

# Se-e Me Now

LIPA ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011/2012

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Carl with Brian May and Anita Dobson

## Carl Performs with Rock Royalty

It takes stamina to perform in a high-octane show like *We Will Rock You*, night after night. Carl Richardson recently finished a demanding 20-month stint on the show. Yet his enthusiasm is undiminished, thanks to the various challenges of his role as Assistant Dance Captain, the irrepressible energy of the production...oh, and a visit from legendary Queen guitarist and songwriter Brian May.

The 2007 Dance graduate tells us: "I think that *We Will Rock You* is a fantastic, spirit-lifting and high energy show, so it never failed to inspire me... The highlight of my time with the production had to be performing on stage with Brian May at our première in Berlin. It was such an overwhelming experience and I will never forget that feeling."

[Continued](#)

## Welcome

Welcome to the winter 2011 edition of our e-newsletter and the chance to catch up with some of our graduates once again.

We do want to keep in touch – so please let us know if you change your postal or email address by sending a quick email to [alumni@lipa.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lipa.ac.uk) and don't forget that we are always interested to know what you are working on.

You can network with other graduates via our alumni web site, on [facebook](#), [linked in](#) and [twitter](#).

We are planning a reunion for graduates from 2005, 2006 and 2007 on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, so if that includes you, mark the date in your diary, details will be issued soon.

We want to know what you think about the services we offer, so watch out for our email in January asking you to take part in our survey. You could win £100 of Amazon vouchers, as well as getting the chance to have your say.

## Big Audio is a Tall Order for Richard

Sound engineer Richard Kemp does not wear a cape but he is earning himself a Superman-like status – at least in Dubai's flourishing construction sector. Project managers behind a trio of the Gulf state's most dazzling tourist developments have called on his skills to get their complex audio systems running properly.

His first mission was to Ferrari World, which is the world's biggest indoor theme park. The 2006 Sound Technology graduate got a call from Dubai-based Bond Communications, who were looking for someone with experience of working with Peavey DSP – the audio system used at Ferrari World. Richard spent four months programming and designing the system, which runs independent audio systems for all 15 rides as well as a park-wide system. While he was working on this project, Richard was asked to perform his magic on the audio systems for the Armani Hotel in Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

He explains: "I got to meet the on-site consultant. His words over coffee were 'I'm really pleased to finally meet someone who knows what they're doing; these guys are beginning to worry me'.

"His request was simple: 'Make it work, parts of the building are still without audio despite me being told the installation is complete'.

"After being given a time frame of 48-hours before the hotel was due to have a grand opening, I set about re-reading the drawings, redesigning the DSP programming and commissioning it."

His reputation as the go-to man for sound systems had obviously spread. Next was a request to investigate some audio dropout and control issues at a five-star hotel built over the Yas Marina circuit, where the Abu Dhabi Formula 1 Grand Prix is held.

Richard offered advice on the configuration of the switches on the network system, which resolved the problem.

Richard is now Audio Director for Ferrari World. This sees him make regular trips to the park to update the audio systems. He has other exciting projects in the early stages including designing audio systems for UK theme parks, and acting as Technical Producer for awards ceremonies around the world. He also still finds time for his true passion, which is mixing live sound for bands... and dodging kryptonite.

## Family Show *Matilda* Makes Theatre Magic

The old showbiz adage about never working with kids or animals just doesn't ring true for Peter Howe. He plays brother to not one, but four, young Matildas in Tim Minchin's musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's story, and he says that the crew really are like one big happy family. 2004 Acting graduate Pete played Michael Wormwood in the RSC sell-out show at the Courtyard Theatre and is now performing at the Cambridge Theatre, following the West End transfer in October. Writer, Dennis Kelly, explained his character as: "Someone who sees

the world in a series of lights, sounds and moving images. Essentially, he's completely underdeveloped as a human, as opposed to Matilda who has this extraordinary mind." While the Wormwood family may be dysfunctional, the *Matilda: the Musical* family is anything but. Pete explains: "The kids are unbelievable. Watching them and feeling an overwhelming sense of pride in them every night is what makes the show for me. They're actually all lovely. Tim is just a genius, simple as that, an incredible man with a huge heart and a beautiful family!" "The closeness of the cast has been essential to the show working in the way it has. The hours we work are

very long because we have to rehearse three teams of kids and four Matildas. Then it's a new show, so we're constantly looking at re-writes and tweaking staging so we have to do the process all over again. But we've become very tight knit as a group, all striving for the same goal, so there is a wonderful sense of fun and joy despite the exhaustion." The recipe of Dahl's soaring imagination, Minchin's inspired humour and the close connection of the cast has created theatrical magic. The show won the Best Musical Production and a Best Actor award at the 2011 UK Theatre Awards and the Critics Circle Best Musical award. It was also nominated for three *Evening Standard* awards.

## Illuminations for a Swiss Christmas

If you can't get the lights on your Christmas tree quite right this year, spare a thought for Georg Spindler. Georg is Lighting Designer for Swiss Christmas, a spectacular circus event staged in Zurich from mid-November until the end of the year, expected to attract some 42,000 customers. The 2008 Theatre and Performance Technology graduate tells us about the show: "The cast is international with world class Cirque du Soleil artists alongside national groups and one of Switzerland's most successful singers. It is a multi-million Swiss Frank production and it's a great challenge and experience to light such a wonderful production." Georg works for Zurich based Designlight GmbH where he has recently taken on the responsibility for marketing the company, as well as the roles of Lighting Designer and CAD Administrator.



His lighting design work has seen him work on theatre, concert and business events from small productions to arena size events. He has worked across Europe, Russia and China, he tells us: "One challenging project was to light a corporate show in Beijing, with a Chinese crew. That was an interesting experience!" He also looks forward to returning to the UK each summer to work on a musical show at the Pavilion Theatre in Bournemouth. Despite his travels Georg finds it's a small world: "I have met LIPA graduates everywhere! In the circus, one of the performers also went to LIPA and graduated the year I started. The friends I made at LIPA might be all over the world by now, but we are constantly trying to get each other involved in different projects and so far, this network has been really great."

## 'Appy in his Work

The hot ticket for this year's Manchester International Festival was *The Crash of the Elysium*, Punchdrunk's immersive *Doctor Who* adventure. As the young audience donned their biohazard suits and were led by actors dressed as soldiers on a mission to save the world, the man behind the smoke and mirrors was Andy Rhymes. The 2008 Theatre and Performance Technology created the system that triggered the production's special

effects. He explains: "It was basically a glorified burglar alarm, as the audience stepped on pads to turn on smoke, sound and light." Andy, Technical Manager for Lite Alternative, used his wizardry for another immersive experience at the festival, the launch of Björk's new album, *Biophilia*. He explains: "Björk's album was also released as an iPad app. For the launch she wanted to create the feeling that the audience was actually inside the app using videos overhead, on the floor and around the stage. I used a

Catalyst system to co-ordinate the screen imagery using a control clock signal from the sound to keep everything in synch. The video showed the score as well as the performance. Björk even used an iPad to trigger music onstage at times in the show." Lite Alternative works on concerts for some of the biggest names in the music world. Other recent projects Andy has worked on include a set up for Chemical Brothers and designing a fibre optic control system from scratch for Shakira.

## Low Cover Leaves Lindy on a High

Finding out that she was one of the five short-listed nominees for Best Cover Song at the Independent Music Awards was something of a surprise for Lindy LaFontaine. She hadn't entered the contest, and still doesn't know who nominated her.

Her secret fan may have been her fairy godmother – Lindy's recording of the Cracker song *Low* won the prize, judged by a panel of music giants including Seal, Portishead, Aerosmith, Suzanne Vega and Tom Waits.

Winning the award has opened new doors for the 2001 Performing Arts Music graduate, she tells us: "I've got some good promotions, lots of interviews, features and exposure from being included on compilations and jukeboxes throughout the US. But the coolest part for me was the idea of all those famous musicians listening to my voice and saying my name."

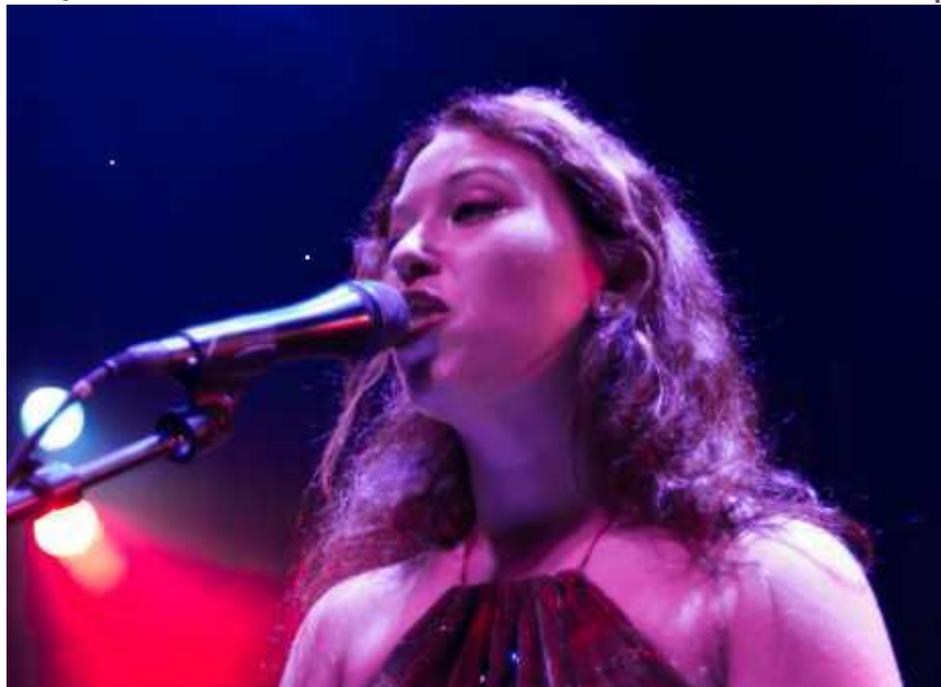
The award wasn't the only plaudit coming her way this year – she was also named Best Female Vocalist on Twirl Radio, one of Sacramento's top indie stations.

Now Lindy, from Berkeley, near San Francisco, is busy planning a tour of the US west coast, including a gig at the famous Whisky a Go Go club in LA in February, when she will also be releasing her new album.

Ultimately she would love to return to the UK, but sadly visa restrictions won't allow it. "I'll trade pads with anyone who wants to be in San Francisco...I wish it were that easy!" she says.

[www.lindylafontaine.com](http://www.lindylafontaine.com)

Lindy LaFontaine



## Running Campaign for Singer on the Move

Working in digital marketing means that Aaron Bogucki has to keep up to speed with what's happening in the fast-moving world of new media. He certainly got the fans running with a recent campaign for BRIT Award-winner (and running enthusiast) Ellie Goulding.

Aaron, Senior Digital Campaign Manager for the Polydor division of Universal Music, explains: "I developed a partnership between Ellie and Nike which brought Ellie's fans running with her on tour. The campaign has grown to become a key marketing initiative for Nike US and they've worked with Ellie on filming a Nike+ advert."

The 2007 Management graduate has worked in digital marketing for four years. He describes his role: "Digital music marketing is a very dynamic environment and involves staying on top of digital consumer trends, technology and how it can be used to connect fans with artists, and working directly with artists and managers to develop their online connection to a fanbase. Now more than ever the digital team are working with artists as soon as we sign them to ensure their digital strategy is effective."

His past digital campaigns include stellar names such as Elbow, Eminem, Cheryl Cole, 50 Cent, La Roux, White Lies and Scissor Sisters.

Aaron, from Michigan, is currently managing the campaign for Snow Patrol's latest album *Fallen Empires*, promoting new artists such as Michael Kiwanuka, working on Polydor's mobile strategy for 2012 and developing a social gaming strategy for Universal Music.

You can watch Ellie in action at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=236C14UBvcU>

## Rocking them in the Aisles with Junk Music

Talking to Matthew Elliott about his job evokes a startling image of someone carefully drawing up funding applications while playing a mannequin leg with a violin bow, in a ruined church.

The 2011 Community Drama graduate works for Urban Strawberry Lunch (USL), the Liverpool community music organisation known for playing weird and wonderful instruments. USL are also

artists in residence at St Luke's: the city's famous 'bombed-out church.' Matthew explains his role: "My primary role within the company is Fundraising Assistant. In March we had been informed of a 100% funding cut which will take place next April. So, my main role at the moment is to obtain enough money to sustain the company after that date. Apart from applications and letters, I also lead and co-facilitate junk music workshops with community groups, perform as part of the USL touring

band and maintain and renovate certain areas of St Luke's Church." USL create their driving rhythms using instruments such as a drum made from a plastic barrel played with cut-down broomstick handles, the batphone: created from different lengths of plastic tubing arranged in pentatonic scale and that violin leg, with added guitar strings.

Matthew worked as a volunteer for the organisation since his first week at LIPA, and walked straight into his job after graduation. While volunteering [Continued](#)

## Studio Stardust

If studio walls can soak up the musical genius of recording artists, Alwyn Walker's new projects are destined for stardom. Alwyn took over as Manager/Producer at Westland Studios a year ago. One of Dublin's largest studios, Westland has an illustrious pedigree; artists including Bob Dylan, Kate Bush, U2, The Cure, Van Morrison and Thin Lizzy have all recorded there in the past.

Alwyn tells us: "The studio has retained the vibe of all those clients' sessions, which everyone can feel when they first walk in. There's nothing quite like reminding a musician which of their heroes have sung into that same mic or played on that piano to inspire them for the next take!"

After studying Sound Technology at LIPA, Alwyn left in 2002 and went on to run his own studio and mobile recording company, but felt limited by his facilities. He decided to freelance and toured a number of Dublin studios looking for one that suited his needs. The last one he viewed was Westland, and as luck would have it, the house engineer who showed him round was moving to England.

Alwyn pounced on the chance to base his projects at Westland and now splits his time between managing and maintaining the studios, engineering for other producers and, most importantly to him, working on his own productions.

He explains his back to basics approach: "My focus is on recording and mixing bands the traditional way - the best way. A great band, strong songs, preproduction, good teamwork, a decent studio and a healthy respect for the song's essence."

"I have a shortlist of bands that I am working with or in discussions with that I have high hopes for... I believe they have international potential and once those projects are complete I'll be promoting my clients to the music press and labels."

If you are nodding your head at this point, Alwyn says he is interested in collaborating. "I'm interested in working with independent record labels, artists and managers who, like me, are positive about the future, have enough respect for their artists to nurture their talent and enough respect for the fanbase to provide them with a decent product."

## Ultimate Dancers are the Main Event

If you need to book a fire breather, stilt walker or even bring on the dancing girls, Lucy Dean\* is your woman. The 2004 Dance graduate established Ultimate Event Dancers with her business partner Amy-Jo Drew at the start of 2010. Since then the company has grown, and now has 80 dancers on its books, including Marianne Prinelle and Jessica Spalis who both graduated from the LIPA Dance programme in 2008, along with several speciality acts.

Lucy tells us about some of her many company highlights to date. The first of these was a dance medley with Turkish pop star Sila at the HMV Forum in London, before a crowd of 2,000 people. The second was choreographing a dance number and parade with a ten-piece band and showgirls for a corporate awards night at the Westminster Plaza Hotel, where Lulu also performed.

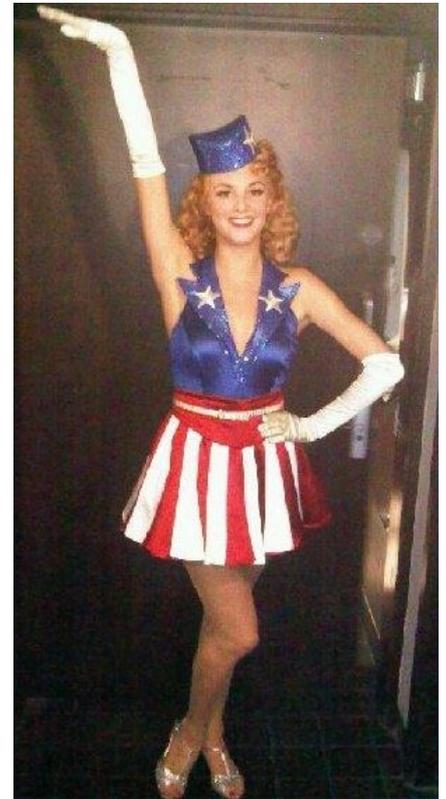
Far from hanging up her own dancing shows, Lucy recently put in a multiple appearance in a blockbuster film. She tells us: "I recently appeared as a USO Showgirl Dancer in the new feature film *Captain America: The First Avenger*. I featured in a montage scene showing Cap's touring USO show growing in popularity and size. The scene culminates in a huge spectacular using green screen technology to replicate the dancers to look like hundreds. It was a fantastic experience being involved in a large-scale movie and a big change to working in theatre."

Lucy is currently working with a Captain of a different kind - as a production dancer for Qdos Entertainment on-board the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship, performing in three shows: *i-Broadway*, *Boogie Nights* and *Simply Ballroom*.

Cruising around the Caribbean may be a long way from studying in Liverpool, but it still brings memories of her LIPA days; 2011 Theatre and Performance Design graduate Harvey Powell is part of the AV crew.

<http://www.ultimateeventdancers.co.uk/>

\*Lucy Davies at LIPA



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## Carl Performs with Rock Royalty

### Continued

As Assistant Dance Captain, Carl got to use his creativity and choreography skills, teaching routines to new cast members, making selective cuts to the show when several dancers were ill, taking physical warm ups and sometimes holding rehearsals to perfect the performance.

Carl also performed as swing, covering nine (and sometimes up to 18) parts in very different numbers, ranging from the intricate choreography of Radio Gaga to the impact aerobic style of One Vision, via the rock 'n' roll freestyle of Crazy Little Thing Called Love.

The production played to near-capacity audiences throughout an eight-month spell at the Apollo Theater in Stuttgart, followed by a year at Berlin's Theater Des Westens.

Carl says: "The German public are big lovers of rock music and major Queen fans, so the audience response was great throughout and we received a standing ovation during the finale every performance, which made the job so rewarding."

As he loved living in Berlin, Carl is now keen to explore performance possibilities across Europe. Currently he is rehearsing in Oslo for two shows on-board a cruise ship, starting in the New Year.



### Something Sally Seize the Day

When Norwegian band Something Sally was invited to tour with award-winning hip-hop duo Karpe Diem, they seized the opportunity. Bass player Kristian Sveholm tells us: "We began to work with Karpe Diem two years ago. They wanted to do a tour with a full live band, and Something Sally was their choice of musicians. Since then we have done over 150 concerts together, all around Norway."

Performances include all the big Norwegian festivals, the *VG Lista* show (Norway's version of *Top of the Pops*) and a poignant memorial concert for those killed in the July shooting tragedy, which was broadcast live on NRK, Norway's biggest TV station.

The band also played at the Norwegian Grammy awards ceremony, where Karpe Diem scooped the artists of the year prize.

Something Sally's line up is Kristian, Ane Kiran on vocals, Thomas Kongshavn (guitar), Erik Kiil Saga (keys) and Frode Eggum Have (drums). Ane, Thomas and Kristian graduated from the music programme in 2005 and Erik and Frode in 2008.

Being in the spotlight is nothing new for Something Sally, they previously toured with soul songstress Joss Stone and have had top 20 hits in Norway with *The Taste* and *Tip of My Tongue* (featuring Joss). Their album *Familiar Strangers* was released in Asia (India), Europe and South America (Argentina, Brazil) and reached 25 in the Norwegian charts.

The band are now back in the studio, hard at work on their third album, before hitting the road again on another tour with Karpe Diem next year.

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### Watch this Space

London is buzzing with anticipation ahead of the 2012 Olympics and Arts Facilitator Rebecca Whyte has a spectacular view of proceedings. Rebecca and her husband Neil McDonald own Stour Space, an exhibition, performance and studio space in a renovated warehouse in Hackney Wick on the edge of the Olympic Village.

The couple met at LIPA in 2006, the year Rebecca graduated from the Community Arts programme, while Neil was studying for a Certificate of Professional Development in Music Business. They later moved to London where Rebecca studied for a Masters in Social Anthropology at UCL.

The idea for Stour Space was born when Rebecca was running her own community interest company, Open Forum. She offered business support to voluntary sector organisations, particularly creative and public art projects and one of the big problems she identified was lack of affordable space. Rebecca tells us: "Neil and I started to look for a space that could house my arts projects, as well as a studio for his sculpture and woodwork, and a public

[Continued](#)

### Jonathan is a Radio-head

Jonathan Jacob believes in making the most of every opportunity that comes his way.

His philosophy is paying off in style, too, as the 2009 Management graduate was recently named a Radio Academy 30 Under 30, won an award for his voluntary work and landed a freelance contract to produce one of the biggest events in British radio. While at LIPA, Jonathan juggled his second and third-year studies with working for Liverpool's Juice FM, and he was headhunted by the station after he graduated. He currently manages national sponsorship and promotions for the company's 120 stations, from Aberdeen to the Isle of Wight with a combined reach of 5.7 million listeners. The Radio Academy named him one of the most influential young people in the radio industry, thanks to his success in increasing revenues and user engagement.

Jonathan's interest in helping young people was ignited when he studied the Theatre in Education module at LIPA. He now volunteers at Haringey Shed, an inclusive youth theatre open to young people across the east London borough, including those with special and education needs. He also leads the company's PR and social media activities. Haringey Shed nominated him for a Volunteer of the Year award from arts body Attend, and he beat off competition from entrants representing over 100 organisations to take the title.

When we spoke to Jonathan, he was deep in preparation for his freelance project, the BBC Radio 1 Student Radio Awards. He tells us: "Working with the team at BBC Radio 1 is an incredible experience – I'm looking forward to producing Scott Mills and Annie Mac on stage!"

For Jonathan, the seeds of success were sown during his LIPA years. He says: "The skills that I learnt as Chair of the ISB help me daily in managing people, coordinating activities and making things happen. LIPA gave me amazing work experience opportunities and the chance to meet people and build that contacts book."

"Without Jeremy's workshops, I wouldn't know how to manage budgets for 120 commercial radio stations nor manage my department in delivering award winning radio solutions!"

## Watch this Space Continued

gallery. From humble beginnings, and with the support of our local community we now run the largest public, community-led venue opposite the Olympic stadium.” The pair work on five to ten projects a month, Rebecca tells us: “My recent projects include researching and consulting the local community about arts and culture for the Big Local – a lottery funding scheme offered to disadvantaged areas and a pilot project with British Waterways looking into the legalization of public spaces for managed graffiti and contemporary art.” Stour Space also houses monthly exhibitions profiling local artists, a regular Designer Market, film festivals and performance events.

While The Olympics have focussed attention on the area, Rebecca expresses concerns about the negative impact on her community, which she tells us has a higher concentration of artists per square foot than anywhere else in the world. The downsides include increased rent, the gentrification of ordinarily ignored neighbourhoods, and a huge influx of tourists changing the local unstable economy.

She says “It is with all this in mind that we aim to design projects that can successfully support and promote our vibrant and artistic local community in the hope it will survive the impact of the Olympic development.”

<http://portal.stour.space.co.uk/>

## A National Treasure

While funny man James Cordon and the rest of the cast of *One Man, Two Guvnors* keep audiences laughing at the Adelphi Theatre, Adam Penford has a different challenge - keeping the cast under control.

Adam was previously Staff Director on the sell-out show at the National Theatre. Now he has taken over as Associate Director following its West End transfer early in November, tasked with maintaining the vision of the National’s Artistic Director Nick Hytner.

Adam says “The cast are all funny people and love to make each other laugh. They can be very naughty.

## Dream Award for Anne

Anne Gry Skovdal took on competition from the cream of talented young stage designers to win a prestigious award, just months after graduating. Some 30 to 40 recent graduates from theatre design courses competed in the first round of the Jocelyn Herbert Award. The candidates were all on the shortlist for the Linbury Prize for Stage Design, a biennial award hosted at the National Theatre, so had already demonstrated outstanding creative skills. Judges were looking for the candidate who best encapsulated acclaimed designer Jocelyn’s ethos to design. Anne was one of six entrants who made it through the first round of interviews, where she showed her portfolio and talked about her approach to her work. A second interview and a further opportunity to share her sketches saw Anne impress the judges and win the £1,000 prize.

A delighted Anne aims to use the prize money to take a trip to Latvia, so that she can research the theatre design scene there. The idea was sown during a LIPA trip to Sceneofest in Prague, after she was inspired by the Latvian designs.

Anne was a finalist in this year’s Linbury Prize for Stage Design along with fellow 2011 Theatre and Performance Design (TPD) graduate, Colin Eccleston and 2010 TPD graduate, Nina Patel-Grainger. The three exhibited their work at the National Theatre, and worked with leading theatre companies to realise their designs.

The Danish designer was enthusiastic about her assignment at the Lyric Hammersmith: “I had a great collaboration with the Director and I really felt part of the theatre. I worked with theatre company Filter on a re-working of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* but with a modern setting, incorporating sound and music. My inspiration came from old photos of 1970s camping trips –so not really what you would expect for a Shakespearean play.”

Winning the Jocelyn Herbert Award and being a Linbury finalist has opened doors for Anne, when we spoke she was preparing for a meeting with a theatre producer, one of a number of talks she has lined up about possible projects.



James is a very busy man and he doesn't suffer fools gladly! He can be tricky sometimes, but he gives an amazing performance in the play and always gives 100% on stage. Watching him in rehearsals and performance makes you realise what a craftsman he is; he really knows how to make something funny.”

The play has been a resounding success, both at the box office and with critics. It broke records for advance ticket sales for a West End play and garnered five-star reviews and plaudits from the national press. When Adam graduated from the Acting programme in 2001, he knew

that he wanted to direct but decided that it would be useful to win his acting spurs first. He recalls: “My last acting job was a Shakespeare tour for kids; the show was diabolical! I sacked my agent and became a full-time director the day the tour ended.” There is a likelihood that the show will transfer to Broadway next, but Adam can’t be drawn on the possibility. Next year will see him directing his own production at the National Theatre. He tells us: “It’s a new play for children called *Island*. James Cooney, recent Acting graduate is in the cast; it’s nice to keep it in the family.”

## Seun Brings Afrobeat to Liverpool (by Allan Brown)

The Afrobeat bandleader Seun Kuti returned to Liverpool in November with Egypt 80, the searing rhythm section once fronted by his legendary father, Fela.

Saxophonist Seun performed as part of Liverpool Music Week. It was the Nigerian's first show in the city since 2003-2004, when he studied for a Diploma in Popular Music and Sound Technology at LIPA. He was invited by Liverpool Music Week co-curator, 2011 Sound Technology graduate Joseph Wills.

Seun's new album, *From Africa with Fury: Rise*, was co-produced by Brian Eno and nominated for a 2011 MOBO award. Before the show he said: "I've got fond memories of Liverpool and am looking forward to coming back to the city to play my music, which is about getting today's young Africans to question the world around them and get up and think."



*Sean Kuti by Kelechi Amadiobi*

Born in 1983, Seun first began performing with Egypt 80 at the age of nine, warming up audiences with renditions of his father's songs. After Fela's death, in 1997, Seun stepped up to front the band, leading the celebrated combo as both lead vocalist and saxophonist.

Building on the ground-breaking work of his father, Seun is determined to cut his own distinctive musical path, incorporating contemporary

influences into the traditional Afrobeat approach. He has also embraced the political activism of his father, a human rights campaigner who fought to improve the lives of ordinary Africans. "What inspires me is the time that I live in," Seun said. "Basically what is happening today in Africa are the same things that were happening 40 years ago, when my father was songwriting, but they're happening in different ways. So when I write my music, it's from the perspective of a 27-year-old man living in 2011, instead of a 30-year-old man living in the 1970s. "In Africa today, most people are struggling in silence. The systematic oppression of the people has made them blinded to their reality. Everybody's just thinking about survival. Nobody wants to stand up for anything, everybody just wants to toe the line. So I'm trying to make people think about these things that they are forgetting. I want to inspire people to want things to change."

## Going Solo

The depths of a worldwide recession might not seem the most auspicious time to set up your own business. However, for 1999 Theatre and Performance Design graduate, Paul Nulty, it looks like the right move.

Paul had worked his way up to Director level after 11 years with London-based design company Light Bureau. This year saw his design for KPMG headquarters at Canary Wharf win in the workplace lighting category at the Lighting Design Awards.

Despite his success, he says he felt the time was right to branch out: "I felt like I had hit the glass ceiling. I really wanted to work for myself and I decided to make the move, recession or not. I had prepared

Myself for working on my own for the first twelve months, and hoped just to be able to make enough to pay myself a salary."

He launched Paul Nulty Lighting Design in June and business so far is going better than he ever anticipated. He has a team of four, and his clients include retail giants such as Nike, DKNY and a flagship store for Superdry and a Marco Pierre White restaurant.

Paul explains how designing lighting for his corporate clients differs from working in the theatre: "I try to apply all the skills I acquired in theatrical lighting, for example lighting retail displays can be quite dramatic. In addition there is a whole lot of red tape and legislation, taking into account the physical and psychological effect of lighting on workers, maintenance and how long

the lighting will last. Energy consumption is also very important." Paul admits that being his own boss brings its own worries: "I do have sleepless nights. A lot of our projects are quite short-lived, so it's difficult not knowing how much work we will have in six weeks' time. We are working on the Nike concession in Harrods, for example, but that's a four week project. We are also working on the move of the Design Museum from the South Bank to The Commonwealth Institute Building in Kensington, which doesn't open until 2014."

With discussions underway with some big residential developers and a growing reputation in the retail sector, it looks like the company has a bright future.

<http://www.paulnulty.co.uk/>

## Rocking them in the Aisles with Junk Music Continued

he was involved in a memorable project called Hollywood Homeless. He tells us: "The area around St Luke's Church is well known as a place for street drinkers and the homeless community. So, instead of closing the door on them, we decided to invite them to participate in a music and photography project about the living conditions of a homeless person. From beginning to end, the project was well received and the positive effect it had on raising the awareness of the homeless community was immeasurable."

Working in an unusual location like St Luke's can be inspiring, however there are drawbacks, says Matthew: "The disadvantages are such things as a lack of

electricity and, in the case of St Luke's, having no roof! When there is sometimes not enough electricity to run a kettle and it's pouring down with rain, you begin to doubt why you embark on such journeys. However, when you see at least 25,000 people a year enjoy the space and work you do, the cold and rainy days all become a distant memory."

## Lucky Dips 2010

**We recently surveyed students who completed our four Diploma courses in 2010, to find out their career and training outcomes after they left us. The programmes aim to help students to either make the next step into degree-level study within higher education or to move directly into employment.**

**Timothy Anderson**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Faye Aston**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting Programme **Amy Atkinson**, Working full-time as an actor at the newly opened Blackpool Tower Dungeon, for Merlin Entertainments. After a month of rehearsals and promotional work the Dungeon officially opened on 1st September **Giancarlo Bonfanti**, Studied for a Keyboard Diploma at Tech Music School in London and is now on the first year of a degree in Music at London Centre of Contemporary Music. He formed the band The Risk, with fellow Diploma students Jose and Juan Lopez-Portillo. They played Paris this summer and are undertaking a short tour of Mexico in December ([www.soundcloud.com/therisk](http://www.soundcloud.com/therisk)) **Melissa Campbell**, Having taken a year out to work she is now studying for a BA (Hons) in Sociology at The University of Liverpool **Jiwon Chung**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Fraser Churchill**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Amy Chwiej**, Spent a year studying at Phil Winston's Theatreworks, she is currently auditioning for dance jobs **Abbie-Jane Coughlan**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance Programme **Daniel Drumm**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Caesar Edmunds**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Sound Technology Programme **Liliya Fedorova**, Vocal coach in one of the biggest vocal schools for children in Russia, Magic Microphone, in her home town Krasnoyarsk. She is now on training on the pre-certification SLS program, and she also performs locally **Abigail Firkins**, In the first year of the BA Popular Music Degree at Leeds College of Music **Andre Fonneland**, Studying Movie Production at NKF in Bergen, where he will spend two years, then finish his studies at Griffin University, Australia to earn his bachelor's degree **Marisa Garcia Flandes**, Moved to Los Angeles, where she has been training in many studios including Millennium Dance Complex, Debbie Reynolds Studio and International Dance Academy Hollywood. She has recently worked with choreographers like Nappytabs, Tony Czar, and Alex Bullón and performed in dance shows such as Carnival Choreographers' Ball (Alex Bullón), Posers (Tony Czar), and an episode from the TV show *Mobbed* on Fox (Nappytabs). She also modelled for a new shirt company called Get Out Of The Mirror Apparel **Rebecca Godlee**, Studying Medicine Anthropology at Durham University, while keeping up with her music as best she can **Joseph Gonzawa**, In the second year of a three year vocational dance course at Phil Winston's Theatreworks **Hannah Gover**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting Programme **Katinka Gresvig**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Chloe Hallam**, Studying for a BA (Hons) in Performance- Drama and Theatre at The University of Salford **Kirsty Hamilton**, Teaches dance at Morag Alexander School of Dancing in Ediburgh and is a freelance dance teacher. She completed the Royal Academy of Dancing Certificate in ballet teaching **Laura Higgins**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting Programme **Charlotte Hinchcliff**, Studying on the Vocal Performance degree programme at the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford **Sunniva Høverstad**, Returned to Oslo where she works as a photographer while building up her contacts in the local music scene. She still divides her time between Oslo and Liverpool, where she has formed the band I,Volatile with LIPA Music graduate James Whitehouse, they are putting the finishing touches to their debut EP

### Courses

**Diploma in Acting**

**Diploma in Dance**

**Diploma in Song**

**Diploma in Popular Music & Sound Technology**

## Lucky Dips 2010

**Jenna Howlett**, Started on the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre course at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in September 2011, she will graduate in April 2014 **Jason Kaiser**, Has regular gigs with the band Charles Mansion, teaches guitar classes at Huntington Beach High School and runs rehearsals for the popular music and media program at the school. ([www.facebook.com/home.php#!/charlesmansionband](http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/charlesmansionband)) **Brett Lehrman**, Currently DJing between his home town in Providence RI and New York City. He plans to save up enough money to move to California and collaborate with fellow diploma student Jason Kaiser **Ellena Leigh**, On the second year of the BA Musical Theatre course at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts **Callum Livermore**, Begins a degree in Law next year, with a view to either returning to performance after his studies or specialising in entertainment law **Jose Lopez Portillo Fernandez**, Studying for a two-year diploma in Composition at Ealing Hammersmith & West London College. He formed London-based band The Risk, along with fellow LIPA Diploma graduates Giancarlo Bonfanti and Juan Lopez Portillo (his brother). They played Paris this summer and are undertaking a short tour of Mexico in December ([www.soundcloud.com/therisk](http://www.soundcloud.com/therisk)) **Juan Lopez Portillo Fernandez**, Studying for a two-year diploma in Composition at Ealing Hammersmith & West London College. He formed London-based band The Risk, along with fellow LIPA Diploma graduates Giancarlo Bonfanti and Jose Lopez Portillo (his brother). They played Paris this summer and are undertaking a short tour of Mexico in December ([www.soundcloud.com/therisk](http://www.soundcloud.com/therisk)) **Lauren Marshall**, In the second year of a BA Musical Theatre course at Arts Ed, having received a full scholarship **Steven Martin**, He has been writing and performing extensively and has started an acoustic duo with his cousin, Mike Moran, called Me and My Cousin. They are looking forward to starting work on cruise ships in January **Daniel Palmer**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting Programme **Daniela Pedro**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Jill Pender**, Studying for a BA (Hons) Music Performance at Edinburgh University. She also did part-time teacher training to hold vocal classes at schools in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife. She has appeared in many gigs and music festivals in Edinburgh and had paid jobs at various theatres in the city **Peppi Polviander**, Performs regular gigs as a singer around north, east and central London, as well as working as a session musician for various bands and artist, recording and performing. She hopes to start recording her first EP shortly. She also works as a model and in fashion during the day **Abigail Randles**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting Programme **Amy Reddaway**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Acting Programme **Marta Rosseland Hansen**, Went on to study dance at Bårdar Akademiet, then left to study English at the University of Oslo **Bethanie Rowett**, In the second year of a three-year Musical Theatre Diploma at SLP College in Leeds **Jessica Royle**, On a three-year National Diploma Course for Musical Theatre at Cambridge Performing Arts (Bodywork Dance Studios) **Lindsey Scott**, On the first year of the BA (Hons) Musical Theatre course at Arts Ed **Danielle Stanley**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance Programme **Scott Steele**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Harriet Taylor**, Studying Dance Practises at Liverpool John Moores University after taking a year out to work and starting studies for an FDI in Street Dance **Julian Timm**, Worked as an intern, then an employee for internet personality Phil DeFranco for five months. Last June he played Adam in *The Creation of the World and Other Business* by Arthur Miller, he has also been taking acting classes **Karina Vismara**, In the second year of a degree in Creative Sound Design at the Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM) in Guildford. She won the ACM Songwriting Competition 2011, for her song *Only You* which was chosen by Ryan Farley from Warner Chappell Music. The prize was £500 in Anderton's (music store) vouchers plus 16 hours in the studio with one of ACM's production tutors Adi Winman; the material is due for release shortly ([www.acm.ac.uk/Student-Successes/](http://www.acm.ac.uk/Student-Successes/)) **Josie Ward**, Started a three-year course at Phil Winston's Theatreworks but left to take up employment. She recently finished a season working as a dancer in the showteam and general children entertainer with Parkdean Holidays, and she will be returning to work with them again next year **Emma West**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance Programme **Lauren Widman**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Aud Wilhelmsen**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Victoria Wooltorton**, Studied Dance for 1 year at Phil Winston's Theatreworks, she is currently working as a dancer in London and intends to study for a degree in Physiotherapy starting in September 2012 **Emily Wyatt**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Music Programme **Aikaterini Zervou**, On the LIPA BA (Hons) Dance Programme

**Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2012 from All at LIPA**

Stories by Jan Buchanan, with thanks to Allan Brown and Corinne Lewis, special thanks to all of the graduates featured in this newsletter.

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