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What – Another New Format?

Having changed the format of the Newsletter slightly recently, I now find that my printer refuses to print it when it's formatted in Microsoft Publisher, so I've downloaded this Microsoft Word Newsletter Template in the hope that I can trick it into doing the job. We shall see!

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Exam News

LAMDA

The results of the LAMDA examinations taken on 18th/19th July were as follows:

Katie Price	Grd 1 V&P	82 (Distinction)
Serena Duffield-Lawson	Grd 1 Acting	75 (Merit)
Hrishi Hariharan	Grade 7 (Silver) Acting	70 (Merit)
Steve Robertson	Grade 8 (Gold) V&P	76 (Merit)
Ben Williams	Grade 3 V&P	90 (Distinction)
Cori Samuel	Grade 6 (Bronze) V&P	91 (Distinction)
Phoebe Coghlan	Grade 6 (Bronze) V&P	72 (Merit)

All merits and distinctions! Congratulations and well done to all of them. It's particularly difficult to achieve such high marks in the Advanced Level exams (Grades 6, 7 and 8).

If anyone is thinking of taking the plunge and attempting an exam but is not sure what is involved please do not hesitate to ask me. It is, of course, also possible to take acting exams with other people as

duologues or groups. This would naturally involve the candidates arranging to take lessons together, but if anyone is interested please let me know and we can see if it's possible to arrange. I know I have at least one (young female adult) who might be interested in taking a duologue at advanced level if a suitable partner can be found.

Those preparing for the next LAMDA exam session on 14th/15th November are:

Jack Arnold	Grd 6 Acting
Emily Hilditch	Grade 8 Acting
Elizabeth Barton	Grade 7 Acting
Laura Parkins	Grade 8 Acting
Leah Byrne	Entry Verse and Prose
Grace Lee	Entry Verse and Prose
Phil Coupland	Grade 6 Acting

"Break a leg" to all.

RADA

Duncan Vicat-Brown passed the RADA Bronze Shakespeare Certificate on 5th July. Steve Robertson is hoping to be our next candidate for the RADA Bronze. If anyone else is interested in taking one of these please ask me. You do have to be at least 16 years of age to take them and you have to start at Bronze – even if you've already got a LAMDA Gold! However, most people find the RADA ones not too difficult after the LAMDA medals.

Stage Stars

Congratulations to Ben Williams and Rosie Baggs, both of whom appeared in the Southwick Players Youth's recent production of *Ge!*. Unfortunately I wasn't able to go and see the show as I was out of the country at the time, but I see that it had a favourable write-up in the Argus and I'm sure all involved acquitted themselves well. I look forward to a blow by blow account in September!

Katie Price and Serena Duffield-Lawson are due to appear in a Charity show at Shoreham Community Centre on 22nd September. I'm sure they'd like as many of us as possible to turn up to support them.

New Term

The new term begins the week commencing 8th September. Current students/parents should find attached to this Newsletter the new term's timetable showing every student's name in the agreed appointment slot. You should also have an enrolment form for the new term. Please let me know immediately if either of these attachments is missing.

When completing the enrolment form please include an e-mail address if at all possible as, with so many people to communicate with, this is my preferred method of doing so. If you contact me by telephone you will always get the answer phone if I am teaching. Please note that I have an ID recognition phone and do not respond to withdrawn numbers or those from outside the area that I do not recognise, so if you are calling from such a number please make sure you leave a message to ensure that I return your call. All telephone numbers entered onto your enrolment form will be programmed into the phone so that I know who's calling.

Let me know if you are appearing in any productions



I usually like to support any of my students who are appearing in any productions so do let me know if you are due to tread the boards so I can put up a poster and otherwise help to spread the word for you. If it's in time to catch the Newsletter even better.

Let me know also when you are taking any exams in addition to your speech and drama ones, eg: music or dancing. We would all be interested to know how you get on.

Please read the notes on the reverse of the timetable very carefully as they contain important information that you will need to know, especially if you are taking any exams. The term dates are as follows:

MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2008

Private lessons 10 weeks only, finishing on Friday 21st November with "catch-ups" and "extras" to the end of the full academic term on 12th December.
Half Term 27th-31st October.

LAMDA Examination Session at Haywards Heath: 14th/15th November.

RADA Shakespeare Certificate exams: first Saturday of every month at RADA in London.

Extra Exam Workshops (£10 per workshop) at St Michael's Hall, Southwick on Monday 13th October and Monday 10th November at 7.30.



Please note these dates in your diary now.



Worthing Music and Arts Festival (Get your skates on!)

This event takes place from 1st to 24th November at the Richmond and Gordon Rooms of Worthing Assembly Hall and the Speech and Drama section is from Monday 10th to Saturday 15th. A Syllabus, costing £2.00, can be obtained from the Festival Office, Chapel Road, Town Hall, Worthing, BN11 1HA, Telephone 01903 239999 (Tuesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon only).

There are various speech and drama classes that can be entered including verse speaking, prepared prose reading, acting (solo, duologue or group), mime, etc. and the competition is open to all ages. You can enter for just one or several different classes and your test pieces are performed in front of an audience of other competitors and an adjudicator who, at the end of each class, will give a verbal adjudication of all the performances and

present first second and third prizes. All entrants receive a written adjudication.

I would love some of our students to take part in this festival, but please note that the entry deadline is **12th September**, which is the first Friday of term, so you will have to obtain your own entry forms from the Festival office, but please contact me first so that we can agree on which class(es) you should enter. All the details, including dates of classes, entry fees and what the test pieces are, are in the syllabus already mentioned.

Please also note that this term's LAMDA examinations clash with the last day of the Festival, so it may not be advisable for those taking exams this term to participate on this occasion.

Odds and Ends, Bits and Bobs

Student News: Voice/Public speaking students (and former students) are very much in evidence this term.

Congratulations to Kitt Carver who, having prepared an excellent Bridegroom's Speech, eventually got married on 25th July. I haven't heard how it went yet but I'm fully confident that it went down well with the guests.

Congratulations are also in order for Mark Betson, Curate at St. Michael's, on his recent ordination.

Mark Hickman has now launched his new business called Times of My Life and is looking forward to promoting it using his newly honed presentation skills. Some TV interviews may be in the offing so keep your eyes and ears peeled!

Paul Rawlings has not only landed himself a great new job, but has also recently become Treasurer of the Brighton and Hove Speakers Club (see below) and

another member and former Committee Officer of the club, Hugh Clarke, who has been a student of mine for three years, has obtained an exciting new job in Germany. Bon voyage and good luck, Hugh!

As for the Speech and Drama students, Louise Dalton has departed for a new life in Norfolk, where I hope she will be able to continue her preparations for Grade 6 Verse and Prose with a new teacher, and Phoebe Coghlan, who has just taken the same exam, is unfortunately leaving us to concentrate on her A levels, so goodbye and good luck to both of them.

Finally, I have had to say "goodbye" to one of my longest attending students, Duncan Vicat-Brown, who is off to the University of East Anglia to study History in October. Duncan first came to me at the age of 14 and, having done all the Acting exams up to and including Grade 8 (Gold Medal), also passed his Bronze RADA Shakespeare Certificate in July. Being a bit of a playwright, he is also writing his first full length play!



Brighton and Hove Speakers Club: This is a member club of Toastmasters International (nothing to do with people in red coats banging a gavel and shouting a lot). It is a brilliant place to practise your public speaking to an actual audience, which is the only thing I can't do in my private lessons. Don't worry, the audience is *not* composed of "experts", but other folk who are striving to improve their public speaking skills, so you have a very sympathetic audience. There is a lot more to the club than I can explain here, so please do have a look at the club's website:

www.brightonandhovespeakersclub.co.uk to learn more. Anyone wanting a free taster can come along to a meeting as my guest.

Public Speaking students may also be interested to know that they can actually take a LAMDA exam and gain a certificate in public speaking. Ask me if you would like to know more. LAMDA's qualifications are all QCA accredited and the more advanced ones are included in the UCAS tariff, being worth between 20 and 90 UCAS points. Also it all looks good on the CV!

Study Notes – Do Your Homework!

Acting: Students working towards the Advanced Level LAMDA Acting exams will need to research the periods in which their examination scenes are set and the historical background of each play. It is, in fact, important for all Acting students at all grades, but at Grade 7 in particular candidates will need to be prepared to discuss this with the examiner. To get an idea of what sort of costume your character would be wearing you could visit Brighton and Hove Museum and Art Gallery, where there is a very good display of original Victorian and 20th century clothing. There is even a display of period undergarments! Being aware of the character's costume will, of course, help you to get some idea of how they would have moved. You cannot gallop around in a corset and a crinoline!

Verse and Prose: Those studying for the advanced level Speaking of Verse and Prose exams, or indeed anyone interested in poetry and poetic form

(known as prosody), would probably enjoy Stephen Fry's book on the subject as much as I did as well as learning a lot of very useful information. It's called *The Ode Less Travelled* and is published in paperback by Arrow Books. Being Stephen Fry, of course, it contains many highly amusing observations which prevent it from becoming a dry, learned textbook. It is, in fact, anything but. However I would stress that this book would *not* be suitable for younger students, but for senior students only.

The internet, of course, is an excellent source of information. Wikipedia is often good for backgrounds and plot summaries of plays – although these should not be considered a substitute for reading the play itself!

November exam candidates, please remember that I expect you to turn up at the first lesson of term knowing all your texts!

"You can't gallop around in a crinoline!"



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Motto

Speech, drama and
communication skills –
lessons for life.

FEES AND COSTS

I am pleased to say that no rise in fees is envisaged for at least the next two terms. Fees will be reviewed next term and any changes will be announced a term in advance but will not take effect until the Summer Term, ie: April 2009.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.easystages.biz

Dates for Your Diary

- Autumn Term: Monday 8th September To Friday 12th December 2008
- Half Term 27th–31st October
- LAMDA Examination Session at Haywards Heath: 14th/15th November
- RADA Shakespeare Certificate exams: first Saturday of every month at RADA in London.
- Extra Exam Workshops (£10 per workshop) at St Michael's Hall, Southwick on Monday 13th October and Monday 10th November at 7.30
- Worthing Music and Arts Festival, Worthing Town Hall, 21st to 24th November (Speech and Drama Classes Monday 10th to Saturday 15th)
- Brighton and Hove Speakers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7.30 at the Imperial Hotel, First Avenue, Hove and last Saturday morning of every month at The Latest Music Bar, Manchester Street, Brighton