



EASY STAGES SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

EASY STAGES TRAINING

NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2006

EXAM NEWS



Many apologies to those LAMDA examination candidates on 21/22 July who had to do without the support of their teacher due to unforeseen rail travel circumstances, ie: a fatality at Portslade and a lightning strike at Haywards Heath. Whilst you were undergoing the ordeal of an examination I was undergoing the ordeal of being stuck in the middle of the countryside on a train that was going nowhere! However, it seems, having spoken to everybody now, that you all felt quite happy about how the exams went. I am expecting the results any day now and will be in touch as soon as I receive them. The candidates

were: Dominic Clarke (Grd 5 Acting), Emily Hilditch (Grd 5 Acting), Hrishi Hariharan (Grd 5 Acting), Brogan Arthur (Grd 3 Acting), George Clarke (Grd 1 Verse and Prose) and Daniel Clarke (Grd 3 Verse and Prose).

As the exam results for the Spring Term were not available in time to be included in the last Newsletter, I will report here that only two candidates entered for exams in that term, Holly Doyle, who achieved Distinction in Speaking of Verse and Prose Grade 4 with 81 marks, and Sammy Chard, who achieved Merit in Speaking of Verse

and Prose Grade 5 with 77 marks. Well done to both of them. Holly expects to be taking Grade 6 V&P and Sammy Grade 6 Acting in November, along with Duncan Vicat-Brown (Grade 7 Acting) and Jacqueline Phillips (Grade 3 V&P).

The next LAMDA examination session is likely to be towards the end of November, but the actual dates will not be known until term begins.

I currently have no prospective candidates for the RADA Shakespeare Certificates. You need to be aged 16 plus for these exams. Please contact me if you are interested in finding out more.

WELCOME TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

- *Keep up with examination news.*
- *Learn about extra workshops and other events*
- *Who's doing what? Are you appearing in a show? Taking music or dancing exams? Going for auditions? Let's all hear about your activities so we can cheer you on—or buy a ticket.*

MONDAY WORKSHOP

In case newer private students are unaware of this, it is a group Speech and Drama Workshop for children and young people aged 10 – 16 years. It takes place at St Michael's Church Hall, Church Lane, Southwick every Monday during term time from 5-7 PM and costs £45 per term. Three of the Workshop members took exams for the first time in July and the results are anxiously awaited. Last November we did quite well in the Speech and Drama section of the Worthing Music Festival and I hope that we will have some entries again this year. The

Autumn term begins on 11th September.

However, attendance had fallen off towards the end of last term. I am hoping that this is just because of the lovely summer weather and other summer activities intruding, but if the situation does not improve next term I will find myself in the position of having to consider whether or not to continue with the Workshop since the fees will hardly cover the cost of hiring the hall and other expenses. I would be very sad to have to do this as I would like to continue to encourage students to enter for exams and festivals

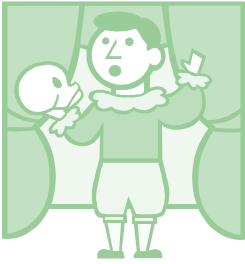
which does give them a valuable sense of achievement and provides a good opportunity for those who may not be able to stretch to paying for private lessons. It also provides an opportunity to enter students in group events rather than just individually. Valuable lessons are also learned in co-operation, teamwork, and mutual respect and support in this way. I enclose a poster/flyer for the Workshop and would ask you please either to find a prominent place to display it or hand it to someone who may be interested.

(Cont'd overleaf)

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MONDAY WORKSHOP (CONTINUED)



If I were to see a considerable increase in numbers across the age groups, my plans for the future may be to divide the group up into age groups and run each group more as a Speech and Drama class rather than merely a workshop. If more students are entering for exams and festivals this will be necessary to give enough time for them all to work on their prepared performance pieces and still have time for some improvisational fun and games afterwards. This would only be viable if I have enough

students in each age group.

Would parents of current Workshop students please note that if I have not already had notice that your child is withdrawing from the Workshop I will expect to see him/her at the first session on 11th September, unless I have been advised otherwise. The same rule applies to Workshop members as to private students regarding notice of withdrawal (see below), so if any student I was expecting to attend has failed to show without explanation by the

third week of term their parents will receive a letter and an invoice for the term's fee. This condition of enrolment is clearly spelled out in the information presented to parents on enrolment and on the enrolment form itself. Signing the enrolment form means you agree to these terms.

Could you please provide your child with a folder or file to keep their work in and a pencil (preferably with an eraser on the end) with which to mark it up.

PRIVATE STUDENTS

The new term for private students only (see above for Workshop) begins the week commencing 4th September. You should find the timetable and an enrolment form attached to this Newsletter. Please contact me at once if this is not the case. Your lesson slot has been allocated to comply as far as possible with your expressed preferences. Please check the time and day of your regular lesson and let me know immediately if there is any problem. You will see that my private teaching timetable is getting rather crowded so I am afraid there is little room for manoeuvre at present but I will try my best to accommodate you should you need to make any changes.

Please also ensure that you complete the enrolment form and bring it with you, together with the term's fee at the *first* lesson of term. The reason I need a new enrolment form completed and signed each term is so that I can keep up to date with any changes of contact details and also to record your agreement to the terms of enrolment.

PLEASE NOTE: As indicated on the enrolment form and *Guidelines for Private Lessons*, unless some other arrangement

has been made I need to receive one term's notice of withdrawal from tuition OR payment of one term's fee. If I have included your name on the new term's schedule this means I have not received any such notice and that I am expecting you (or your child) to attend for lessons as arranged. Please let me know as soon as possible if you feel you should not have been included. If I am expecting you and you have failed to attend without explanation by the third lesson of term, you will receive an invoice for one term's fee and your lesson slot may be reallocated, so it is in your interest to keep me updated about your intentions. Your co-operation in this would be greatly appreciated as I like all my students and their families and heartily dislike having to chase any of them for money.

One Or Two Reminders For Private Students (Or Their Parents)

Please remember that students need to be provided with some kind of folder or file in which to keep their texts or exercise sheets and that it should be brought to every lesson. It is also useful to have a pencil, preferably one with an eraser on the

end of it, with which to jot down notes or to mark their scripts. The eraser is because we sometimes change our minds about movements, etc.

Please try, as far as is humanly possible, to be punctual for your lessons. If you are early you will encroach upon someone else's lesson and I don't always have a room available for you to wait in. If you are late you are likely to lose some of your lesson as the likelihood is that there will be another one scheduled to start as yours finishes, in which case I will be unable to go over time.

Also please let me know as soon as possible if you know you are going to be late or if you cannot attend the lesson. If this is not possible please at least contact me as soon as possible after the event to explain what happened. If a lesson is cancelled by you I cannot guarantee to rearrange it as strictly speaking it is your responsibility to keep to the lesson schedule arranged. However, as a gesture of goodwill I am always happy to try to rearrange the lesson and in practice it is very seldom that anyone has to lose a lesson. If I have to cancel a lesson myself for any reason I will naturally either rearrange or reimburse you for the lesson.



Don't forget to bring your texts or exercises and a pencil to your lessons.

WORTHING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Workshop students will have already received information about this. I repeat this information here in case any private students may be interested in entering the Festival.

The Festival this year runs from 4-26th November and the Speech and Drama Section classes take place from Monday 13th to Sunday 19th. The actual date that entrants will be required to perform their piece(s) will depend on what class(es) they have entered. **PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED PERMISSION TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL IF THEIR CLASS OCCURS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.** Last year we did very well, gaining a 1st place cup, a close second place certificate and two entries which only just missed being placed third. I feel confident that we could do at least as well again this year and hope that you will consider entering your child (or yourself if you are an adult). For those of you who are new to festivals, the following information may be useful.

The classes for which most students would be eligible are as follows:

Solo Classes: verse (memorised poem), drama, sight reading (14 years and over), prepared prose reading. Please note that there is no choice of poem or prose book. The prescribed texts for each class are indicated in the Festival Syllabus (see below for how to obtain one). Everyone in the class performs the same piece and the winner is the best performance in the opinion of the adjudicator. The drama scenes are free choice. The set poems and prose books differ with

each age group and their titles are given in the syllabus. You are expected to obtain your own copy of the prose book. The two entrants gaining the highest aggregate for solo verse and prepared prose reading in each age group may qualify for the final, in which they will repeat the poem and prose and compete for the Junior and Intermediate championships.

Speaking Your Own Poem: Competitors to speak their own unaided composition. Age groups: 11 and under and 12-19 years.

Bible Reading: Prepared or unprepared reading.

Recital: A performance comprising a scene from a play, a poem or prose piece and a mime.

Duologue Classes: An own choice scene for two actors.

Choral Speech: A poem spoken by a group in chorus.

Group Drama: An own choice scene with 3 to 12 actors.

The deadline for entries is 12th September. The entry fees range from approximately £5 – £10 per class, depending on the class entered. Group entrants will share the cost of the entry fee.

The entrants perform their pieces in front of an adjudicator and an audience of other competitors, friends, family and teachers. A verbal and written adjudication is given and first, second and third awards are made for each class. Class winners are usually presented with a trophy and second and third places with a certificate.

Further information and a copy of the Festival Syllabus and

entry forms are available from the Festival office, open from 10:00 to 12:00 on Tuesdays and Fridays. Contact details are as follows:

Worthing Music Festival Office
Town Hall
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 1HA

Tel: 01903 239999 (ask for Festival Office)

Since the entry date is Tuesday 12th September, which is the day after the Workshop's first Monday back after the holidays, and only one week after private students begin term, I will have to leave parents to be responsible for entering their children (or adults to enter themselves). When you complete your entry forms please ensure that you fill in my name as the teacher.

I need to know who is entering and in what class(es), so as well as sending in your entry form to the Festival office, please complete and return the slip on the back page of this Newsletter to me as soon as possible. We will begin work on the Festival entries as soon as term begins in September. However, please note that the LAMDA examinations are also in November (date not yet known), so if you know you are committed to taking an exam at this session there may be a clash and there will be extra work to do this term. The dates of the November exam sessions are not received from LAMDA until the end of August.



There are many Speech and Drama classes you can compete in as part of the Worthing Music Festival





No raise in fees this term

FEES AND COSTS

I am happy to report that fees will stay the same for everyone for the next two terms. However, for the Summer Term beginning in April 2007, a small handful of long-standing private students who are still paying be-

low the current fee will be asked to increase their payment slightly to come into line with what newer students are paying. The increase will only amount to £2.50 per half hour lesson and the students (or their parents) con-

cerned will be contacted individually nearer the time. However, please treat this as advanced notice. If you need to know now whether you are affected please feel free to check with me.



ODDS & ENDS, BITS & BOBS

Student News



Congratulations to Matt Baker, who was married

on 22nd July, whilst this term's exam candidates were going through their paces and I was sitting on that train! Matt and his Best Man, Miles Heaver, have worked very hard with me on their speeches for the reception. I hope all went well, Matt and Miles, and don't forget you promised me a DVD!

Public Speaking



Speaking of speeches, if you would like to practise your public speaking in a friendly and supportive environment, you may be interested in the Brighton and Hove Speaker's Club, which is part of Toastmas-

ters International. The club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the English Language Centre, Palmiera Mansions, Palmiera Square, Hove. We gather at 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Further information can be found on the club's website:

www.brightonandhovetoastmasters.co.uk. Another club was recently started in Eastbourne and I believe a new one is proposed for Worthing. Your nearest club can be found by visiting the Toastmasters International website:

www.toastmasters.org. The Eastbourne and Worthing clubs do not yet appear on the website. The lady to contact for information is Meg Heyworth: meg@heyworth.co.uk, or telephone 01323 872487.

If you would like to gain a LAMDA certificate in Public Speaking, you may take an examination in this sub-

ject as it is included in the Speech and Drama syllabus. Please contact me for further information.

Dead Funny

Just a reminder that I am a member of this murder mystery event company and that we may be hired to stage a murder mystery dinner or even a whole weekend for private or corporate functions. For further information have a look at the Dead Funny website:

www.deadfunnycompany.moonfruit.com, or contact Ray Vaughan (01273 232310) or Cathy Vanderpeer (01273 889842).





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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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THE EASY STAGES SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA offers coaching in Speech, Drama, Voice, Presentation and Communication Skills (including interview skills) and audition coaching.

Courses leading to the graded examinations of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and the RADA Shakespeare Certificates.

Group workshops for business, schools and organisations by arrangement.

Maggie Hall is a Licentiate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, and a member of the LAMDA Teachers' Association, Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama, the British Voice Association and Voice Care Network UK. She is also a member of Toastmasters International and holds the CTM (Competent Toastmaster) Award for Public Speaking.

Please Note this form is for my information only and not an official entry form for the Festival. Please see Page 3 for how to enter the Festival.



The following names are entered for the Worthing Music Festival:

Name(s)

.....

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Age on 1st November (**NB:** this is the age group into which the student should be entered)

Class(es) entered

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I understand that I am responsible for entering my child or myself for the Worthing Music Festival and for obtaining any books needed.

Signature (parent or guardian if under 18)

Date