out investing and producing opportunities in New York and London. Recent shows include *The Full Monty* in the UK and *Flower Drum Song* on Broadway.

She says: "I always loved the arts, primarily theatre, I was in Youth Theatre since I was 13 but after applying to LIPA (originally for acting) and being told that my application was much more suited to the management degree, I decided to interview for management instead. It was the best decision I ever made, I love working with people, I am very organised, and love to organise others. LIPA gave me the chance to try my hand at many different aspects of management – from casting to agenting - both as part of the course and through independent student work. All of that helped me to recognise that I felt the most reward from producing. Bringing all the elements together, and being responsible for helping others work towards a common goal is what drives me. My ultimate goal is to be a film and theatre producer. As my company also produces film, it allows me to continue to learn whilst doing my own job."

CATCHING UP WITH ...Jobst Moritz Pankok (2000 Performance Design)

Photographer: Christian Schön

"Over the last two years I've been working freelance as a scenographer for Europe's only professional gypsy theatre company: the European Rom Theatre Pralipe. Our latest production *Sheherezade* was a co-production with Spanish theatre company Teatro del Velador. The performance was based on *1001 Nights* and our ensemble was joined by a cast of Spanish actors and dancers. Although the focus of my work has been on scenic design and construction, I am also heavily involved in production management and I've even been lucky enough to perform with the company. As well as bringing the European Rom Theatre on tour in the UK this summer, I am setting up my own production company Circulo Produktion, so I can combine my work as a designer and a production manager."

Contacting the Editor

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the third edition of 'See Me Now'. The next edition will be published in June 2004 and we would welcome your contributions.

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BEAT THAT!

LIPA pair team up in big-time musical

Jon Bath, who graduated last year from Music, is drumming his way across Europe in a sell-out tour.

It is the European premiere of the stage adaptation of the film *Footloose,* and has become one of the biggest theatre tours on the continent.

"It's been a great start to life after LIPA, getting to see Europe, staying in nice hotels and getting paid to play drums seven nights a week. I really feel lucky to be doing what I am within a year of leaving," he told us.

Jon has teamed up with Matt Smith, a 2000 Music graduate from LIPA. The two worked together on ten productions during their student days. As Jon added: "It gives my job a homely feeling because each night I take my cues from Matt, who is the show's Musical Director. It does at times feel like I'm back doing another production in the Paul McCartney Auditorium, yet getting paid rather well."

Jon received a call on New Year's Eve offering him the part in the show that has already won standing ovations across Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Denmark, with Italy, Spain, Portugal and Scandinavia on the tour route.

The nature of the music means the show is driven by drums with big dance routines, which are a good chance for the band to let fly. The show is set to eventually visit the UK and if Jon and Matt are both involved, they hope that LIPA students and graduates will be in the audience.

That's corporate entertainment

Like many children, Paul Foxcroft was awestruck by the massive brontosaurus skeleton, which he saw on his first visit to the Natural History Museum, aged five. He never imagined that nearly 20 years later he would be wondering if the uplighting was making it "look too fat".

Paul graduated in 2001 from the DipHE in Theatre and Performance Technology. In the last six months Paul's freelance work in corporate lighting has really taken off. Lighting the Asian Business Man Awards 2002 at the Natural History Museum was one of his favourite jobs to date. After all, it's not every day that you get so close to some of the nation's most fascinating exhibits.

In the lead up to Christmas Paul was working solidly on celebratory events for companies held in the Circus Space in London. Their Rehearsal Building, a converted warehouse, had been transformed in to a 500 seater 1920s-themed speak-easy, where clients could enjoy a sit down meal followed by a 60 minute circus act, finishing with a disco.

Paul was responsible for creating the atmosphere throughout each event with the lighting effects, from initial set up of over £200,000 of electrical equipment to ongoing maintenance. The health and safety of everyone involved in the event also came with the territory. An important issue when you have circus performers, customers, waiters, waitresses and the many others present making the event possible, all making full use of the space throughout the event.

Eastern Promise for Amanda

Amanda is pictured second from the left.

Amanda Quigley, a 1998 Community Arts graduate, is making a name for herself in all-girl big band Noir Femmes. Fronted by Gail Thompson of Jazz Warrior and Jazz Messengers fame.

Saxophonist Amanda, who is also pursuing a career in community arts from her Liverpool base, has travelled far and wide since leaving LIPA, including receiving a millennium grant to study percussion in Cuba. Amanda also performed in Oman in the Middle East as a member of Cumbria-based street band, Boneshaker. Towering high on stilts, the drum-band also played at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

A & R Anna works with TOP RECORD STARS

Anna Schulte (Music 1999) has landed a job as an A & R with record company Mute.

The job has brought her into contact with big name groups and performers such as Nick Cave, Depeche Mode, Cabaret Voltaire, Throbbing Gristle, Goldfrapp, Liars, Erasure and Flood. Her duties include looking after the archive and all of the mastertapes at Mute, plus the typical A and R co-ordination tasks such as booking studios, hotels and transport for artists.

She says: "It's lots of fun and a great job. However I still want to work on my own music. I have been, and am involved in several bands, and am currently working towards my own album! When I reflect about LIPA I really had three amazing years there. I loved the course and the people."

Meet the Management graduate… ON TOP OF THE POPS

cover story continued...

It made Radio One's 'C' list, guaranteeing a five times a day play, was Joe Whiley's record of the week and reached number 28 in the charts. That led to that TOTP's appearance, sharing the bill with Oasis, Tatu and Kelly Osborne.

Jan said: "It was incredible. We were given an advance of £175,000 from Sony Records for the first album and I got a similar amount for the publishing rights from Warner Chappell Music."

Syntax also appeared regularly on MTV, giving them European-wide exposure and are due to release their debut album, *Meccano Mind* on Sony's Illustrious label.

Music industry publications reported how Mike Tournier, pioneer of the 1990s electronic music scene, heard Jan's 'very loud rock singing' in a vocal booth in a London studio and immediately realized the potential of a verse and chorus electronic vocal act. Syntax was born and, say commentators, are en route to a definitive electronic act of the future.

Their single *Pray* was an instant hit on dance floors across the nation, championed by the big-name DJs.

"The TOTP's appearance was my first live performance (except for singing in the bar at LIPA when I was drunk at Spunkabubble) and it was nerve-racking, but brilliant," said Jan.

Videos for the album have already been recorded in London and Paris. He was full of praise for his experience as a mature – 'I was in my mid 20s' – student at LIPA.

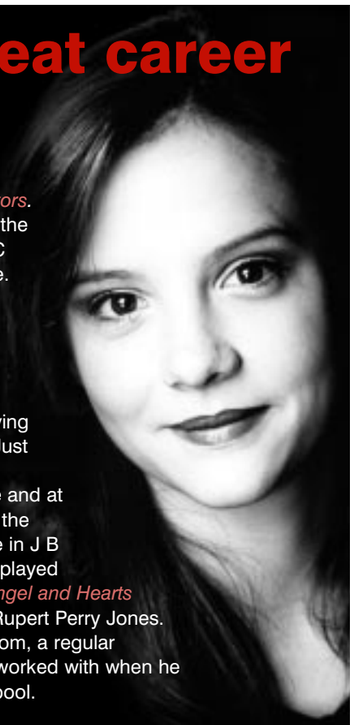
"LIPA set me up by increasing my confidence level and letting me believe in myself. I left LIPA wondering what I was going to do because, although I had taken a management course, deep down I always wanted to be a performer. I never considered that a possibility though."

"I was given so much help by Susanne Burns and Mark Featherstone-Witty; they were my gurus and my inspiration. I came away with a belief in myself. I enrolled there because I knew something of the history and the great lengths that Mark had gone to, to make sure that LIPA happened. His pursuit of a dream was a total amazement to me."

"Taking a management degree course means that when I go to meet executives from record companies I am not just a guy in a suit who sings but somebody who understands what they are talking about. The course was a lot to do with the music industry and it has been a great help to me as a recording artist."

"With my degree and this experience as an artist I feel confident that whatever happens with the music I am in a great place for now and for the future. All my dreams have come true, graduating from LIPA was one of them and now this…. I can honestly say I am truly happy and I thank all at LIPA who helped me to get here…. dreams DO come true!"

Birth of a great career for Katie



Katie Foster-Barnes has just given birth…. in the television drama *Doctors*. She had already experienced life in the world of hospitals with a part in BBC TV's *Casualty*, her first television role.

This summer a short film in which she took part for Channel 4 will be shown at the Cannes Film Festival.

It's been two hectic years since leaving LIPA for the 2001 Acting graduate. Just months after graduating she was in rep at the West Yorkshire Playhouse and at the Garrick in the West End playing the part of young wife Betty Whitehouse in J B Priestley's *Dangerous Corner*. Katie played alongside Dervla Kirwan *(Ballykissangel and Hearts and Bones)*, Patrick Robinson and Rupert Perry Jones. The play's director was Laurie Sansom, a regular visitor here, who Katie had already worked with when he directed with LIPA students in Liverpool.

Katie also starred in the play *Undercurrents* performed at the King's Head Theatre in London's Islington. It was written by Adam Penford (2001 Acting). Also in the play was Jamie Lloyd (2002 Acting) and Katie's boyfriend Andrew Langtree (1998 Acting).

festival FEVER

Brighton Festival attracts around 300,000 visitors, which meant a busy May for Helen Moors.

Helen, a 2001 Management graduate, works as a marketing assistant and throughout the year promotes the many attractions in the south coast resort: the famous Brighton Dome, Corn Exchange and Pavilion Theatre.

But from May 3 to 25, the Brighton Festival took place, with events in and around Brighton and neighbouring Hove.

The event is England's biggest festival, with artists from 19 countries taking part in over 300 events, ranging from dance, music, opera and theatre to outdoor spectaculars. It means long working days for Helen in the weeks before and during the event. It takes over her life because of the vast amount of work there is to do.

"It really is hectic during the festival," said Helen. "The festival is incredible and the place is alive with so much activity." As well as doing marketing for the big events Helen also organises campaigns during the year.

Brighton may be a long way from Liverpool - though it's a great place to live and work, says Helen – and with a number of LIPA graduates in the town, there is an occasional chance to talk about student days. But not during May.

FAME IN THE USA but Liam misses us

Liam Lynch was described as a reluctant rock star after a song he recorded on a home PC made the top 10 in the UK in December 2002.

His hit single *United States of Whatever* lasts for just 90 seconds, making it the shortest hit single ever.

The chart appearance for Liam was the latest in a long line of successes for this 32 year old American, who in 1998 was amongst our first Music graduates.

Not long after graduating Liam made his mark, creating the hugely popular show *Sifl and Olly* for MTV America, two sock puppet characters he invented while at LIPA.

He now runs his own company 111 Productions, working in television, film, design, technology and the internet.

Liam released an album (*Fake Songs* – which features his hit single) in the US in April.

He has written and is directing the upcoming Tenacious D movie, working with the group's singer Jack Black (Liam's best friend). He has also worked with the Foo Fighters and recently joined Dave Grohl on stage whilst the Foo Fighters were headlining Los Angeles Universal Ampitheater to perform a rousing rendition of his *United States of Whatever* hit.

Yet despite his success in the exciting world of entertainment he told one interviewer that he misses LIPA and his flat in Rodney Street. "I miss English breakfasts, a real cup of tea and people saying 'ta' " he reminisced.

Buried in Silence

Learning lines for a new role was something 2001 Acting graduate Michael Imerson had expected, that was until he secured a role in Channel 4's hard-hitting prison drama *Buried*.

Set in Her Majesty's Prison Mandrake, Michael played silent inmate Breezy. Bullied by violent inmate Ronaldo, Breezy gets unwittingly caught in the middle of a disturbing grudge match between two cellmates.

Michael said: "It certainly provided a big challenge to play someone who doesn't speak. It's challenging to have to get across emotions and feelings on camera without being able to say anything."

SOUND CAREER

James McWilliam (1999 Music) is enjoying a flourishing career as a professional arranger and conductor.

Since graduating James has regularly worked with film composer David Whitaker. One of his songs called *Love after Love* became a top 10 single in France, Germany and Italy.

He has also written orchestral arrangements for: Simply Red, Pavarotti + (The Royal London Philharmonic Orchestra), Jeff Beck, Rosie Ribbons and Bond. He's recently turned his hand to TV advertising. James arranged the music for the Boots Christmas advert broadcast last December.

Make me laugh!

Stand up comedienne Stephanie Davies is on a mission to ensure comedy is accessible whatever your age.

After her Community Arts degree in 2002, Stephanie teamed up with the Liverpool Comedy Trust to teach stand-up comedy to local teenagers.

In summer 2002 the Liverpool Comedy Trust launched *Stand Out,* running workshops during the Liverpool Comedy Festival with children from Merseyside schools. *Stand Out* resulted in a live final with representatives from each school performing their own comedy set.

"After graduating, I contacted the festival organisers. I was interested in comedy within education and they were looking for an outreach programme so we teamed up and I became the project co-ordinator and workshop leader."

As well as opening up the comedy circuit to the under 18s and developing all aspects of comedy writing and performance, her outreach work in schools can help young people develop self-confidence and public speaking skills.

A regular stand-up comedienne herself, Stephanie performs throughout the North West and is a familiar face in Liverpool at Casa's weekly improvisation night *The Monkey Lab.*

For further information about the Liverpool Comedy Festival and trust visit www.liverpoolcomedyfestival.com.

Catching up with ...Ryan Harlin

(1999 Sound Technology)

"I'm a founding partner of Emo Riot Productions, a film production and music video production company in LA. We have just released a new DVD *Do You Remember?: 15 years of the Bouncing Souls* internationally through Mordam Records. The DVD has won awards at the NoisePop Film Festival, DIY Film Festival and will screen in the Philadelphia Lost Film Festival. We're starting preproduction on our two new productions *A Retrospective Look at Punk Legends: Youth Brigade* and an African travel documentary."

LIFE'S A BEACH FOR JANE

Jane Freeman (Management 2002) tells us she is now working for a brand spanking new Spanish radio station in Marbella. She organises beach parties and all their promotions so she is doing, she says 'what God (Phil Saxe) intended'.

It's a deal!

We sign contract with Jobcentre Plus

LIPA's Flexible Learning & Enterprise Support (FLES) is giving hundreds of young people a chance to study for a career in the music industry.

We have signed a new contract with Jobcentre Plus to offer New Deal for Musicians (NDfM) training to unemployed 18-24 year olds in an area along the North West coast stretching from Cumbria to South Cheshire. It means that aspiring musicians and DJs, who are currently in receipt of Job Seekers allowance, can ask to be considered for a course managed by LIPA to provide training that will hopefully open the door to a career in the industry. The new contract follows on from an earlier LIPA experience of providing New Deal for Musicians training.

Dozens of Jobcentre Plus staff from across the North West attended the launch of the NDfM programme last November and heard support for the scheme from Mike McCartney (pictured above). The launch generated extensive newspaper, radio and television interest.

Here's a round up of news from this valued area of LIPA activity.

NDfM is a big hit, says Ged

What's the importance of NDfM at LIPA? Ged McKenna, Director of Flexible Learning and Enterprise Support, answers with a passion. "We are deadly serious about helping young people to find work in the music industry. If people have the desire, we are there to help them. We can tailor programmes to suit individual students. It is great to watch their dreams being turned into reality. The successes we have already seen demonstrate the value of the NDfM programme."

Nelson Mandela gig for Bill

Bill Gunn, 23, signed up for a NDfM stint at LIPA and it led to him playing trombone at a concert attended by Nelson Mandela in London's Trafalgar Square. Bill, who has cerebral palsy, chose the trombone because it was easier for him to handle than other brass instruments. He was chosen to go on an intensive training course with the Prince of Wales' Trust, and then came the invitation to play before the former South African President. Says Bill: "My time at LIPA gave me skills and self-belief in myself. I had found somewhere that treats music like a real job. Before I started at LIPA my confidence level was zero, now it is 150%. The NDfM scheme has really changed my life and I will always be grateful to LIPA."

Kirk's date with Atomic Kitten

Kirk Ward has found himself playing as a sessions guitarist for Atomic Kitten following his training under NDfM at LIPA. The 25 year old from Liverpool not only learned the skills of managing a career in music, but found loads of good contacts through LIPA, including one that paved the way for that Kittens work. Kirk has also appeared on radio and is writing a book *How to play the Guitar.* Kirk said: "I was told at LIPA that talent is the minimum requirement in the music business."

Justin releases first album

Justin Muir, 22, lives in Carlisle but has still been able to take part in the NDfM programme. And it is all thanks to Ian Jump, his mentor. Justin was provided with a tailor-made course of work and Ian regularly travelled to Cumbria to monitor his progress. Justin was already a familiar face in the Carlisle area as lead singer with local band Opiate. He said: "The NDfM course at LIPA has been a real learning process and has taught me many things that will help the band. It has been a brilliant experience for me." And it seems that the course has hit the right chord for Justin and his group. Justin's band has signed a three-album deal, with the first *Distinctive Smile* already on sale. He frequently travels to perform at gigs in London and Manchester. Justin has also been interviewed on Radio One about the group's debut album.

Photography by Ray Farley

Stars in their eyes

NDfM participants who sign on for the course at LIPA are often amazed when they come face to face with their mentors for the first time. They find they are learning the ropes from people such as Eddie Lundon, lead singer with China Crisis, Roddie Gilliard from The Muffin Men or The Farm's Keith Mullin and Peter Hooten.

Our view is that professionals from the world of music are ideally placed to pass on the tips of the trade, as well as valuable know-how to young people. As Keith Mullin commented: "I've been able to offer students 20 years of experience of this industry, from every angle. We have had some excellent talent coming through LIPA."

Cavern date for Greig

Cheshire guitarist Greig Wilding was advised by his Jobcentre Plus adviser to sign on for NDfM and did so without hesitation. His mentor was Keith Mullin. Greig said: "I had never heard about NDfM until I was told about it at the Jobcentre. It has proved to be a fantastic opportunity for me. I have been able to network contacts and be taught by Keith Mullin from The Farm. Just brilliant isn't it?"

Greig's band Double Automatic Jackpot have played at the famous Cavern, the Picket and Zanzibar in Liverpool and have hopes of a recording contract.

Five album deal for Michelle

Singer Michelle Lawson has released the first of five albums after signing a contract with top recording company Mercury. Michelle took part in the NDfM programme at LIPA, which helped her pave the way for the chance of stardom as a singing artiste. Originally from Bootle, Michelle is now spending most of her time in the recording studios in London. "We're all tremendously proud of Michelle and wish her every success in what we hope will be a brilliant singing career," said Ged McKenna.

Hit the road, Roddie

LIPA mentor Roddie Gilliard has been engaged in a spell of field work, touring the UK to mark the 13th anniversary of his group The Muffin Men. Muffin originally formed to play a one-off concert to mark the 50th birthday of Frank Zappa. Hundreds of concerts later, the Muffin Men are still belting out Zappa favourites. Roddie insists that Muffin Men are not a tribute band because they add their own edge to Zappa's music. The Muffin Men have released an album, *Live at the Cavern,* for details check out www.muffinmen.co.uk

SO this is Hollywood

Sophie Hoyt headed for Hollywood in search of an acting career but ended up in another side of the industry working as a casting director.

The 2000 Acting graduate is currently with the Discovery Channel. She has also worked for 20th Century Fox, CBS, Universal, and MTV.

Said Sophie: "Being on this side of the fence is fascinating, giving me insight into what really goes on behind the scenes when it comes to casting. As an actor, it has taught me a lot about what not to do in auditions."

A fringe benefit has got to be the fact that she's living in a gorgeous apartment, just five minutes walk down Hollywood's famous Sunset Strip.

Of the job, she says: "It's extremely gratifying when you find somebody who is genuinely lovely and has so much depth and talent. I know first hand how it feels to be rejected or cast in something, so to pass on that wonderful emotion is great. My acting experience has also set me in good stead for understanding peoples' nerves and being able to see through them. It's very rewarding."

"I never forget that I came here in the first place to be an actor, though and I'm realising that to get that job 'knowing' somebody really helps."

She jokes: "So hey, if they don't cast me in an acting role I can cast myself."

LEGENDARY songwriters SING PRAISES OF EVA

Eva Katzler's first single has won praise from Sir Paul McCartney and Elvis Costello. Elvis Costello described the voice of the 2000 Music graduate as 'gorgeous, really gorgeous'. Sir Paul McCartney said of her work 'extremely beautiful and deeply contemplative'.

Eva's debut EP *Poem* was hailed as 'nothing short of fantastic' by Bulaka Music magazine. Her single *Star* from the EP reached number one in the MP3.com chart, beating off rising star Norah Jones.

A track, *Abigail,* which Eva wrote while a student at LIPA, has been included on a recently released album *Brazil 5000-2* in the Urban Electronic Collection of sublime South American music.

She has appeared at London's Purcell Room and in August Eva will be heading to a music festival in Northern Bavaria. She has also appeared in the US and Spain.

Earlier this year Eva recorded duets with Terry Hall (The Specials and Lightning Seeds) on Damon Albarn's label, Honest Jon Records, due out this summer.

Eva's first album is due out this summer.

Photographer: Michael Cobb michaelcobb7@hotmail.com

Standing ovation for Jamie

Photographer: Ray Farley

Jamie Lloyd's West End debut came about recently when he had to stand in for a leading role in the show *This is Our Youth.*

It didn't help Jamie's nerves when he heard the audience boo when it was announced that Hollywood star Freddie Prinze Jnr would not be playing the part of Warren, that Jamie was about to take on.

But at the end of the show Jamie was able to beam a wide smile as the audience gave him a standing ovation. Girls who had gone to the Garrick Theatre to watch Freddie Prinze Jnr waited at the stage door to ask Jamie for his autograph.

The production, based on the story of a group of rich New York kids in the early days of the Regan era, featured a number of young Hollywood stars. Also taking part were Matt Damon and Kieran Culkin, brother of *Home Alone* star Macaulay.

Jamie won an understudy part at the Garrick production after appearing in *Undercurrents* at the Kings Head Theatre in London's Islington. That play was written by 2001 LIPA Acting graduate Adam Penford.

Jamie graduated (in Acting) last year and has already started to carve a name for himself in the industry.

As we go to press, he is directing the UK premiere of Morris Panych's *7 Stories* at the Etcetera Theatre, Camden (from May 27 to June 8) with an ex-LIPA cast.

LISA'S cardboard LOOK AT LIFE

Lisa Tremarco is introducing the world of theatre to homeless people through an innovative Cardboard Citizens project.

The 2001 Community Arts graduate is working as a Development Officer with Ashford Council in Kent. That position opened the door to London-based Cardboard Citizens, working with people in the Canterbury area.

"It helps confidence building for those taking part. One homeless man joined the scheme and was very cynical at first, but within a few weeks had written a play which we hope to stage."

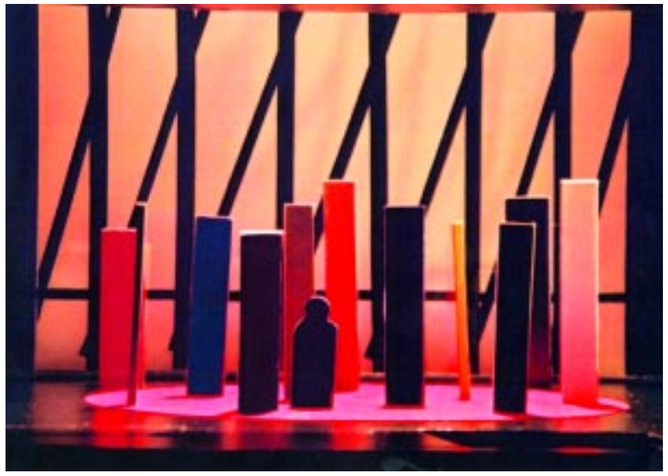
Lisa has also worked on drama projects with asylum seekers in Kent and is working on a major music festival taking place this summer in the Ashford area.

"The Community Arts course at LIPA is fantastic. We had loads of placements which helped us develop work skills," said Liverpool born Lisa.

CATCHING UP WITH ...Laura Krier

"After leaving Liverpool I moved to Marbella in Spain, where I was spotted and signed by the record label Mere Music International (MMI). Over time I developed such a good working relationship with the record label that I was invited to become a partner alongside Mary Jane Trokel, a Hollywood TV director (*The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, *Solid Gold*, *Candid Camera* and *Entertainment Tonight*) and Paul Sedowski, a songwriter, producer and CEO of MMI. I've been working on my first album release due out later this year." Laura studied Performing Arts (Music).

Our FINNISH first



We recruit students from all over the world and have over 30 countries represented amongst our student body.

Recently, with help from Sennheiser, we conducted a publicity event in Helsinki in Finland, where we caught up with our first Finnish graduate.

Elina Hanhivaara, studied Performance Design at LIPA and graduated in 1998. She has returned to Finland and is working for the Rovaniemi Theater as a stage and costume designer.

Her first production opened on 22nd February 2003. Elina was responsible for designing the costumes for a cast of 13 people, plus the band and choir, along with the set. The piece was premiered in the sixties and is famous for evoking a shift towards the left-wing movement at that time.

The production that Elina worked on modernised the play, setting it in the present day. She says: "I am especially happy that the author and composer, who are both renowned in Finland, liked our production very much."

When Elina attended our student recruitment event in Finland, she was interviewed by the press, leading to a primetime broadcast on Finnish TV Channel One.

She says: "Meeting up with people from LIPA was very nostalgic. Even though LIPA has changed since my time, to me, the spirit and energy are still there."

Plans for the future – the multi-talented Elina is looking forward to summer holidays and time to practice her saxophone. She's also in the process of trying to find a gallery to bring an exhibition by legendary scenic designer Ralph Koltai to Finland.

Since Elina joined us we have had six further Finnish students studying at LIPA and Alisha Davidow will be our eighth. Following our recent visit Alisha has accepted a place to study design at LIPA this September.

Sounds great for NIKKI

Nikki Harris's job as Label Co-ordinator with Liverpool-based Deltasonic Records is keeping her busy. The label has four signings - The Coral, The Zutons, The Basement and Danny Connors.

With single releases, tours and gigs 'it's all hands on deck' says Nikki, who graduated as a Sound Technician in 1999.

"I have to liase with bands, press officers, agents, radio and tv pluggers, designers, webmasters, producers, engineers, band managers, tour managers, studio managers - oh and keep the day-to-day office systems running smoothly," says Nikki.

The Coral have recently gone down a storm on a US tour and also played in Japan.

"I had a great time at LIPA and I'm pleased that I regularly come across others in the industry who are also graduates. Only recently my very good friend Lynne Earls, another LIPA sound tech graduate, now working for a studio in LA, has been recording a band who performed with The Coral in London. We are steadily making global connections."

Virus alert

Frode Oygard (Sound Technology, due to graduate this July) met an old childhood friend, Fredrik Martol (Sound Technology, who graduated in 2002) while studying at the Institute. Together and with other sound technologists (Tim Way and Tord Nikolaisen - graduated 2002; Sturle Strauss Lisaeth due to graduate this July), the group decided to start their own music production company so that they'd have a job to go to when they left the Institute. Five people would mean five times more work and five different music backgrounds and tastes, so more to offer potential clients.

They took Virus Music to MIDEM in January 2003 under the wing of The Association of Independent Music (AIM). Their hundred show reels were snapped up. Eleven clients are already on their recent list; negotiations are underway with nine new clients for writing jingles, supplying new music, remixing and production facilities. Recently, Virus Music remixed using e-mail as the transporter.

Liverpool City Council, MSIF, Prince's Trust, Musicbias and HSBC have allocated financial support.

Check out: www.virusaudio.com or e-mail at mail@virusaudio.com

CATCHING UP WITH ...Ole Haune (1999 Music)

"The past year has been exciting, thrilling, inspiring and fantastic. My musical *Tonight* was performed at Oslo's prestigious concert hall to standing ovation. The concert was performed by Kringkastingsorkestret, Norway's National Broadcasting Orchestra, together with a hundred strong choir, plus ensemble and principles from London's West End, Germany, Sweden and Norway.

As well as showcasing the musical at the Peacock Theatre in London's West End the full musical was broadcast on Norway's national radio station NRK. The musical also reached the finals of the International Festival of Musical Theatre (IFMT) in Cardiff. A number of theatre companies and record companies have expressed an interest in the performing and recording rights, as well as interest in me as a composer and writer so 2003 is set to be an exciting time."

Joining the cast and crew were eleven LIPA graduates. The production team included orchestrator and co-arranger Vergil Sharkya (1998 Music), artistic director Ryan Stephenson (1999 Acting), score transcriber and bass player Oliver Latka (1999 Music), Production Assistant Margareth Roman (2001 Acting), Production Manager and Lighting Designer David Platt (1999 Performance and Production Technology), Assistant Production Manager and Lighting Designer Peter Abraham (1999 PPT) and Web-Designer and Guitarist Kristian Engeseth (2000 Music). In the supporting cast and ensemble were Kristian Gangflot (2001 Acting), Tiril Engelstad (2000 Acting), Victoria Eek (2000 Acting) and Vegard L Nesset (2000 Music).

EDINBURGH HERE WE COME…

The line-up at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe features four productions by second year and graduating LIPA students.

Blues in the Night, tells the story of three women and a saloon singer in a cheap Chicago hotel as they explore their lives, their memories and the music that gets them through the night. This show is performed by graduating music students and is at Augustine's from 4th to 25th August starting at midnight.

The musical comedy *Now That's What I Call A Karaoke Musical,* is one of six productions to come out of This Lousy Theatre Company, a production company set up by graduating acting students. Through the medium of karaoke the staff and locals share their memories of the time they've spent in Blazers fun pub. The show is at the Pleasance Dome from 31st July to 25th August at 5.20pm.

Appearing at the Rocket @ Demarco Roxy Art House you'll find graduating Community Arts student Ramesh Meyappen. His one-man visual adaptation of *Dario Fo's Mistero Buffo* highlights the hypocrisy within religious institutions through the use of Commedia Dell 'Arte. Mistero Buffo is at the Rocket from 11th to 16th August starting at 1.40pm.

The second year production of *Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down* introduces three zany stand-up comedians in this musical show. For further information about this show or any of the productions appearing at the fringe visit www.edfringe.com.

MORE WINNERS

Again current students have been doing us proud in national music competitions.

Lady, Stand Up

Lady, Stand Up is the song that clinched an award for songwriting duo Hilde Wahl (Music student) and Sebastian Von Bischopink (Sound Technology student). They scooped first prize in the R&B / Hip Hop Category of the 2002 UK Songwriting Contest. Hilde says: "We were delighted to have achieved the award and we were particularly pleased with the judges' comments on the professional standard of our music."

This is the latest in a long string of awards for them both. In March 2002, Hilde was awarded the 'Millennium Award' for her work in the Liverpool Urban Music Scene. Sebastian won the 'Sennheiser Achievement Award' for exceptional standards of production and engineering in 2000, 2001 and 2002 and together they have been awarded 'Best-Unsigned UK Dance Act 2001'.

Having formed their own company, Domestic Music and Entertainment, which focuses on songwriting and music production, Hilde and Sebastian are hoping to gain a publishing deal and to make links with other artists and developers. They also plan to maintain their songwriting partnership after graduating this summer. Visit www.domesticmusic.com to find out more about their work.

Time Well Spent

Second year music student Jez Wing scooped the coveted first prize in the 2003 Peter Whittingham Award for Song Creation. This new award is administered by the Musicians Benevolent Fund in collaboration with the University of Westminster.

Jez's songs *Time Well Spent* and *The Wrong Way* scored a hit with the judging panel made up of pop industry specialists. He won £4,000 which will go towards the cost of recording and promoting a CD of his music. Jez said: "Winning this award is fantastic, it gives me recognition as a songwriter in my own right and that's really satisfying."

Singing for her supper

Keeping a straight face is one of the trickiest parts of the job for 1998 Acting graduate Gail Mackinnon in her latest role. Gail is supporting Julian Clary as his singer on his national tour entitled *Natural Born Mincer.* Forty-eight dates are booked across the UK, culminating in a performance at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in London in June.

This follows hot on the heels of spending a year performing in Boy George's hit musical *Taboo* in the West End. Gail played the role of Big Sue. She remembers it fondly: "It was a great part. I was playing opposite the role of Leigh Bowery, the performing artist. She is based on the real 'Big Sue' who was Leigh's best friend it was very interesting playing a non-fictional character."

Prior to that Gail played the role of Lisa for a year in *Mamma Mia!* at The Prince Edward in London.

Gail works regularly with Boy George as a vocalist on his recordings. Her TV appearances to date include the part of Kirsty McCloud in the BBC *Doctors* series and a commercial for *Pop Idol.* She says: "I feel I owe a lot of my success to being a LIPA student."

Ruth's KEY ROLE in NW film industry

Ruth Nicoll has been working in Events and Marketing for BAFTA North since graduating from the Management degree in July 2002.

Much of her time is taken up organising exclusive preview screenings and co-ordinating industry related events; currently the launch of the third series of locally filmed *The Forsyte Saga.*

Recently Ruth represented BAFTA North at the British Academy Television Awards, sponsored by Radio Times, at the London Palladium.

However, it is not all awards and celebrity, Ruth stresses. BAFTA is a registered charity and relies on outside funding to realise its mission: to promote excellence in the moving image.

Ruth has successfully developed and presented several funding applications on behalf of BAFTA North to North West Vision, the Film Council's regional arm. This funding supports BAFTA North's educational projects such as:

- 'Behind the Scenes': a collaboration with regional production companies such as Mersey TV and Red Productions in encouraging young people to consider a career in the moving image industries
- 'Script to Screen': workshops for local writers developing their craft
- 'In Conversation with…': a series of in depth interviews with industry figureheads such as director of *Trainspotting* and *28 Days Later,* Danny Boyle as well as the controversial award winning director of *The Magdalene Sisters* Peter Mullan.

"All the skills learned at LIPA have been utilised in this job. In April I had to interview the actor Dougray Scott, director Mike Barker and composer Richard Mitchell in front of a BAFTA audience about the feature film *To Kill a King.* If it hadn't been for the presentations I had to make at LIPA I would have wished the ground to swallow me up, as it was, I really quite enjoyed it."

To find out more about BAFTA North's student package or for graduates wishing to join as a full member, please contact Ruth Nicoll at membership.baftanorth@virgin.net or phone on 0151 283 3726.

SIGNED

Ralf Gerhardt (1999 Diploma in Popular Music and Sound Technology graduate) has signed as an artist to independent record label NewWorldMusicGroup in Kingston, London. He is working on an album and plans to do a club tour in autumn so watch out for him.

Ralf tells us he is in the process of setting up his own publishing company. This means he's on the look out for professional songwriters who "eat the charts for breakfast and write in a 2005 style".

Mark Bates (a 1999 Music graduate) fronts the Boston band Catapult (www.catapultheband.com), who have recently signed a management deal with the Jet Music Group. Their first release *Broken Nursery Rhymes* has received both commercial and critical success. They are currently on tour in the USA and plan to tour the UK this autumn. Mark also runs the record label Big Frank Records (www.bigfrankrecords.com).

Fitzy's top 10 hit

Photo courtesy of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo

Fitzy Fyne has appeared on Top of the Pops and jetted off to Delhi to record a video, just weeks after completing a FLES Longer Occupational Training course here.

Fitzy's chart triumph, with the hit Husan by Bhangra Knights-versus-Husan, owes its success to an old car and an elephant!

He worked on a remix of music originally written as a backdrop for a Peugeot car advert, in which a young Indian guy re-shapes his car by crashing it into a wall and getting an elephant to sit on the bonnet.

Fitzy, or Raul as he is known in the music world, was enlisted by co-producer Jules Spinner of UK-based Lowered Recordings, to add verses to an instrumental remix by Jules of the original.

The remix went straight into the top 10 and reached number 7, and is now destined for world-wide release. The accompanying video, shot over four days in Delhi, features Fitzy singing and rapping and has been shown repeatedly on MTV.

The hit was such a success that Peugeot decided to re-run its popular advert - already voted the best ever TV commercial by Radio 4 listeners.

Fitzy explained how the hit record was born: "The original was done by two Dutch guys called Husan with the voice of an Indian singer called Raja Mustaq. Jules did a remix and sent me the samples and asked me to work on them. I added my own verses and vocals, which we sent to Husan and they loved our version. We got together to do the single and decided to call it Bhangra Knights-versus-Husan. It was our first project and to have such a huge success so quickly is amazing."

Fitzy is working on two follow up singles with Bhangra Knights, both with an Indian theme and he has other music work in the pipeline.

He said: "LIPA was a brilliant place for me. It really gave me an insight into the music industry and how it works. The learning resources and facilities were just great. It was also terrific to be helped by people who are in bands."

LIPA's Mat Flynn said: Everyone here is delighted with Fitzy's success and to see a former student appearing on Top of the Pops is great. We are sure his success in the music industry will continue."

Sealed with a kiss

Sharing an intimate kiss with fellow female rugby teammate wasn't how 2002 Acting graduate Lauren Phillips (pictured left) had envisaged her first television appearance.

Lauren is the latest member to join the cast of S4C's welsh language television drama *Amdani,* securing the role of Ceri Steffan within weeks of completing her degree.

The drama is set around a female rugby team in the Welsh town of Amdani, Ceri along with her father has moved from Cardiff to start a new life following the death of her mother.

"After graduation, I joined the cast of the new musical *Police Story.* Within two weeks of completing the show I'd landed a part in the TV drama. They'd asked me at the audition if I'd mind kissing another women, but it was great to be considered for such a challenging role."

A Royal **performance**

Jamie Cymbal (1998 Acting) was spotted in the television drama *The Royal,* a spin-off from the popular ITV1 show *Heartbeat.* Based around St Aidan's hospital in the fictional Yorkshire town of Elsinby, Jamie was playing the role of truck driver Colin Pike who was involved in what turned out to be a fatal road accident. *The Royal,* a prime time Sunday evening drama, was the highest rating new drama for any channel in the last three years and pulled in an average of ten million viewers an episode.

Eurovision
–was it nul or was it fourth?

It probably hasn't escaped your attention that the UK's Eurovision entry Cry Baby, sung by Liverpool boy-girl duo Jemini scored nul points at this annual contest – this year held in Latvia this May.

The song was composed by Martin Isherwood – our Head of Music. It was chosen by the British public to represent the UK back in March – winning by a large margin. Martin took the Eurovision defeat in good humour, especially as the song went straight into the charts at number 15.

The contest also brought exposure for LIPA students and graduates who provided backing vocals both at the contest and on Top of the Pops. They are Emma Nowell (second year Performing Arts Acting), Lyndsey Powling (final year Performing Arts Music) and Nicola Bell, studying New Deal for Musicians. Kirk Ward (New Deal for Musicians graduate) played guitar.

In fact LIPA was involved in two entries. The Norwegian entry song was produced, published and managed by our own Vibeke Strom (1998 Enterprise Management graduate).

Vibke says: "The artist is signed to my production company, I publish the writers behind the track, I manage the guy and indeed I have worked my butt off for this project."

The Norwegian entry came fourth winning top marks from three voting countries.

The thrill of the crowd was not denied

An historic event in drama took place here in April.

That is when, for the first time in the UK, a penal production gained a live audience outside of the penal environment.

The UK has a rich heritage of theatre in prison work but the inmates' shows are either viewed by an invited audience or videoed. So the inmates are denied the chance to address to a critical viewing audience and receive their reaction.

Thanks to satellite technology, four residents of a Merseyside bail hostel had their 30 minute production entitled *The Denied* beamed live in to the Paul McCartney Auditorium. The thunderous applause at the end demonstrated the impact it had had on the audience.

This was the final year project of one of our Community Arts students, Alexandra Russell. Alex spent a month working with the residents of the Bail Hostel on the piece. It addressed issues that the men felt were important, such as how they are treated by society and how they feel about themselves. After their performance, Alex rushed back to LIPA to contribute to a questions and answers session with leading criminologist Dr James Mcguire, hosted by Mark Featherstone-Witty (Founding Principal).

The applause rang out once more as Alex told the audience about the impact on the inmates. She confirmed that receiving the audience reaction had been really important to the men, one went so far as to say that this had changed his life.

Photo courtesy of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo

PARADISE FOUND FOR EMMA

continued from front cover

She told mum Sylvia and dad Les that she could not believe her luck when she won the two-year contract .... "being paid for something I would have done for free!"

Emma said: "We rehearsed for nine months in Belgium. It was rare for a dancer to be given the opportunity to be part of such a long creative process alongside the director and choreographer."

The show opened in March and Emma has already settled into her new home in glamorous Las Vegas.

Emma's love for dancing started when she was just three years old, and she admits that the Vegas show is 'her idea of paradise'.

Emma is living out there with Gavin Spokes (Acting 2000) who has just landed a part as Judd in *Oklahoma* in Las Vegas as well.

Sunday Girl

Marianne Furevold (Acting 1999) has her own children's breakfast TV show broadcast every Sunday on Norwegian National Broadcasting Company, NRK (equivalent to the English BBC). She also presents some children's programmes in the weekdays.

This year she will be one of two main hosts on the annual telethon at NRK. It is a live all day TV show (similar to Children in Need). This year the money will go to Save the Children, Norway.

Piano dreams

International record label Sony Music has signed 1998 Music graduate Martin Ermen. His first album *Piano Dreams* will be launched throughout Europe and Asia later this year under the artist name of Martinée.

The album is a cover of 19 mainstream songs including *Wonderwall* by Oasis, *Thank You* by Dido and Metallica's *Nothing Else Matters* and it features Martin's own composition *Little Sister.*

"On the album I play and produce all the piano arrangements and I perform on six solo pieces. Some of the tracks have light ambient arrangements and others have full orchestral arrangements allowing us to work with the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra." Self-managed Martin has also had input into the post-production and the promotional campaign.

Since graduating Martin has worked as a performer, composer and music teacher, running educational courses in self-management, promotion and songwriting. He's also had time to write a book. In 2001 *Pop Starter: A Start-Up-Guide for Musicians* was published.

"At the beginning of 2004 I will be going on a promotional tour of Europe with live performances and television appearances, but I will continue to work on my songwriting and composition with plans to work on music scores for film and eventually a musical."

Multi-skilled Elisabeth is

MONTREUX JUDGE

One of the highlights this year for Oslo based Elisabeth Nord has been sitting on the music jury at the famous Rose D'Or Montreux in Switzerland.

The 1998 Music graduate made her first film whilst with us and, as a result, decided to pursue that as a career. It was a useful switch in emphasis for Elisabeth who now runs her own company, GriegNord Productions, enabling her to make use of her many talents in Norway and across Europe.

Elisabeth has produced an impressive collection of films and television documentary programmes.

On top of that, she has also produced music videos, sung live at concerts as well as on TV and has done voice overs. She has presented lectures and also writes features for the Norwegian edition of ELLE.

She is currently working with UK film production company Tiger Aspect. Her latest venture has taken her to Malaysia for two months, directing parts of the *Survivor* series. She has also turned her attention to the age of digital television.

"I am working with new concepts and formats for the emerging broadcast media," said Elisabeth.

Your space on LIPA's website

LIPA's alumni now have their own dedicated website "Connected". The url is www.lipa.ac.uk/alumni

To get the maximum benefit from the website, alumni should take the time to register. This gives you access to restricted 'alumni only' areas such as the bulletin board. In this section, you can tell everyone what you've been up to, publicise current projects, advertise for help to get projects off the ground and make contact with people with whom you've lost touch. You can also submit your news to the larger website, showcase your work on it and we're happy to create links to your individual websites. This newsletter is also featured on the site.

The "Connected" website is your space and it does depend on your support and contributions to make it as useful as possible to you.

We would welcome any feedback from you on the website and, as ever, if you have any queries regarding LIPA's alumni services, you can e-mail alumni@lipa.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0) 151 330 3143.

www.lipa.ac.uk/alumni

Sister act

This year's Mother's Day was one to remember for LIPA graduates Natasha and Rebecca Seale.

The sisters took a bow after playing lead parts in the West End production of smash-hit musical *Les Miserables,* with their mother Ivora in the front stalls.

The sisters have parts in the show at the Palace Theatre and are understudies - Natasha for Fantine and Rebecca for Eponine.

To celebrate Mother's Day the sisters organised a family treat to the theatre - knowing that Rebecca would be playing Eponine. Then, Natasha received a late call to play the lead role of Fantine.

Natasha started out taking a stage door job at the Palace Theatre as she pursued a career as a jazz singer, appearing in shows at Cafe Boheme in London and in the Foyer at the National.

Natasha (2000 Acting) explained that whilst working on the stage door, she was invited to play a small part, the Factory Girl, in Les Mis.

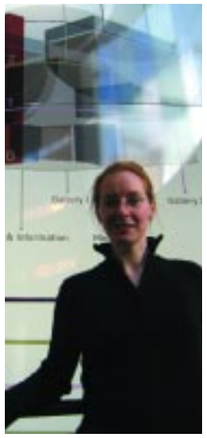
"I was also a stand in for Fantine and expected it would be weeks and weeks before they needed me. But within days I had to stand in and do two performances on the same day in a leading role. I was absolutely terrified, especially when I saw the packed theatre, and the fact that I had only done an hour's rehearsal. But it was a fabulous experience."

Meanwhile, Rebecca (1999 Acting) was in another West End hit, *Mamma Mia!,* as an understudy and got her first chance to play a leading part in that show when actress Julie Atherton took ill, before moving on to *Les Miserables.*

Both sisters say their times at LIPA were special. Said Natasha: "I liked the fact that we were able to do an academic degree."

The sisters' actor father Geoffrey Seale went to RADA and their mother was an opera singer.

OUT OF Africa



Wibke Hott is a community artist who has experienced working at the two extremes of the technology spectrum.

Whilst studying here she spent two months of the summer break in Ladysmith, South Africa, following groundwork by Lee Higgins (Community and Disability Arts Programme Leader). During the project, she transformed everyday rubbish into orchestral instruments. Discarded bottles became go-go bells, plastic barrels became drums and the 60 children taking part in the project soon had their own Samba band.

German-born Wibke recalls: "The community had nothing, barely running water, little electricity, no shops, no roads. But we created a most beautiful orchestra out of garbage and they did some songwriting."

"The government were doing a questionnaire among adults and wanted some way of finding out what young people thought about governmental decision making and their own futures. Drama and music workshops helped us assess the young peoples' views on a wide range of themes and issues. I learned as much from them as I hope they learned from me during my time there." said Wibke.

Since graduating from Community Arts in 2001, she has gained employment at the state-of-the-art FACT centre in Liverpool. FACT opened early in 2003. This new £8.7m building is described as an international arts centre for the digital age with two galleries dedicated to moving image and new media artwork and three state-of-the-art cinemas - showing the latest arthouse releases.

In Wibke's groundbreaking project, communities are creating their own internet-based webcasts, which are totally interactive. This technology empowers on-line participants and a live studio audience to take part in discussions at the same time.

Said Wibke: "There was nothing like the Community Music course available in Germany and LIPA has helped me follow my chosen vocation. The experience of South Africa and now working in a fantastic arts and cultural centre in Liverpool would never have been possible without LIPA."

New for 2003

Postgraduate Acting Programme

We have launched a one-year, full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Acting, which starts in September 2003.

Not for the faint-hearted – this is intensive stuff.

Lasting 40 weeks, students will benefit from LIPA's unique acting training and will get to work on a wide range of 20th Century texts alongside Elizabethan, Jacobean and Restoration and works by Chekhov and Ibsen. There are projects in musical theatre, TV, radio and devising. Students also take classes in voice, singing and musicality, dance, Alexander technique, stage combat and professional preparation.

Given that this is a postgraduate qualification, entry requirements include a first degree and prior acting experience. Any first degree subject of study is fine but the course is not recommended for people who have already completed a vocational acting degree programme.

So any LIPA graduates with a burning ambition to succeed in acting, who actually studied a degree other than Performing Arts (Acting) would be welcome to apply. Don't forget you need acting performance experience too.

Admission to the programme is by audition. Applicants should apply on a LIPA application form. To find out more please visit www.lipa.ac.uk or phone 0151 330 3000.

It was while attending the 2002 BRIT Awards that Mark Featherstone-Witty (Founding Principal) hatched a plan for a new national competition for teenagers (14 – 19). Contestants would not only need to write a song, but they'd also have to record/produce it and provide a marketing plan.

If you think this sounds like the Institute's philosophy applied to a song writing competition, you'd be right. With the backing of Yamaha, The BRIT Trust, Future Publishing and two banks, the launch took place in May and leaflets are winging their way in to schools all across the country.

Known as the Make it, Break it competition, the final is going to be held in our Paul McCartney Auditorium on 1st November. The judging panel will include Radio One DJs Mark and Lard, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Harvey Goldsmith and various record and publishing industry executives. Mark's dreaming that, one day, this will lead to a TV show.

Vacancies at LIPA

LIPA is embarking on a major new initiative in September – performing arts classes for young people aged 4 – 19. Initially we will be offering Saturday classes for around 200 young people of various ages in acting, singing and dancing. We will shortly be advertising for staff to teach on this programme.

So, if you're a LIPA graduate who can offer expertise in any of these areas, then we'd really like to hear from you. You will need to be available on Saturday mornings or afternoons (or both) for the period September to July. Alternatively, if you would simply like to be considered for the odd Saturday here and there, then by all means get in touch.

Further details of rates of pay and so on are available from Abi Marshall, LIPA's HR Officer, e-mail a.marshall@lipa.ac.uk, tel 0151 330 3091.

GRADUATION 2003

Now's your chance to request tickets to attend the 2003 graduation ceremony and the evening celebrations to be held on 25th July. This year we only have a limited number of tickets available for alumni and to be as fair as possible these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book yours please contact Janet Peel: j.peel@lipa.ac.uk

INSPIRE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Would you be willing to share your experiences of your time at LIPA and how it's helped you in your current career with prospective LIPA students? This is a dimension we'd love to add to our open day events (scheduled to take place in September and October). To find out more, please contact Jenny Parkins, e-mail j.parkins@lipa.ac.uk, tel 0151 330 3143.

Nauseatingly talented

Space magazine – a new magazine focused on stylish living in Liverpool - has compiled a list of Liverpool's hip 100 bright young things. Space bills its listing as 'the definitive who's who of Liverpool's most nauseatingly talented'.

Our very own Dave Pichilingi, Lecturer in Arts, Music and Entertainment Management, has made the list. In addition to lecturing here, Space lists Dave's mover and shaker credentials as director of "the refreshingly different" Masque venue on Seel Street. Detailing how Dave brought the Chibuku Shake Shake and Circus nights to the club, as well as London-based Barfly, it also goes on to explain that Dave is a partner in Tritone, who publish for Mersey popstars The Coral.

CLUBBING IN STYLE

Stylish living includes stylish clubbing. Katja Pasquini (Management 1998) helped create and now manages THE Berlin club '190 East', recently featured in Frame magazine.

This year's companions

At this year's graduation ceremony there are five luminaries lined up to collect the coveted title of LIPA companion.

In alpha order we have:

Stephen Bayley

A highly influential figure in design. Since 1990 he has worked on some of the world's best known brands from Absolut Vodka to Tag Heuer. He created the Boilerhouse Project at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Design Museum that evolved from it. He has written over ten books, broadcasts often and has judged many national and international design competitions.

Barbara Dickson OBE

Although she appears as a straight actress (Anita Braithwaite in *Band of Gold; Taggart, The Missing Postman),* she is best known for her starring roles in music theatre *(John, Paul, George, Ringo... and Bert; Blood Brothers, The 7 Ages of Woman: Spend, Spend, Spend).* Her 80's single *I Know Him So Well* with Elaine Paige sold more than 600,000 copies. She has done a variety of national concert tours, the most recent in 2002.

Anthony Everitt

For four years he was Secretary-General of The Arts Council of Great Britain. He is writing arts and cultural policy for Malta and has written one for Columbia. He is a visiting professor for two universities, has contributed to the Guardian and the Financial Times. His recent book Cicero made the New York Times bestsellers' list.

Nickolas Grace

He has played major roles in 15 major theatres across the world as well as countless others. He has played opposite luminaries such as Alan Bates, Laurence Olivier, Jeremy Irons, Terence Stamp, Minnie Driver, Kathleen Turner, Greta Scacchi, Madonna and Robert Lindsay. Major roles in films have included *Heat and Dust* and he also appeared in the popular TV series *Brideshead Revisited.*

Andy McClusky

Known as a performer, songwriter, record producer and director, he formed Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, selling 12 million LPs and 20 million singles. In 1997, he bought Motor Museum Studios in Livepool and created Atomic Kitten. With Stuart Kershaw, he manages and works for his own label Engine Records.

LIPA companionships are awarded in recognition of contributions to the world of art and entertainment, particularly within the sectors to which LIPA is linked. They are rather like honorary degrees.

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