



EASY STAGES

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A Summer Poem

To a Butterfly

I've watched you now a full half-hour,
Self-poised upon that yellow flower;
And, little Butterfly! indeed
I know not if you sleep or feed.
How motionless!--not frozen seas
More motionless! and then
What joy awaits you, when the breeze
Hath found you out among the trees,
And calls you forth again!

This plot of orchard-ground is ours;
My trees they are, my Sister's flowers;
Here rest your wings when they are weary;
Here lodge as in a sanctuary!
Come often to us, fear no wrong;
Sit near us on the bough!
We'll talk of sunshine and of song,
And summer days, when we were young;
Sweet childish days, that were as long
As twenty days are now.

William Wordsworth



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The Worthing Music and Arts Festival

9th–29th November (Speech and Drama 16th–21st)

Once again this clashes with the LAMDA examination dates on 27th/28th November, which is very disappointing as I would love to give my students the opportunity of performing in front of an audience as well as being adjudicated. However, if you are interested in entering it might still be possible to arrange. The verse and prose classes have specified pieces as the test which would have to be learned in addition to any examination pieces you are working on, but drama scenes are free choice so it might be possible to use a scene you have already prepared for your exam. Please let me know if you would like to have a try and I will see if we can manage it. You get a certificate and a written adjudication and the winner of each class gets a special award.

Exam News



LAMDA

Elizabeth Barton took her Grade 7 (silver) Acting exam on 11th July and awaits the results.

Those now preparing for the next LAMDA exam session on 27th/28th November are:

Ben Williams	Grade 4 Acting
Jack Arnold	Grd 7 (silver) Acting
Hrishi Hariharan	Grade 8 (Gold) Acting
Leah Mooney	Grade 5 Verse & Prose

We are now working to the new LAMDA syllabus, which is available on the LAMDA website:

<http://www.lamda.org.uk/exams/downloads/index.htm> . You can also purchase hard copies on line.

RADA

Laura Parkins hopes to take her Silver RADA Shakespeare Certificate next term.

Stage Stars



Congratulations to Leah Mooney and her fellow actors in the Synergy Theatre, who performed above and beyond the call of duty on the night I saw their open-air production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in the open air in the lovely Southover Grange Gardens in Lewes in July. I'm afraid the weather was not kind to them on that particular evening and they had to compete with rain, thunder, some very noisy geese and a "pitch invasion" by some local louts. In spite of all this it was a very enjoyable production.

Ben Williams opens as Mole in The Southwick Players' production of *Wind in the Willows* on 22nd July. The production goes on until the 25th. "Break a leg" to Ben and the rest of the cast.

Laura Parkins is playing Celia in *As You Like It* from 4th to 8th August at Lewes Castle with Brighton Little

Theatre. Another open air production. Let's hope the sun shines throughout this one!

After her success with her reading of her short story *The Zookeeper* in April, Amanda Williams (no relation to Ben in case you're wondering) is due to read another one on 6th September which is entitled *Two Orchids*. It starts at 8PM at the Komedia Theatre, Brighton and tickets are available at the door. Amanda is expecting to publish a novel soon.

Don't forget to let me know if you are doing any performing or taking any other exams as well as the Speech & Drama ones so we can all support you by buying a ticket or just cheering you on!

New Term

The new term begins the week commencing 14th September and finishes on 11th December. 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.

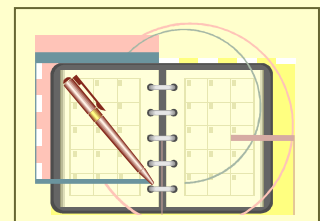
Please do remember to include an e-mail address on your enrolment form if at all possible and remember to check your e-mails regularly for messages from me. It's so much easier for me to communicate with you this way than to ring round everybody if there have to be changes.

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 Autumn Term dates are as follows:

MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

- Private lessons 10 weeks only, finishing on Friday 27th November with "catch-ups" and "extras" until Friday 11th December.
- Half Term 26th-30th October.
- LAMDA Examination Session at Haywards Heath: 27th/28th November (closing date 16th October).
- 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 Tuesday 20th October and Tuesday 24th November at 7.30.



Please note these dates in your diary now.

STSD £100 Essay Competition!

The Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama are running a new competition for essays entitled *The World of Shakespeare*. Essays may relate to any aspect of the work of Shakespeare, his theatre, his world or his contemporaries.

Class A: Students up to the age of 16: 1000 words

Class B: Students up to the age of 21: 1,500 words.

Essays must clearly show the writer's name, address and age on the Title page.

The prize is £100 and the possibility of publication in the journal of the STSD, *Word Matters*.

If any *current* students of mine would like to enter, please let me know. I cannot help you write the essay but I can point you in the right direction for your research and I am happy to collate entries, should we have several of them, and send to the STSD together.

The Brighton and Hove Speakers Club

I have the honour of leading the BHSC into the new club year (beginning 1st July) as its President. This really is an excellent place to come and practise your public speaking skills and several of my public speaking students have joined the club after attending as my guest. It costs nothing to come as a guest so if any of my adult students (over 18s only I'm afraid - younger speakers see next column) would like to find out what it's all about please do contact me and let me know.

The club meets at the Imperial Hotel, First Avenue, Hove on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. It is a very friendly and supportive atmosphere, you don't have to start speaking until you are ready and you progress at your own pace. There are no "experts". We are all "in the same boat" as people who want to practise and develop our speaking skills.

NEW LAMDA SYLLABUS

Current students working for LAMDA exams are now working to the new syllabus which becomes effective in September. If you would like to see a copy of the new syllabus yourself you can either download one from the LAMDA website:

<http://www.lamda.org.uk/exams/downloads/index.htm> or order a copy from the same website.

You will see that in the new specifications for Grade 8 (Gold) Acting, the knowledge section requires candidates to select Stanislavsky, Gordon Craig or Brecht on which to be questioned. Although you only need to answer questions on one of them, you really need to do some research on all of them before you can decide which one to choose. There is quite a lot of information on the internet, but you will also find the book *Re-Acting - A Fresh Approach to Key Practitioners*, by Penny Cherns and David Shirley (available from LAMDA) useful for a brief introduction to both Stanislavsky and Brecht. It does not cover Edward Gordon Craig, who may not be so well known to students, so I recommend *Craig on Theatre* which is a collection of Craig's own essays edited by J Michael Walton and published by Methuen. I am also researching some other books which may prove helpful and I will add suitable ones to my reading list (copy attached for current students) from time to time.

Brighton and Hove Youth Public Speaking Competition

This is a competition for school pupils aged 14-17, organised by my friend Jackie Arnold who, as well as being a voice coach and author of several books on Public Speaking, is the original founder of the Brighton and Hove Speakers Club (see previous column). It runs from 21st September to 13th October and I will be involved as a mentor.

The competition is for *Brighton and Hove schools only* and not individuals so to enter you must make sure your school is taking part. If not, and you attend a school in the Brighton and Hove area, perhaps you can bring it to a teacher's attention. Current students will find a flyer attached with this Newsletter.

FEES AND COSTS

I am continuing to keep fees as they are in view of the current financial situation. Students/parents may not be aware that I can also offer shared or group lessons for friends or related students. These work out slightly cheaper for the individuals concerned than one to one private lessons. Current students will find a note of the fees involved attached. Anyone else is welcome to apply to me for a schedule of fees.

Easy Stages Training

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Motto

Speech, drama and
communication skills –
lessons for life.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.easystages.biz

Dates for Your Diary

- New Term dates: Monday 14th September to Friday 11th December
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- Extra Exam Workshops (£10 per workshop) at St Michael’s Hall, Southwick on Tuesday 20th October and Tuesday 24th November at 7.30.
- Brighton and Hove Speakers (a really good place to practise your public speaking to a sympathetic audience – see <http://brightonhove.freetoasthost.org> or ask me), 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7.30 at the Imperial Hotel, First Avenue, Hove, BN3 2GU.