

# EASY STAGES

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## Season's Greetings!

"Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2,000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space."

*Dave Barry.*

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## Exam News

### LAMDA

As I write, Leah Byrne and Grace Lee are about to take their Entry Speaking of Verse and Prose Exam. I'm confident that they have prepared well and look forward to a good result for each of them. Good luck girls!

All of our Level 3 (Advanced) candidates (Grades 6, 7 and 8) have deferred their exams to the Spring Term exam session which takes place at Haywards Heath on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> April. This is in order to give them more time to prepare not just their performed pieces but also the considerable amount of research and background knowledge which they need to present for these exams.

Those now preparing for the next LAMDA exam session on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> April are:

Ben Williams	Grade 3 Acting
Jack Arnold	Grd 6 Acting
Elizabeth Barton	Grade 7 Acting
Hrishi Hariharan	Grade 7 Verse & Prose
Emily Hilditch	Grade 8 Acting
Laura Parkins	Grade 8 Acting

"Break a leg" to all.

### RADA

Steve Robertson is currently our only candidate for the RADA Bronze, which he hopes to take some time this term. 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 Steve Robertson and his fellow members of the Southwick Opera who mounted a very spirited production of HMS Pinafore in November. I'm still trying to get the songs out of my mind!

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:

## New Term

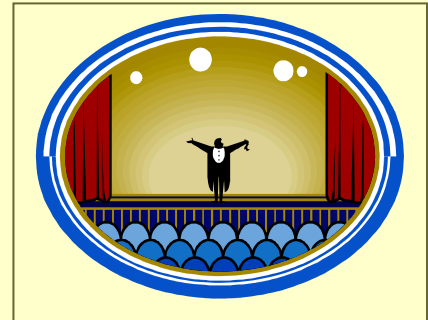
The new term begins the week commencing 12th January. Current students/parents should find attached to this Newsletter the new term's timetable showing every student's name in the agreed appointment slot. You should also have an enrolment form for the new term. Please let me know immediately if either of these attachments is missing.

Please remember to include an e-mail address on your enrolment form if at all possible.

**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.**

Where do you put those special notes about things you need to remember? Do you stick them on the fridge? Write them on a laminated board in the kitchen? Stick a post-it note on your computer? Wherever it is, please will you remember to add the

*Let me know if you are appearing in any productions*



music or dancing. We would all be interested to know how you get on.

following dates. Please be especially careful to note the date of the half term break, which is the thing that causes most confusion as not all schools and colleges have them at the same time.

The Spring Term dates are as follows:

MONDAY 12TH JANUARY TO FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

- Private lessons 10 weeks only, finishing on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March with "catch-ups" and "extras" to the end of the full academic term on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
- Half Term 16<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> February.
- LAMDA Examination Session at Haywards Heath: 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> April.
- 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 9<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30.



*Please note these dates in your diary now.*

# Odds and Ends, Bits and Bobs

**Student News:** Former Public Speaking student Maureen Emerson has now launched her book “Perfume from Provence” and has a website all about it here: <http://www.perfumefromprovence.com> .



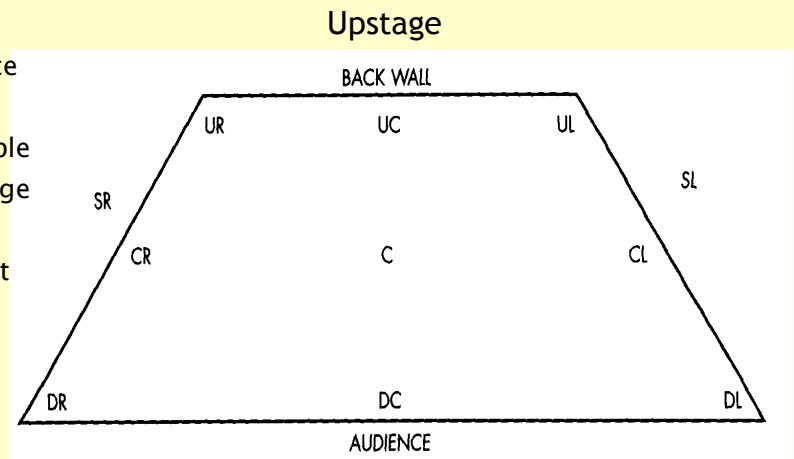
Mark Hickman’s new website is now up and running and in the news. You can find an article on it at [http://www.metro.co.uk/news/newsfocus/article.html?l\\_can\\_remember\\_when.....&in\\_article\\_id=369921&in\\_page\\_id=65](http://www.metro.co.uk/news/newsfocus/article.html?l_can_remember_when.....&in_article_id=369921&in_page_id=65) and the website itself is: [www.thetimesofmylife.com](http://www.thetimesofmylife.com)

Good luck to both of these ventures! See what some training in public speaking can do for you?

# Study Notes – Acting: Stage Positions



Do you know your Upstage Right from your Downstage Left? These stage area names can sometimes seem confusing but once you understand them they can be very useful in knowing where your director wishes you to place yourself in the acting area. At Grade 5 of the LAMDA Acting exams you are expected to be able to demonstrate that you have a secure knowledge of where they all are, so here is a diagram that may help you to visualise them. Remember that “stage right” means *your* right, when you are standing on the stage facing your audience.



Upstage

Downstage

- C = Centre
- CL = Centre Left
- CR = Centre Right
- UC = Upstage Centre

- DC = Downstage Centre
- UR = Upstage Right
- DR = Downstage Right
- UL = Upstage Left

- DL – Downstage Left
- SR = Stage Right
- SL = Stage Left

Upstage = Towards the back

Downstage = Towards the front

(This is because traditionally, in Proscenium Arch theatres, stages were raked at an angle, being higher at the back than at the front)

**Easy Stages Training**

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**Motto**

Speech, drama and  
communication skills –  
lessons for life.

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*We're on the Web!*

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[www.easystages.biz](http://www.easystages.biz)

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## Dates for Your Diary

- Spring Term: Monday 12th January To Friday 3rd April 2009
- Half Term 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> February
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- Brighton and Hove Speakers, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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