

Coming up this term:

BA Contemporary Acting present *Lulu* at The Corbett Theatre, 7.30pm, Wednesday 15 October to Saturday 18 October; 3pm, Friday 17 October

BA Community Theatre students present *Common Ground* a site specific performance in Epping Forest, 1pm and 4pm, Saturday 18 October and Sunday 19 October (contact East 15 for start and map)

BA Acting and Stage Combat students present *Knight of the Burning Pestle* at The Corbett Theatre, 7.30pm, Wednesday 29 October to Saturday 1 November; 2.30pm matinee, Friday 31 October

BA Acting and Stage Combat students present a production they have devised at a Loughton venue TBC, 7.30pm, Wednesday 3 December to Friday 5 December; 2.30pm, Friday 5 December

BA Acting present *Jack and the Beanstalk* at The Corbett Theatre, 9.45am, 1.45pm and 7.30pm, Wednesday 3 December to Friday 5 December; 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Saturday 6 December; 9.45am and 1.45pm, Monday 8 December and Tuesday 9 December; 9.45am, 1.45pm and 7.30pm, Wednesday 10 December to Friday 12 December; 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Saturday 13 December

BA Contemporary Acting students present *Eat More Sugar Now* at The Space, 8pm, Wednesday 10 December to Saturday 13 December

BA Acting present a touring show *The Firebird* which can be booked for: 9.45am and 1.45pm, Wednesday 26 November to Friday 28 November; 9.45am and 1.45pm, Monday 1 December to Friday 5 December; 9.45 am and 1.45pm, Monday 8 December to Friday 12 December

Third-year BA Acting present a touring show *Jason and the Argonauts* which can be booked for: 9.45am and 1.45pm, Monday 1 December to Friday 5 December; 9.45 am and 1.45pm, Monday 8 December to Thursday 11 December and 9.45am, Friday 12 December. It will be at Redbridge Drama Centre: 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Friday 12 December and 10.30am, Saturday 13 December

Tickets for productions at The Corbett Theatre are £8 (£5 concession). Please telephone: 020 8508 5983 or e-mail: east15@essex.ac.uk

To book a touring show, please telephone: 020 8508 5983 or e-mail: east15@essex.ac.uk

For tickets at The Space, please telephone: 0208 7515 7799

For tickets at Redbridge Drama Centre, please telephone: 020 8504 5451

Keep an eye on: www.east15.ac.uk for information about future productions!

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Curtain Call*, East 15's termly newsletter for students, staff and Friends of East 15. This is the first of the new academic year, so the first time some of you will have seen *Curtain Call*! We hope you find it to be informative and useful, please feel free to contact East 15 on e-mail: e15marketing@essex.ac.uk if you have any ideas or wish to contribute to future issues.

Outstanding success for East 15 students

East 15 students have won the Laurence Olivier Bursary for an unprecedented seventh time!

The most prestigious award in the drama school world, and only open to students from accredited drama schools, the Laurence Olivier Bursary 2008 is worth £7,500 and was given to East 15's Frances McNamee.

Frances, who is from Durham and was on the second-year of her BA Acting course, said: "I was thrilled as I really didn't expect to win. I went in thinking that this would just be a really good experience and an opportunity to be on stage in front of some rather important people. So, when I found out I'd won, I nearly fainted. It was amazing, such a great day!"



Laurence Olivier Bursary winner Frances McNamee in last year's Music Hall at The Corbett Theatre. Photo credit: Mike Eddowes



Laurence Olivier prize winner Thomas Nelson in last year's Music Hall. Photo credit: Mike Eddowes

"I am going to use some of the money now for headshots and the like but I will save most of it for my third year and graduation, as I can use it to help me when I'm trying to break into the industry."

Two other East 15 students on this course have also been given awards, with Thomas Nelson winning a prize worth £2,500 as part of the Laurence Olivier Bursary and Daniel Jenkins awarded the Sir John Gielgud Bursary of £4,000.

Jill Colby, Head of Second Year BA Acting and tutor to these students, said: "East 15 is deeply honoured to have both our nominated students awarded major bursaries from the

Laurence Olivier Trust. It is particularly gratifying as this is as a result of both an acting and a singing audition in competition with all the accredited courses."

"Another of our nominees, Daniel Jenkins, was awarded the Sir John Gielgud Bursary as a result of outstanding achievement over his second year. The money available to students via these schemes is an invaluable help to them over the expensive third year of their course, when the long hours often preclude working for the extras that student loans can't provide. Photographs alone can cost anything from £300 to £600."

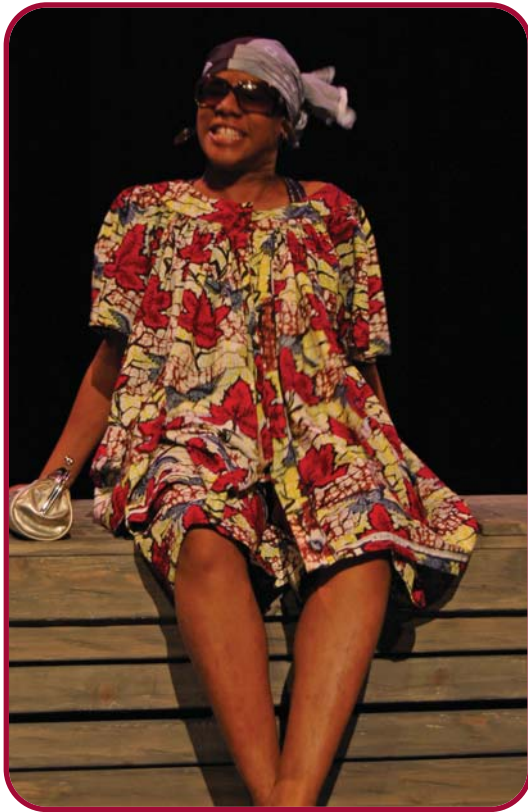
"We are both proud of our students and appreciative of the help that these trusts, from the funds of two of our most distinguished actors from the past, can give to promising actors of the future."



Daniel Jenkins, winner of the Sir John Gielgud Bursary, in last year's Music Hall. Photo credit: Mike Eddowes

Stupendous showcases

The summer term saw East 15 students undertake a number of successful showcases across London, with BA Acting performing to a packed house at the Criterion Theatre and BA Contemporary Theatre showing their own work at the Soho Theatre.



BA Contemporary Theatre graduate Alicia Harper in her showcase piece, *Aunty Abimbola's Bench* Photo credit: Jack Maurice

At East 15's Corbett Theatre in Loughton, final-years on BA Technical Theatre Studies invited industry guests, local schools and press to their graduation exhibition. This provided an excellent opportunity to see work from a course that involves stage management, lighting, sound, costume production, set construction, scenic painting, prop making and design.

In addition, in September, MA Acting and MA Acting for TV, Film and Radio students did their first joint showcase at BAFTA. This uniquely combined both short film and live performances.

The first graduating cohorts of BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) students and BA Community Theatre also had their showcases, at atmospheric St Paul's Church in Covent Garden and The Unicorn Theatre respectively.

During their training, students on BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) performed at Shakespeare's Globe, The Blue Elephant Theatre, Covent Garden Market and Heaven nightclub, so their showcase was a chance to see them demonstrate a range of their skills in one location in a short space of time. BA Community Theatre students also stayed at The Unicorn Theatre for the week after their showcase, undertaking a successful run of their own work with the local community.



BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) showcase at St Paul's Church

After East 15:

Foray into film

Over the summer East 15 graduate Sian Breckin (BA Acting, 2005) appeared in cinemas across the UK with the controversial film *Donkey Punch*, directed by Oliver Blackburn and also starring Jaime Winstone.

In addition, Paul Garrett (MA Acting for TV, Film and Radio, 2006) is currently shooting *Five Minutes of Heaven* with Liam Neeson, James Nesbitt and Niamh Cusack. This film, directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel, is due to be released next year.

Now at the National

Steven Helliwell, who graduated from BA Acting in 2007, has made his professional debut on the Olivier Stage at the National Theatre. He understudied the lead - played by Mark Addy - as well as playing his own part of James Callaghan in *FRAM*, which was written and directed by Tony Harrison.

Children's programme for Channelle

Another BA Acting graduate from 2007, Chanelle Owen, has been cast as the lead, the new Deputy Headmistress, in the third series of BBC children's show *Mi High*. This is currently being filmed with director Simon Hook.

East 15 is keen to maintain contact with alumni! If you trained at East 15, or know about the success of an East 15 graduate, please get in touch, via e-mail: east15-alumni@essex.ac.uk

Join Friends of East 15

Would you, or someone you know, like to join Friends of East 15?

Friends of East 15 enjoy:

- Regular newsletters on activities and events at the School
- Information on performances at The Corbett Theatre and elsewhere
- Two free tickets to all performances by students at the School

For more information, and to complete a Friends of East 15 form, please visit: www.east15.ac.uk