

Se-e Me Now

LIPA ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010/2011

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Joe and Roll Deep Score UK No. 1

A Sound Technology graduate who turned his hand to songwriting has struck chart gold with the Roll Deep single *Green Light*.

Joe Hirst co-wrote and produced the hit, which went to No. 1 in the UK in August.

Originally from Lytham St Annes, Joe has collaborated with the London-based grime collective since 2003, when he met them at one of the city's Miloco studios, where he was working as an assistant engineer.

Joe and his songwriting partners Johnny Dunne and Roll Deep's Danny Weed are currently busy producing new material, which meant there was little time to reflect on their chart success.

Joe declared: "It was one of the maddest weeks I've had in the sense we achieved this great thing but didn't really have time to celebrate. We heard the news, said 'That's great' and then got back to work as we're writing the next song and the next album. I went out for a nice meal, though, with my girlfriend. That was about it!"

Now based in London, Joe has been interested in production since the age of 15, when he realised that sound engineering would combine his two passions: music and technology.

He explained: "I was in a band and I was really into computers and technology and had started messing around recording at home, which was when I heard about LIPA."

Although he still works as a recording engineer, the 29-year-old intends to keep on writing music, something that, he admits, he was never particularly good at as a teenager.

The 2003 graduate commented: "This is the first song that I have co-written that's been released. It's a bit of a change for me; it's about taking charge of your career and being a bit more creative."

Green Light, an ode to modern day sexual protocol, is a catchy blend of hip-hop and electronica.

(story by Allan Brown)

Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2010 edition of our e-newsletter and the chance to catch up with some of our graduates. If you would like to make sure you keep in touch please contact alumni@lipa.ac.uk with any changes to your email or postal address, and don't forget we are always interested in hearing what you are working on. If you want to network with other graduates you can do so via our [web site](#), or join us on [facebook](#), [myspace](#) and [linked in](#). If you have any suggestions about services you would like us to offer to our alumni, we would love to hear from you.

Showgirl Sally is Strictly Fab-u-lous

Her name was Sally, she was a showgirl...and a musical virtuoso, quick-change artist and even dance partner to the meanest of the *Strictly Come Dancing* judges. When 2009 Dance graduate, Sally Peerless, appeared in *Copacabana* at The Watermill Theatre in Bagnor there was a lot more to the part than high-kicking in an exotic plumed headdress.

The show, which ran from July to September, was an actor-musician production directed by Craig Revel-Horwood with musical direction by Tony Award-winning Sarah Travis.

[Continued](#)

Watch this Face

The National Theatre's powerful production of *Welcome to Thebes* got four and five star reviews from theatre critics and the national press. Special plaudits went to 2005 Acting graduate, Madeline Appiah, who played Magaera. She was named by Libby Purves as one of her 'five to watch' in *The Times*.

Madeline got the role after impressing the National's Casting Director when she appeared as a Nigerian prostitute in a play at the Arcola. She tells us that working on *Welcome to Thebes* was an inspiring experience: "Richard Eyre is a fantastic Director and really gave me a lot of responsibility, which has helped to develop me as an actor. And the cast was brilliant, a group of 26 people all on their game, pretty much off book second week into rehearsals, generous and talented. I have made a lot of friends for life!"



She played a teenage soldier in the Moira Buffini play, which combines the story of an African country emerging from the horrors of civil war, with themes of classical mythology. She tells us: "It was a tough role to play, the most difficult part was when I had to kill Prince Tydeus, the man who had killed and raped my family. I had to run screaming and jump into the air stabbing him, pursuing him off the stage. I would then come back covered with blood and scream 'For my mother, for my sisters and for the village by the river where I used to be a girl' ... whenever I left the scene I needed a few minutes to recover."

Madeline did extensive research to prepare for the role – she even met former child soldier Emmanuel Jal, who is now a musician.

The production, which ran from June to September, has been one of the highlights of her theatre career to date which includes Rupert Gould's *Restoration* and a best actress nomination at the Dublin Fringe. TV credits include *Gavin and Stacey*, *The Bill* and *Doctors*. Versatile Madeline has many ambitions for the future: she would love to do more comedy, work with a long list of top directors, appear in gritty TV dramas such as *The Wire* and produce her own work. We, and Libby, should keep watching.

(picture by David J Bevan)



Showgirl Sally is Strictly Fab-u-lous (continued)

Sally describes the demands of her role as one of two showgirls: "I played the clarinet, saxophone and keyboard on stage - often while dancing at the same time... Being the band as well as the cast meant that we were on stage for almost the entire show, and each of our many, many costume changes had to be done incredibly fast before we were back on. As a showgirl, I also danced a lot in the show - everything from tap to salsa to the Argentine tango"

"Everyone knows Craig as the grumpy judge on *Strictly*, but he wasn't like that to work with at all. He was great fun, and nowhere near as picky as he is on the TV. He is very experienced in directing this kind of

show, and a great choreographer. I danced a bolero with him in rehearsals." Sally is now appearing as Dandini in *Cinderella* at the Loughborough Town Hall Theatre, until 9th January.

Magic Moments for Emma

"You know you have a unique job when your desk is shaking because Brian May and Roger Taylor are playing *Bohemian Rhapsody* downstairs, or you are spending the afternoon watching Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard play exclusive songs for *Ghost the Musical*," says Emma Madge.

Magical moments such as these are all part of a working day – along with budgets, marketing campaigns and box office sales – for Emma, who is Deputy Group Sales Manager for the Palace Theatre and Opera House in Manchester.

The 2008 Management graduate heads a small team responsible for promoting productions in the city's two biggest theatres. The 2000-seater venues have up to 80 shows on sale at a time ranging from one-nighters to West End tours such as *We Will Rock*

You, Hairspray, Mamma Mia and *Les Misérables*. Marketing theatre performances in the current economic climate can be challenging, but for receiving theatres such as Emma's the difficulty comes when promoters are reluctant to tour, resulting in less productions to stage. She explains: "Tickets sales have generally not suffered when we have a high demand product booked in. The good thing about purchases within the arts is that they are a luxury and a form of escapism so even if people are tightening their purse strings they will still book a ticket if there is something they want to see."

Next spring sees something of a coup for the Manchester Opera House, with the world première of *Ghost the Musical*, an exciting project for Emma and a chance to be involved in developing a brand new musical.

Sister Act

The Staves are a trio following in the footsteps of the many brother and sister acts that have made it big in the music world, from the Bee Gees to Sister Sledge via The Jacksons. Raised in a musical household, the three sisters have been singing together all their lives and performing in public for the last six years. Now their folk-rock harmonies are finding a wider

audience, with the band backing first Tom Jones and then Keane alt-country project Mt Desolation this year.

Jessica Staveley-Taylor, who graduated from the Music programme this year explains how the band came to sing with Tom: "A contact at his label knew us and our music and recommended us for [Continued](#)

Movies Call for Comics in Motion

New technology means that the entertainment industry is changing every day. For Adam Fulton that means putting his talents to use in an exciting new medium, one that he didn't know existed in 2000 when he graduated in Sound Technology.

Originally from Toronto, Adam moved to Vancouver after graduating and met Brooke Burgess, the Director of one of the very first motion comics *Broken Saints*, at a party. The two bonded over a shared love of the films of Terry Gilliam and David Lynch. When Adam saw *Broken Saints* online he was blown away and a week later he joined the team working on sound design, mixing and composing on the 11-hour cult series, for the 20th Century Fox DVD release.

Adam explains how the art form works: "A still picture one day can turn into a frenzied battle scene with bullets and arrows filling the sky the next. Fitting the music and sound to constant picture cuts keeps me on my toes. Motion comics are truly works of art, with richly stylized images and deeply engrossing story arcs that make it easy to be inspired. The sound and music play a crucial role in getting the limited animation to leap off the page as a full action feature would."

He also gives voice to some of the characters, he says: "I am mostly cast as sociopathic baddies, bouncers or warriors, strange creatures like goblins, trolls, delinquent teenagers or characters that end up dying gruesome deaths. All in a day's work!"

Motion comics are attracting the attentions of Hollywood's A-list, providing back-stories for box office hits such as *I Am Legend*, which brought worldwide exposure to the medium. Adam met one of his favourite Directors, Guillermo Del Toro, when he worked on *Hellboy*. He particularly enjoyed working on recent project *Jonah Hex* and adding sound to his favourite superhero in *Batman: Black and White*.

1st December saw the release of the team's motion comic for Christopher Nolan's *Inception* when the film came out on DVD. Adam has also just finished working on a high profile Disney project, but for now the work has to stay under wraps.

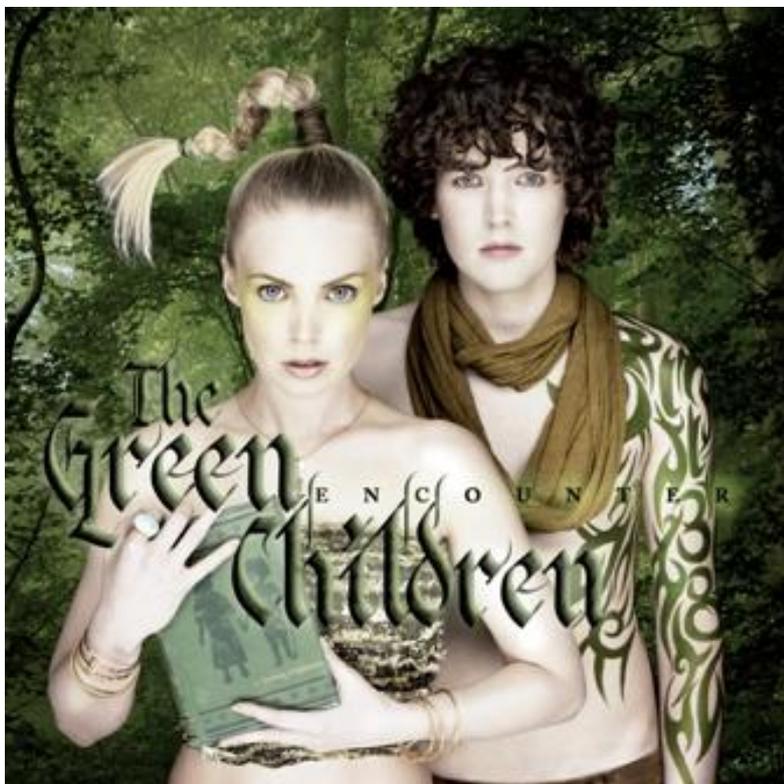
Sister Act (continued)

backing vocals. We performed on the track *Don't Knock* on his number two album *Praise and Blame*. They had basically finished recording except for that backing vocal part on the track - we felt very privileged to be one of the finishing touches on the album, and it was a dream to work with producer Ethan Johns. We performed with Tom over the summer promoting the album, doing shows at Latitude Festival, GMTV, *The Andrew Marr Show* and Jonathan Ross' last radio show. Singing with Tom was amazing!"

Jessica met Tim Rice-Oxley and Jesse Quin when she went to record vocals for 2009 music graduate Thomas J

Speight. The Keane band members were producing Thomas' EP *Willow Tree*, and asked Jessica if she could provide vocals on Mt Desolation's album. When they finished the recording Jessica and sisters Camilla and Emily found themselves in rehearsals for some gigs to promote the album, which turned into a tour of the UK and a US tour supporting Mumford & Sons.

The Staves' first EP *Facing West* was a sell out, with more copies on the way. They are busy writing for the album they will record next year and they have more tour and festival dates lined up. There are other exciting openings on the horizon, but Jessica can't talk about them yet: "Watch this space is all I can say for now..."



Compassion from the Dance Floor

The Green Children are making waves on the music scene, with their new album *Encounter* reviewed in *Rolling Stone* magazine and the single *Dragons* being reworked for the dance floor by leading remix artists such as Grammy-nominated Paul Oakenfold (U2, Radiohead) and Digital Dog (Rihanna, Britney Spears). The duo aim to bring romance and depth back into pop music, but they also use their music to raise money and awareness to help those in poverty to improve their lives.

Milla Sunde and Marlow Bevan* met at LIPA when they collaborated in songwriting classes. The partnership continued when the two graduated from the Music programme in 2003. Now based in Los Angeles, Milla from Norway and Marlow from Warwick, wrote and produced everything on *Encounter*. *Rolling Stone* described the album as: "Searching dance-pop ballads from elfin dreamers...Encounter glides by like Lady Gaga on a unicorn, Sunde gives [Continued](#)

Alex Waxes Lyrical About Model Job

He has created hairstyles for music legends Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Beyoncé, and for Nicole Kidman and Johnny Depp amongst a host of Hollywood names. Alex Garnett is not a crimper to the stars, however, but a figure production coordinator and artist for the famous Madame Tussauds. He heads a team of six responsible for producing waxwork figures for the ten branches of Madame Tussauds around the world, and personally adds the finishing touches of hair and colour.

Alex (Theatre and Performance Design, 1999) describes the model-making process: "First the figure is sculpted in clay, usually from a sitting, and the sculpture is used to mould the wax figure. I then insert the hair - this is done strand by strand using human hair and can take four weeks. Finally, I paint the models using layer after thin layer of oil paints. It takes about three months to create a model."

The work can be challenging, "We had to make seven models of Barack Obama, one for each of our venues, and they not only had to look like the President, but also like each other," says Alex, "Sometimes we make models from research, for example we created a figure of motorbike daredevil Evil Knievel after his death. His family were there for the unveiling and his daughter loved the model, so it was a touching memorial to him."

The team also maintain models returned to them to be repainted, repaired or updated following a celebrity restyle. "We sent out a model of Adolf Hitler once, which lasted about 30 seconds," says Alex "He was violently attacked, and his head came off."

"The great thing about working with wax is that it's easy to recycle - we just melt old models down to make new ones."

Prior to joining Madame Tussauds' Acton studio in 2005, Alex honed his skills creating puppets at Jim Henson's Creature Shop. While he was there he jokes that he got his best paid job ever, when he graced our TV screens as the Honey Monster on two adverts for Sugar Puffs

Compassion from the Dance Floor (continued)

synth-diva histrionics a mystical spritz singing about dragons and black magic over skittering electro beats.”

As well as filling dance floors, their music has helped to restore the sight of people in Bangladesh. Marlow explains: “In 2005 we travelled to Bangladesh and visited Grameen Bank, where we met women who had changed their lives through micro loans, it was an incredible experience. We also got the chance to meet the bank’s Founder, Professor Muhammad Yunus.”

“Once we’d left we made a song and returned to shoot a music video in an effort to shine some more light on this incredible work. Prof Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. Whilst he was in Norway we sold a CD/DVD in his honour with all the funds going towards a hospital he had planned. The hospital was opened in 2008 and has already given over 5,000 blind people their sight back.”

“Our main goal is just to get out there and share our music right now,” enthuses Marlow, “If we can really build something big, it’s inspiring to think what we may be able to achieve on the charity side of things. Both objectives keep us driven.” (www.thegreenchildren.com)

*Known as Thomas Schofield when at LIPA

Museum Piece

As Youth Arts Officer for National Museums, Liverpool, Sean Patrick Murray has to bring the eight venues in the group to life, *Night at the Museum* style for the teenagers he works with.

Every day is different for Sean, who graduated in Community Drama in 2009, he can be working with young mums, young dads, travellers, or his favourite, the Youth Theatre (members devise public shows based around the exhibits). He explains: “The best part of my job is the venues I work from, including the World Museum and the International Slavery Museum. They provide such exciting stimuli to devise theatre around and offer amazing spaces to showcase performances. As

everything the museum offers is free, it is extremely rewarding to be able to provide such a great programme of events to young people who may not be able to afford drama training.” Sean puts his success in beating off stiff competition for the job down to the practical nature of the training he received at LIPA, which prepared him to step immediately into his professional role, along with his experience in volunteering for the museum’s theatre programme as a student.

The 22-year old also loves the opportunities for international travel that the job offers. Far from being Merseyside-bound, he has worked in Los Angeles and San Diego and when we caught up with him he was in Hong Kong, training a drama group to compete in the Hong Kong Speech Festival.



Set to Scare at Alton Towers

Christmas for guests at Alton Towers Resort means snow rides, mince pies, live music and a chat with Santa set in a winter wonderland of 500 illuminated trees, decorated with 10,000 baubles. For Rob Martin it’s a chance to see months of preparation and hard work pay off.

As Resident Entertainments and Events Stage Manager of the UK’s most visited theme park, the 2008 Theatre and Performance Technology graduate is a core member of the team responsible for organising everything from a Pink concert that attracted 28,000 guests to seasonal spectacles such as firework displays, Christmas and the Halloween Scarefest. Rob says: “Scarefest involves designing, building and running three

scaremazes with full sound and lighting systems with pneumatic special effects, thousands of meters of fabric and over 1,000 flats.”

“It means cold conditions in our historic ruins and even colder, wetter conditions outside. But it really is rewarding when you get such great feedback from guests and see their reaction coming out of our award-winning ‘Terror of the Towers’ which I was fortunate enough to Project Champion this year... Whether it’s children enjoying our 450-seater theatre show, or fully grown men running out of a scaremaze – it’s all worth it!”

Rob is a member of the Resort’s Entertainment Department; the core team of 20 staff can swell to 150 during Scarefest. Planning for events

starts a year in advance and involves the whole resort. The winter and closed seasons are their busiest time of the year, with January to March spent on designing, rigging, building and rehearsing the theatre and outdoor stage productions on the park and for the two stages at the resort hotels.

Rob loves the diversity of his job and offers useful advice for anyone interested in joining the team: “In January the entertainments department recruits actors and costume characters for the season, along with stage managers, technicians and scenic constructors. They also recruit in July/August for the Scarefest event team.”

(www.altontowersjobs.com).



Magical Mystery Tour – of Italy

September and October saw Jessica Spalis perform with the world-famous English National Opera at the London Coliseum, the city's biggest theatre. Now she is touring Italy on a bus with *Beatles: The Musical* an equally exciting prospect for the 2008 Dance graduate.

Acting and dancing in *Faust* with the ENO, under the direction of Tony and Olivier Award-winner Des McAnuff (*Jersey Boys*) was a great experience for Jessica. She learned a lot from working with the cast of West End regulars, the famous chorus and dancers from Matthew Bourne's company.

She went on to another West End appearance, showcasing her vocal skills as principal singer in *Showstoppers*, a variety musical at Her Majesty's Theatre, home of *Phantom*.

When we caught up with Jessica she had swapped the grandeur of two of London's most historic theatres for the back of a tour bus. She tells us about her latest production: "I am touring Italy for six months with *Beatles: The Musical*, as Dance Captain and playing Aunt Mimi, Helen Shapiro, Maureen Cleave, Astrid and Ensemble. It's extremely hard work with early starts and late evenings, doing all our own get ins/outs and moving on every day, but the show is fab, with a great cast and brilliant live Beatles music. It also gives me a chance to develop performance skills as an actor musician as well as taking on a more managerial role."

Next on the horizon for the multi-talented performer is a return to London for another acting role, in *Blue Remembered Hills*.

The Next Step for Producer Jon

Five years ago Jon Bath was a drummer in West End musicals. He recently started a new role as Head of Production for Fiery Angel Ltd, in charge of shows including *The 39 Steps*, *Dial M for Murder* and *Me and My Girl* around the globe. "I'm fairly sure I'm the first person to track the drummer to theatre producer route in London," he exclaims.

The 2002 Music graduate is excited about the challenge ahead: "In my second week in the new job I will be overseeing the opening of *Me and My Girl* in Sheffield, then transferring to the West End. *The 39 Steps* is the biggest show I will be looking after; there are some 30 productions and licences of the piece going on all over the world. I will also be working on a new version of *The Ladykillers* in conjunction with the Liverpool Playhouse prior to the West End, and a joint venture with the Arts Council and regional theatre to produce children's touring theatre aimed at the 11 plus market.

Jon will lead a team of ten, along with the production crew of each show and will manage the full process of getting

Evita Goes to Europe

When Andrew Fugle joined the crew of Bill Kenwright's *Evita* tour in April he was set to become part of an historic moment for the leading theatre production company – its first foray into Europe. Since taking on the role of Sound No. 2 Andrew has visited Athens, Florence, Trieste, Dresden, Cologne, and Hamburg. With scarcely time to take a breather the team went on to a short UK tour before heading off to Zurich for a string of performances around German, Swiss and Austrian cities. Venues range from the ornate opulence of the Dresden Semperoper (opera house) to a basketball stadium in Forli, and a rather extensive 'tent' used as a temporary theatre in Munich. Audiences 1,000 to 4,000 strong have been enthusiastic in their reception, with some theatres already booking return visits for 2011 and 2012.

The 2008 Sound Technology graduate explains his duties: "I am responsible for the technical running of the show. Apart from the typical

the show before the audience – from development and casting to ensuring the quality of the final performance.

His career U-turn came when he was a musician with *Daddy Cool*. "I always had an interest in the management side of the business," explains Jon, "During the development of the show I got involved with the production, and afterwards I went to help out at the production company, Cole Kitchen Ltd. I stayed on to become General Manager and Producer." Highlights have included *Female of the Species* with Dame Eileen Atkins, a season of concerts in the West End by artists including Jason Roberts Brown and Caroline O'Connor and running the annual WhatsOnStage.com Awards, with the cream of stage talent gathered for the biggest publicly voted theatre awards in the UK (or 'sheer chaos' as Jon refers to it).

Jon tells us he values his years as a drummer: "I still make music, and I think that my experience as a performer gives me a better understanding as a producer. I also believe in grabbing opportunities when you can – you never know where your career will lead you. And that's what makes this business so exciting."

30 odd radio microphones and complicated orchestra set up, I also look after the communications and video on the production... Typically, the Sound No. 1 mixes the show, but for two or three of the eight shows a week, I also mix. When he is away, I shall be taking the position as Acting Sound No. 1, which is a great opportunity for me." One of Andrew's biggest challenges is moving from one venue to the next: "The sound equipment alone on this show fills a 40ft Artic trailer to its weight capacity. There are six or seven trailers on the show in total, one for sound, one for LX and four or five for set, wardrobe and wigs, so it does still amaze me sometimes how it all happens in such a tight schedule of just two days!"

Andrew was Sound No. 2 on his first Bill Kenwright show, *Scrooge*, while he was at LIPA and has since worked on West End shows and tours including *Blood Brothers*, *Cabaret* and *Whistle Down the Wind*. He also credits his technical training for his success, "It was partly thanks to those early morning lectures about the

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Evita Goes to Europe (contd)

intricacies of MIDI and software samplers that I was chosen to do *Evita*, because of its complicated keyboard rig amongst other things. Without the thorough grounding of sound in general that I received from LIPA, I don't think I'd have the theoretical underpinning that I use every day to help me work at the high standard expected on a show of this scale." (www.andrewfugle.co.uk)

Pure, not Perfect

In today's image-conscious world, there is enormous pressure to conform to the stereotypes presented in the media: young, thin and beautiful pictures of airbrushed perfection. 2003 Performing Arts (Community Arts) graduate, Tamsin Evans had always felt passionately that more support was needed for young people struggling with self-image, and she found inspiration to do just that, using performance, through her company Pure Creative Arts.

She explains how, with a team of two others, she came to set up the organisation: "In September 2003, we started off writing and recording music to perform in schools, and working in a Maghull school running a weekly group looking at issues surrounding body image and self esteem with girls. From this, Pure developed, grew in number, was registered as a company and charity in 2005 and in the past seven years we have seen 44 people volunteer or employed as a core part of the team. I currently head a team of 18 – including the Pure core team, Liverpool team and London team."

Using TIE productions, mentoring programmes and a Creative Arts School, Pure helps the (primarily) young people it works with achieve their full potential and transforms lives. The Pure Freedom project recently won an award from Avon / *Glamour* magazine after polling the most votes from readers. The project will help young women with self-harm issues and eating disorders to tackle their problems using mentoring and performance workshops.

Pure continues to grow, with centres planned for cities around the UK, the first being London, and plans for a large-scale touring theatre production.

(www.purecreativearts.co.uk/)

Singing in the Rain with Sondheim



Photo by Catherine Ashmore

Ben Stott always admired the work of Stephen Sondheim – he even wrote his dissertation about the fêted composer and lyricist. So landing the part of Jack in Sondheim's *Into the Woods* was a dream role for the 2007 Acting graduate. Ben starred alongside Olivier Award-winning actors Jenna Russell and Hannah Waddingham in Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in August and September.

He tells us: "The cast was first rate, I learnt so much from all of them. Jenna and Hannah were both brilliant to work with, they are super talented, generous, supportive and fun. I'd seen both of them in the past, in shows in the West End and admired them very much. They are two of the people who made *Into the Woods* a really special experience for me. And I got to meet Stephen Sondheim, twice, which was a dream come true."

The outdoor venue was ideal for the play, Ben says: "Our set was huge, it had three levels and a tower in the tallest tree of Regent's Park: It was basically a very beautiful, big, climbing frame, so if it was raining you had to be really aware of your safety, but having that constant change in atmosphere was exciting. Sometimes the wildlife liked to get involved, one day a bird was singing louder than I was! For me, the fact that it was open-air helped me so much, we were actually in a wood and when I sang about the sky it was right there, you couldn't ask for a more perfect setting."

Ben's past credits include Shakespearean roles and the gender-shifting heroine in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* for Lodestar Theatre Company; Edmund in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* with Birmingham Rep; and *Doctors*, *Waterloo Road*, *Margot* and *Florence Nightingale* on TV.

Andrew Blogs A Job

When Andrew Girvan spent time during the last two years of his degree blogging about the theatre industry's lack of understanding about social media, he little thought it would lead to a job at the largest theatre web site in the UK.

Terri Paddock, Editorial Director of WhatsOnStage.com, read the blog and was impressed enough to invite the 2010 Management graduate for a chat about a vacancy, which is how Andrew found himself working as Deputy Editor of the site, based in

offices at the Palace Theatre in the heart of the West End. Andrew writes news stories, features and interviews and edits reviews of West End openings. He is also Editor of the Off-West End site, which focuses on London's smaller fringe theatres, including well-known venues such as the King's Head, the Finborough and the Arcola.

His role means that he gets to see a lot of theatre – sometimes five nights a week, ranging from tiny-scale productions to red carpet events. He tells us: "I have been to the

[Continued](#)

Andrew Blogs A Job

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Finborough twice this month, a 60-seat space in Earl's Court which won the Peter Brook Empty Space award this year. Although the entire theatre is about the same size as 5.08 in LIPA, I watched a neglected Rogers and Hammerstein musical with a cast of 18 and a four-hander straight play. Both times the space was configured completely differently and the

productions were fantastic."

"On the more glamorous side of things, I was at the press launch for *Shrek the Musical*, with Nigel Lindsay (who will be playing the lead), Amanda Holden and the show's American writers at an afternoon tea in the very posh Haymarket Hotel. I was also lucky enough to go to the TMA Theatre Awards at the Lyric Hammersmith, which are the regional theatre's

highest awards. That was pretty glitzy."

Andrew has also interviewed such luminaries of the stage as Peter Bowles, Caroline O'Connor and Tracie Bennett. Next up is the WhatsOnStage.com Awards, with a December launch before a crowd of 600 to 700 West End stars, and The Award Ceremony in February after some 40,000 plus theatregoers have cast their votes.

Yoshi's ...And All that Jazz



Working in the entertainment industry can be a full-on, 24/7 job. It certainly is for Jana Jackson, Director of Marketing and Publicity for the two famous Yoshi's jazz clubs in California. She describes the demanding performance schedule: "We have two shows a night in each club, and music every night 365 days a year. That's 28 shows a week between the two venues."

"Yoshi's was established in Berkeley in 1973 and has grown into a multi-million dollar venue with clubs in Oakland and San Francisco. Yoshi's SF opened in 2007, which is when I started. Yoshi's has always been the premier Jazz Club on the west coast, and one of the most famous in North America. Since I started, we have diversified a lot – and now have a lot of world, blues, rap, R&B and rock."

Artists that Jana has worked with read like a *Who's Who* of the jazz world, including Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, Pat Metheny, Ravi Coltrane, Dr John and Natalie Cole along with hip hop stars such as Mos Def and De La Soul. She exclaims: "There are so many different people here all the time. It's a whirlwind; I have some great stories to tell...I feel like I could write a book." Jana, from Canada, graduated from the Management programme in 2006 and worked in Liverpool before deciding to return home. She was originally recruited as Artist Co-ordinator, then stepped into the Director's role when it became vacant.

For Jana, LIPA was more than a training ground for the job she loves. She met fellow graduate Kyle O'Dor (Music, 2007) six months before moving to North America, he went with her to California and the two were married in October this year.

Paint Monkey Francesca Makes a Splash

Nicknamed 'Francesca the paint monkey' in her first year at LIPA Francesca Peschier has lived up to her name. After an internship as a scenic artist with the prestigious Royal Opera House she has put her artistic and model making talents to work for a whirl of big name clients. The 2010 Theatre and Performance Design graduate says: "I spent an eventful few months at Souvenir Scenic studios where I worked on London Fashion week (Stella McCartney for Adidas, Christopher Kane, Alexander McQueen, Louis Vuitton); Matthew Bourne's *Cinderella*; The windows for H&M Oxford street; ENO's *Don Giovanni* and the forthcoming Andrew Lloyd Webber *Wizard of Oz* at the Palladium. That cornfield was mine, all 500 stalks of it. That's a lot of polystyrene carving!"

Francesca was also one of a team of three who created a storm drain front of house for the West End transferral of *Ghost Stories* and worked on *Horrible Henry* for the BBC.

She left the studio to take up freelance work because she missed the excitement of seeing a job through to the end production.

Currently Art Department Assistant on the film *Weighed In*, a racehorse movie starring Bob Hoskins, she is busy painting scenes, prop making and buying and 'generally running around carrying heavy things.'

Happy to be successfully making a living doing what she loves most Francesca is taking every opportunity to develop her skills. She is on the Royal Opera House's list of freelance painters and has more work with them lined up for the New Year; she also interns in the ROH model making room. She has secured invaluable work experience with

[Continued](#)

Paint Monkey Francesca Makes a Splash (contd)

Frantic Assembly designer, Miriam Buether (recent winner of the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Design) and an internship with a matte painter (painting on glass for false dimensions in film) from the film *Stardust*. Fingers crossed, she may also be wielding her paintbrush again on the set of the new *X-Men* movie.

Mareike Returns to her Theatrical Roots

As a girl Mareike Wang spent a lot of time at Rogaland Theatre, home of Norway's best children and youth theatre, which stages professional productions with child actors. The experience ignited her love of acting, now she is back as a professional actor, on a long term contract that will take her through until March next year.

The 2006 Acting graduate loves her work at the progressive theatre and the opportunities she has to play comic, tragic and musical roles. She is currently appearing as Victoria in *Firmafesten*, a contemporary drama set at a company party, where the audience wear company name badges and become part of the production.

Past credits include Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors* and she is in rehearsal for *Haugtussa*, a classical piece by Norwegian writer Arne Garborg, and *Being Norwegian*, which will be performed in English. Readers in Norway will have plenty of chances to see Mareike over the next few months. She plays a "crazy, manic but sweet" character called Live in the NRK TV romantic comedy *Schmokk* to be aired in January.

In March she plays the lead in a Norwegian tour of *Last Call-An Imaginary Hour in Eva Cassidy's Life*. Mareike explains: "I've always wanted to make a show about her, since I heard her version of *Over the Rainbow* for the first time in 2001. The piece will be an imaginary hour of Eva Cassidy's life on the night that she is performing for the last time. The monologue reflects different aspects of her life, mixed with several of the well-known and less known songs she interpreted."

World of Stagecraft

Since graduating in 2008 Jake Bartle has honed his stagecraft in roles that range from being the solo member of the stage management crew to acclaimed productions working with an award-winning director, writer and actor. Now he is a Resident Deputy Stage Manager for the Octagon Theatre in Bolton.

The Theatre and Performance Technology graduate tells us about his early challenges working with small Liverpool companies and limited budgets: "One example was *The Quiet Little Englishman*, a production that I am still very proud and privileged to have been a part of. My role on that was Stage Manager on book, meaning that I had to be in rehearsals doing the role of a Deputy Stage Manager as well as finding time to source and buy furniture and props."

Jake went on to spend 18 months as a freelance Assistant Stage Manager with the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse on productions including *Canary*, which he later went on tour with. He says: "It was fantastic to work on a piece of new writing and I was especially excited to work with the (BAFTA Award-winning) director, Hettie Macdonald and writer, Jonathan Harvey whose work I am a big fan of."

"I also enjoyed working on *The Caretaker*, starring Jonathan Pryce. It was a great rehearsal process and I really enjoyed the run of the show. It had a small, wonderful cast and Jonathan was lovely to work with."

Jake is currently hard at work on the Octagon's Christmas production *David Copperfield*. His job is to ensure that everything runs to schedule in rehearsals, including actors' calls, making sure that props are ready and relaying information back to the relevant departments via rehearsal notes and production minutes. When the show heads down to the theatre, he orchestrates the technical elements including light and sound effects and actors' entrances and exits.

He looks forward to starting work on *Romeo and Juliet* in January, alongside ex-RSC Director David Thacker.

Co-financed by

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Help for Unemployed Graduates

We're always really pleased that Se-e Me Now is full of so many good news stories from our graduates, but we know that, in the current climate, work isn't always easy to find – even for the most talented out there.

That's why LIPA has teamed up with the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to bring you the new graduate retention programme. We can offer you a 2-week intensive course covering the key skills that businesses look for, (including IT, entrepreneurship, sales, business finance, negotiation, and project management) and valuable training in presentation skills, CV writing, interview technique and personal marketing to help you stand out from the crowd.

Then, we've arranged placements, of either 13 or 26 weeks, with reputable local firms, so you can put what you've learned into practice and gain some useful on-the-ground work experience.

If you are an unemployed graduate, entitled to work in the UK, and have been living in Merseyside for 3 years, e-mail l.bates@lipa.ac.uk for more information, and give yourself an edge in a competitive jobs market.

The graduate and senior executive retention programme is part-funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund and co-financed by the Learning and Skills Chief Executive.

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Shaun Michael Briston,

Completed a one-year professional diploma at the Urdang Academy this year, after taking some time out. He has appeared as an actor with the Bolshoi Ballet and Opera, and is acting in the autumn tour of *Romeo & Juliet* with the English National Ballet. **Cheryl**

Crossan, Teaches BTEC Dance at Grace Academy School, Solihull. **Katherine Sarah**

Evans, Spent two years selling theatre tickets at the Ambassador Theatre Group and then decided to return to the career in accountancy which she began after leaving school. She takes her final accountancy exam in December to become a chartered accountant. She also takes ballet classes at the English National Ballet in her spare time. **Charlotte Fortune**, Acting

credits include *Dr Who*, *Casualty* and playing Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty in panto. She has modelled and undertaken extensive corporate work as a vocalist and dancer; toured the West Country in theatre and will appear in a TV comedy, *The Man Dressed as a Lightbulb* (currently in pre-production). She has recently joined P&O Australia as lead vocalist on a 9-month contract which will see her sail around Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. **Joanna**

Gillespie, Started a PGCE in Secondary English with Drama & Media Studies at the University of Cumbria in September. She also gigs around North West pubs and clubs and presents her own radio show on Chorley FM. **Sonoko Haga**, Seeking a job as a composer in Japan whilst working part-time outside the music industry. **Lauren Hillary**, Studied for a BA (Hons) in Public Relations; she is now an Account Executive in a PR agency. **Isobel Kelly**, Spent a year studying music, pop music and music

technology at Liverpool Hope University, then went on to the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme, graduating in 2010. She hopes to move to the USA in January.

Kayleigh Knight, Spent three years working with nursery and special needs children and has recently started studying full-time at university, looking to work with children in the future. She is still involved in music, performing and doing charity work. **Kirsti Bakken**

Kristiansen, Studied music at the Nordic Institute of Stage and Studio and took her third year at the University of Wolverhampton, where she got a BA (Hons) in Popular Music, Composition and Songwriting. She continued writing songs, recording and performing and reached the final of the Philip Bates Prize songwriting competition. In 2009 she sang backing vocals in the final of the Norwegian version of *Dancing with the Stars*. She also appeared on stage with Bobby McFerrin on a concert on his Hele Norge Synge tour. She has worked as a conductor for a children's choir and started studying music pedagogy and Norwegian folk music at the Norwegian Academy of Music in August. **Michael Benjamin**

Lerner, Full time musician, releasing records and touring under the name Telekinesis, signed to Merge Records; the eponymous debut album was released in 2009. **Susanne Ruth Mayer**, Solo singer and dancer in various revue shows, the programme is a mixture of song and dance, artistic performance and comedy. Credits include *Cabaret*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, The Himmelfahrt Radio Show, and a couple of short movies. She has also toured with a youth theatre. **Alice McGreevy**, Lives in Japan and works for Universal Studios as the lead singer in the *Hello Kitty* show. **Laura**

Mckinnon-Clark, Currently studying to be a physical education secondary school teacher at Brighton University. After leaving LIPA she spent a year travelling the world, then worked in a South London primary school teaching activities clubs ranging from art to dance. **Daniel Justin Piscina**, Moved

to Los Angeles where he worked in an internship position with a local engineer/producer. He was subsequently offered a full-time position with mix/recording engineer Joe Zook, where he has been involved with many recordings as an assistant engineer/digital editor, by artists including Kelly Clarkson, Sinéad O'Conner, Mary J. Blige, Plain White T's and Brian Ray.

Kirsten Stephanie Sharp, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. She is currently working on her first album with a producer.

Emma Simpson, Recently completed a 4-year BA (Hons) in Primary Education with specialism in English. She is now a Teaching Assistant in a primary school, where she also runs the school choir and co-directs plays and concerts. She works part-time for the Disney store and is an active member of the Bradford Catholic Players, their latest performance was Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at the Bradford Alhambra Theatre in November.

Olivia Sloyan, Following a year out, she studied for a diploma at the London School of Musical Theatre. She completed her studies in 2008 and joined the cast of *Blood Brothers* on tour; she has recently been performing in the show in the West End.

Javier Suarez, Completes a double-degree from Washington State University in fine arts and communication this December. He currently plays shows and festivals around the Northwest of the USA with his band Yarn Owl. He has recently started working with fellow alumni Daniel Piscina (2005), who is mixing the music and Chris McCourt, who will be releasing some of their music on his Manchester-based label, Everybody's Stalking. His new project is called Gathered Ghosts.

James Thomas, Took a year out, then joined the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Went on to work as an in-store model for American Apparel and in TV production, he recently started a theatre in education role.

[Continued](#)

Lucky Dips 2006 (continued)

Victoria Thomas, Worked as a session singer, and has done some acting, most recently working on the BBC Mini Series *The Crimson Petal and The White* with Romola Garai. She is currently travelling in the USA.

Tom James Whitelock, Graduated from the BA (Hons) Actor Musicianship course at Rose Bruford College in 2009. Acting credits include Anatol in Shared Property's production of *The Grimethorpe Race* at The Arcola Theatre; James in *Never Saw the Day* for a UK tour of schools with Walking Forward and Jack in *Bright Unconquered Sons* as part of the Southbank St George's Day Festival. Radio projects include The Jumper in *Holborn*; Jocaster in *The Captain Campaign* and Jack Frost in *The Brother's Jack*, both with Wrong Side of the Road Theatre Company

(<http://www.wsrradio.co.uk/>). He plays Alec in *The Monkey's Paw*, a short being shown at next year's BFI Festival; he recently appeared in *Made For Each Other* a new play by Nicolas Ridley at The Southwark Playhouse, and will also perform in a schools' tour with Box Clever. **Rachel Williams**, Teaches acting and drama to children and young adults at institutions including Stagecoach Theatre Arts School, Bristol and in secondary schools; directing school plays and musicals. One of the schools took a production up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She is currently studying drama and education and has worked with children with learning difficulties, using drama and theatre to help development

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Richard Adams (Professional Name Richard Fitch), On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Spent this summer assistant directing at the Bush Theatre on a new musical, *The Great British Country Fête* by Russell Kane (who recently won the Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award) with songs by fellow LIPA graduate, Michael Bruce. The show toured the UK including Oxford, Bath, Bristol, Plymouth and the Latitude Festival before transferring to the Bush Theatre for a resident run. **Ziyad Al-Samman**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. His band, Pink Film, has started working with a new manager and Young & Lost Records; currently at work with several producers, focusing on writing the debut album to be released next summer. **Rebecca Aplin (Professional Name Billie Aplin)**, Studied a 3-year musical theatre course at Reynolds Performing Arts. She graduated this summer and is currently auditioning and teaching musical theatre to students aged 4 to 18 at a stage school in Surrey. **Claire Bamber**, In the final year of a 3-year musical theatre diploma at SLP College in Leeds (on a full scholarship, following receipt of a dance and drama award), having taken a year out after breaking her leg. **Caitlin Barnett**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Since then she has worked as an end game dancer on ITV's *Magic Numbers*; she has also signed a contract with Cloud9 Casting Agency. **Blas Barragan Jr**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. **Cyrus Bayandor**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme

from 2007, graduated in 2010. He had a 3-month internship in the A&R department at Island Records, and worked on a couple of music festivals in the UK and Dubai. He is currently applying for jobs in the live music area. **Aranyani Bhargav**, Studied Indian contemporary dance and kalaripayattu (a south Indian martial art) at the Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts in Bangalore, India. In 2008, she worked towards setting up the Chandralekha archives in Madras, India which documented the life and work of the legendary Indian dancer, whilst continuing to perform all over the world including London, Istanbul, Berlin, New York and Washington. In 2009, she studied for a masters at the University of Oxford (where she wrote her thesis on Indian dance). She continues to perform Bharatanatyam and danced at the House of World Cultures in Berlin for the 9/11 memorial concert. **Wesley Clarke-Sullivan**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Currently gigging in bars and restaurants as part of a duo. Meanwhile he is writing and recording his own material which he will promote with a band in the near future (www.wesleyjamesmusic.com/) **James Clayton**, Went on to study for an acting degree at Drama Centre, London and graduated this year. **James Cole**, Joined the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme in 2007, but left to pursue his career racing in Formula Ford Championship; he was crowned champion in 2009 with seven wins, and was one of six finalists in the 2009 BRDC Autosport McLaren Young Driver of the Year. Now racing in British Formula 3, he finished second in this year's championship. **Catherine Cradock**, Went on to gain a BA Hons Dance: Performance and Choreography at Liverpool John Moores University; during her studies she worked in Egypt as a dancer in a cabaret show. She has also worked for various organisations and companies performing and choreographing works for shows, working with minority groups and social inclusion aims.

Currently working in Portugal, originally for E3 Group as the manager of a performing arts academy in a Thomas Cook Resort, then subsequently with the entertainments team. **David Crawford**, Went on to study BA (Hons) Acting at Rose Bruford College and graduated in September. Since finishing his studies he has appeared with The National Theatre of Scotland in *Caledonia*, commissioned for the Edinburgh International Festival, and performed at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh in August. Most recently performed with The Citizens Theatre in Glasgow in a new play by David Greig, *The Monster in the Hall*, on tour around Scotland until the end of October and then for two weeks in November at the Citizens Theatre. **Jonathan Douglas**, Learning Co-ordinator for games company Blizzard Entertainment, he is also studying for a Human Resources degree. **Camilla Eriksson**, Studied acting at Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, Sweden and graduated in June. She is now employed at a small theatre in Stockholm. **Laura Flanagan**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Performed as a principal dancer in *Don't Stop Believing* at the Manchester Palace Theatre. Now based in London, teaching for Dakoda's Dance Academy; working at The Place; training with various contemporary companies and an apprentice dancer with Antique Dances. **Abelardo Gómez Calderón**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Sound Technology programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. **Tamira Hamam**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Signed with RAMA Global Artists Agency, working within the performing arts whenever she can, she also recently started working part-time for Waitrose. **Rebecca Heath**, Went on to do a 3-year course at Liverpool Theatre School, graduating in July. She is currently auditioning, has secured an agent and is on Bill Kenwright's books. She has appeared as a body double on a Niquitin advert. **Oliver Hoare**, Graduated from the [Continued](#)

acting degree programme at Bristol Old Vic in 2010, appeared in the film *House of Boys*, and most recently played Pompey alongside Kim Cattrall in *Anthony and Cleopatra* at the Liverpool Playhouse in October. **Alison Hunter**, Went on to study for a degree in actor musicianship at Rose Bruford College. She teaches singing and music, is establishing her own business running holiday workshops in music and performing arts for children aged 4 to 16, and studying part-time for a degree in psychology, religion and music with the Open University. Her aim is to go on to study a masters course in music therapy. **Katie Jackson**, In her final year at Liverpool Theatre School studying professional musical theatre. **Lucy James**, Went on to Liverpool Theatre School to study for a National Diploma in Musical Theatre, but left near the end of her first year due to a recurring injury. She has just started an environmental science degree with the Open University. **Josefine Jinder**, Recently signed to dance label Ministry of Sound, she has released two EPs, one 12 inch and several digital releases on NYC label, Trouble & Bass and played in Europe and USA since her first release at T&B 2008. **Daniela Kober**, Worked for Sony Computer Entertainment Europe in Liverpool, localising PSP, PS2 and PS3 games including Invizimals, SingStar, and Patapon. Currently Localisation Project Manager for Spil Games – one of the leading casual & social games companies based in Hilversum, The Netherlands (www.spilgames.com/). **Yasufumi Koike**, Went on to study for a Diploma in Audio Engineering at SAE Institute, Liverpool then moved to SAE London to study for a BA in Recording Arts, graduating this summer. Since then worked for several live music venues around London, doing stage work and front of house engineering. **Isabella Kuntner**, Completed a popular music degree at Vocal tech last year, she is doing a MA in Music Management and Artist Development and gigging in London under the name Izi Mariee. **Alistair Lax**, Studying

for a degree in professional musicianship at The Bristol Institute for Modern Music, he will graduate next summer. **Alex Le Roux**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. **William Lester**, Went on to study for a one-year Diploma in Audio Engineering at SAE in London, then a BA in Recording Arts at SAE, Oxford. Since graduating he has worked as a freelance engineer in live sound, studio and theatre. He was recently on location recording for a couple of short films. **Louisa Lorey**, In the final year of the acting degree programme at Manchester School of Theatre. **Danielle Marsh**, Works for Birmingham dance company, Funki Feathers; she is a regular extra on BBC 1's *Doctors* and has filmed for programmes such as *Hustle*, *Little Britain*, *Casualty* and various commercials. **Fiona McDougal**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. She is training to be a SLS teacher, gives private singing lessons and teaches stagecoach. She is one-half of the pop duo Untouched, formed at LIPA with fellow LIPA graduate David Wilson. They have written and recorded an album and gig regularly, and will be moving to London in January to focus solely on the band. Currently she also sings six nights a week in the *Taste of Scotland* show. (myspace.com/untouchedofficial) **Hannah Merrick**, Went on to study music, first at a Manchester college, then on the degree programme at Salford University where she graduates in 2011. She is also part of a band gigging around the Manchester area. **Dale Monie**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Signed with the BWH Agency, he is currently auditioning and working part-time in a bar. **Sophie Morgan**, Travelled around Thailand and Europe, she has spent the past few years teaching primary school children drama, and through her job worked as a volunteer in Africa; raising HIV awareness in Uganda and Kenya through the medium of drama and performing arts.

She has recently started on the BA Honours Acting degree at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. **Hiroki Muramatsu**, Works at vintage guitar shop Howl Guitars, in Tokyo. He also works as a professional guitarist, and recently played with Gota Yashita (ex drummer and producer with Simply Red) on Formula 1's soundtrack for Japanese TV, which was released on CD. **James Newton**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. In September he started a 1-year contract playing drums on the UK tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. **Xavier Ortiz**, Product Specialist in Spain and Portugal for the musical instruments division of the Roland company (also Boss and Cakewalk). He liaises with dealers and customers about product use and specification, including holding demos and master classes in schools and universities and travelling internationally. Roland uses international artists to demonstrate its products, which brings him into contact with musicians including Thomas Lang, Johnny Rabb, Alex Hutchings and Joe Satriani. **Toby Parker**, Went on to study performing music at Warrington College, then artist development (L3 and L4) at the British Academy of New Music, completing his studies earlier this year. He is now working full-time at home in Hertfordshire, but is making plans to move to London. **Catalina Pereda**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. **Hannah Phillips**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010 and has signed with an agent. **Graeme Pickering**, Went on to study at Liverpool Theatre School for three years where he graduated in musical theatre. This summer he worked for Disney, dancing to promote Camp Rock 2 around the UK, sharing a stage with Tobias Mead (*Britain's Got Talent*). He also teaches dance to children aged 5 to 18 around the Midlands, and will be appearing in panto this Christmas. [Continued](#)

Nicola Raft, Went on to work in Menorca in a touring summer show, then studied at The Urdang Academy. She subsequently worked as dance captain, singer and choreographer for First Choice holiday villages in Lanzarote, Egypt, Majorca and Cyprus and as choreographer for the Twentys Reunion. She currently works for corporate agencies in the UK and has recently started with a musical theatre agency. **Stian Rafto Aukland**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Sound Technology programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. Currently interning in Trout Recording studio in Brooklyn, New York. The studio is headed by Bryce Goggin who has recorded/mixed/produced artists such as Pavement, Phish, Anthony and the Johnsons and Apples in Stereo. **Luke Reilly**, On the third year of a BA (Hons) Acting course at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. He aims to establish a theatre company with a group of his peers, following a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Cambridge this summer. **Naomi Roche**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. **Eloise Rossiter**, Returned to her career as a secondary school teacher. She continues to perform in amateur musical theatre appearing as Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Laurey in *Oklahoma*, Hope in *Anything Goes* and Yum Yum in *Hot Mikado*. **Robert Samuels**, On the third year of a degree in music journalism at Huddersfield

University. **Danny Shackell**, Went on to the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme, but left after the first year. He now works as part of a hotel entertainments team. **Rebecca Smith**, Went on to study for a degree in choreography and performance at Liverpool John Moores University, graduating in 2010. **Emma Solevagseide**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. **Adrian Thompson**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme from 2007, graduated in 2010 and signed with agency FLP. **Donna Unwin**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. She has been teaching through LIPA and doing promotions work. Next year she will be choreographing shows for a five star resort in Kos. **Susanna Warren**, Started a music degree at Leeds, but decided that it wasn't for her. She now works in London for an events management company. **Kate Williamson**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010. In 2009 she took the comedy *Bollocks* to the Edinburgh Fringe, as part of Sell A Door Theatre Company. She took part in the Sam Wanamaker Festival in February where she performed at the Globe Theatre. She is currently auditioning for West End Shows and teaching drama. **Daniel Wilson**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2007, graduated in 2010.

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Mark Ashcroft, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme.

Nimrod Ben Zeev, Studying for a BA in Middle Eastern & African History and Political Science at Tel-Aviv University. **Miriam Breckner**, On the second year of a 4-year BA (Hons) degree in French and Italian at Bristol University. She is involved in dance at the University, and this year is Dance Director for a large scale annual charity dance and fashion show. **Michelle Brown**, Working on a new album with a music producer. She also teaches hip-hop, street and latin dance at a health club in London. **Anabel Brunner**, On the vocals degree course at ACM (Academy of Contemporary Music), a two-year intensive course finishing in August 2011. **Jonas Cleve**, Musical plans are currently on hold as he is serving as a conscript in the military police in Norway. **Sarah Cowling**, Studying on the musical theatre degree course at Bath Spa University. **James Cranford**, Spent a year working in London and has recently started a BSc (Hons) Music Technology course at the University of East London. **Lois Crawford**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme from 2010. **Guro Dagsland Dalen**, Has spent time travelling on a gap year and working in a kindergarten and a bar. Currently she is working with people with physical disabilities and in a coffee shop. **Jack Dobby**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme. **Hannah Enersen**, Studying for a bachelor's degree to become a kindergarten and primary school teacher with the aim of using her dance training as part of her teaching. She still dances outside of her studies. **Amy Godhard**, Worked for six months as a Butlin's redcoat and dancer. She travelled to India to dance at a New Delhi car show,

danced for a football team and has done some modelling. Currently she is working in a Sheffield dance shop. **Luke Gray**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme. **Georgia Greenham**, Went to study the one-year ISVP course at the Broadway Dance Centre in New York. She has recently returned and is auditioning. **Kristianne Havnevik**, Studying project management in a private school in Oslo. She also continues working on her own music (www.kristianne.no). **Katrina Heenan**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme. **Ross Higginson**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme. **Harald Lid**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music programme. **Anders Lilly**, On the 2nd year of a bachelor's degree in music technology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. **Hakon Marcus**, In his second year of a degree in architecture at NTNU University in Trondheim, Norway. He also plays a lot of music as a member of a band and a choir. **Luke Mawdsley**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Sound Technology programme. **Ellen McCafferty**, Went on to study for a BA in Management at the University of York. **Rachael Mcgovern**, Studied for a diploma in teaching and is now a qualified singing teacher, she is about to start level 1 SLS. She is also working with TNR Productions, making live appearances with the aim of getting a record deal with a major company; currently working on some songs for Sony, but this is still at the production stage. **Graham Mckee**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music (Performing Arts) programme. **Grace Mcmanus**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme. **Gemma Mitchell**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme. **Vinnie Moriarty Barron**, On the second year of a degree in media professional studies at LJMU. **Will Mulvey**, Performed in a musical theatre cabaret on the Battersea barge, and was subsequently signed on the books of Byron's Management. Credits include the musical *Hansel and Gretel* at the New Wimbledon Theatre, adverts for Post Office

travel money, Windows 7, Walkers crisps (with Gary Lineker and Lionel Ritchie) and Lynx. He also works at Dingwalls in Camden on the Highlights comedy circuit. **Karen Musæus**, Studying history and language at the University of Oslo. She is an active singer-songwriter in Oslo with regular gigs on the smaller stages downtown, and is involved in several co-writing projects. **Magne Olsen**, Released a CD *He She It Is*. Later worked for six months with wild monkeys in South-America. Currently studying in Tromsø for a 2-year masters degree in biology while still playing live, writing and producing songs. **Nicholas Parker**, Went on to train as an Engineer for a year; he now works as a financial advisor for a bank. **Kelly Phillips**, On the second year of a 3-year course in performing arts at Phil Winston's Theatreworks, at the end of which she will be qualified to teach IDTA and will be entering the dance industry as a professional. **Charlotte Rogers**, In the second year of the musical theatre degree at Guildford School of Acting. **Daniel Saleh**, On the second year of the BA (Hons) Popular Music Studies programme at Liverpool John Moores University. **Madelyne Stamp**, On the second year of a 3-year course in performing arts at Phil Winston's Theatreworks, at the end of which she will be qualified to teach IDTA and will be entering the dance industry as a professional. **Maria Stefansson**, Studying Law at the University of Oslo. **Thomas Sutch**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme. **Joanne Thomson (Nee Bell)**, Cast in a lead role in *Pendulum Drift*, an upcoming feature film by Edinburgh International Film Festival Award winner, Shehzad Afzal. She reached the final 50 of BBC's *Over the Rainbow* and appeared in Mark Westbrook's new three-hander play *Lovely Creature* which premièred in Glasgow recently. Previously finished a month's run of *Blackout* by Davey Anderson (Black Watch, National Theatre of Scotland's director in residence) [Continued](#)

directed by Neil Bettles at the Underbelly, Edinburgh. The show received 5-star reviews and won the Archies Brick Award as part of the Scotsman Fringe Awards 2010; a UK tour is underway. In September, she started studying for a BA Acting degree at the Guildford School of Acting.

Sanna Thornström, Returned to Sweden and worked for a local bank, Sparbanken Göinge. She also joined a gospel choir, Arise, and has been singing in Partyfabriken.

Karoline Tornes, Taught art, culture and creativity at a children's activity school, and dance for a primary school and at evening classes for children. She is now a

Department Manager at the activity school and Director of the choir. In spring she worked on crowd management at the Eurovision Song Contest 2010.

Grace Turner, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance programme. **Luke Walker**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting programme.

Thomas Warner, On a degree course at

the Brighton Institute of Modern Music. **Lucy Westron**, Studied a 1-year intensive course at Guildford School of Acting at the Performance Preparation Academy. Having recently graduated she has auditions lined up for lead vocals onboard Holland America Cruise Ships and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. **Laura Williams**, On the second year of a 3-year course in performing arts at Phil Winston's Theatreworks, at the end of which she will be qualified to teach IDTA and will be entering the dance industry as a professional.

Key

Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting)

Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance)

Diploma in Performing Arts (Song)

Diploma in Popular Music & Sound Technology

Stories by Jan Buchanan, with thanks to Allan Brown 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 2011 FROM ALL AT LIPA**