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The Guildhall School Alumni Newsletter

August 2005 issue 3

Autumn 2005 drama production

The Merchant of Venice by Shakespeare

Tickets: £5 go on general sale on from
Monday 12th September Barbican Box
Office (tel no: 020 7638 8891)

Dates:

11th October 7:15pm
12th October 7:15pm
13th October
matinee 1:45 and 7:15pm
14th October
matinee 1:45 and 7:15pm

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Autumn 2005 Opera *La finta semplice* by Mozart

Dates:

Monday 7th November, 7pm
Tuesday 8th November, 7pm
Thursday 10th November, 7pm
Saturday 12th November, 7pm

Tickets: £20 (£14 concessions) go on
general sale on Friday 7th October from
the Barbican Box Office (tel no: 020
7638 8891)

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Founders' Day - 27th September 2005



The Guildhall School of Music first opened its doors on 27th September 1880, housed in a disused warehouse in the City of London. Supported by the City of London from the start, with 62 part-time students, it was the first municipal music college in Britain. Initially all tuition was on a part-time basis, but full-time courses were introduced by public request in 1920 and Departments of Speech, Voice and Acting were added by 1935, ' & Drama ' was added to the School's title. The School moved to its present premises in the heart of the City of London's Barbican in 1977 and continues to be owned, funded and administered by the Corporation of London.

Today, the School currently numbers some 700

students on its roll call, approximately 570 of whom are undergraduate and postgraduate music students, and 130 are studying on the acting, stage management and technical theatre courses. It has also gained an international reputation; in any year approximately 40% of the students are from outside the UK and typically represent over 40 nationalities. Junior Guildhall is a vital part of the Guildhall School and was set up as a specialised Saturday School for those young children showing great artistic and musical promise. It offers advanced training in music and drama to young people aged between 4 and 18.

The Guildhall School celebrates its 125th anniversary on Tuesday 27th September 2005 and we hope that all former students will be thinking of the School during this important day.

'While reflecting on our past and boasting of the talent which has been nurtured, we plan to build upon our educational and cultural links - from our immediate neighbourhood to the far-flung corners of the world.'

Professor Barry Ife CBE
Principal

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Professional Profiles

Niamh Cusack – actress



Niamh Cusack was born in Dublin and started her professional career as flautist playing with the RTE Symphony and Concert Orchestras. She then trained as an actress at the School. Niamh’s father, Cyril Cusack, was an actor, and her two sisters, Sinead and Sorcha, are also actresses.

Niamh’s impressive acting career spans theatre, film and television. Her roles for the Royal Shakespeare Company include Desdemona in *Othello* and Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Niamh described the contrasting roles as follows, ‘to move from Desdemona to Juliet was to move from a reactive role to an active one. I think Juliet is considerably younger than Desdemona, but in her play she is the active agent, the person who does everything and who motors the play, particularly in an emotional sense’ (from *Players of*

Shakespeare – edited by Russell Jackson & Robert Smallwood).

Niamh’s acclaimed theatre work includes *A Doll’s House*, *A Woman of No Importance* and *The Three Sisters* at the Gate Theatre in Dublin, *Indian Ink* by Tom Stoppard at the *Aldwych Theatre*, *Playboy of the Western World* at West Yorkshire Playhouse, *The Plough* and *The Stars* at The Young Vic, *Not I* in the Beckett Festival at the Barbican and *The Phoenix* at The Bush Theatre.

Niamh’s many television credits include Louise in *Till We Meet Again* (Yorkshire Television), Josephine in *Fools of Fortune* (Central Television), Ruth in *A Marriage of Inconvenience*, Melanie in *Chalkface* (BBC), Julie in *Rhinoceros* and Christine in *Always and Everyone* (both Granada Television). She is best known for her role as Dr Kate Rowan, the local GP in the popular tv series *Heartbeat*. Her film appearances include Denise in *Lucky Sunil*, Clara in *Paris by Night* and Clara in *Under the Sun*.

Niamh’s recent stage performances include *Breathing Corpses* at the Royal Court Theatre, *His Dark Materials* at the National Theatre and *Mammals* at the Bush Theatre, London.

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Natasha Jouhl – soprano

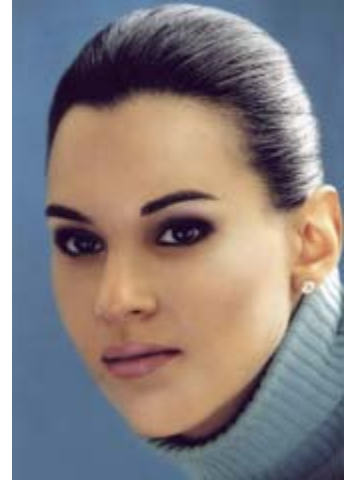


Photo by Andreas Llandino

Natasha was born in London in 1976 and moved to New York at the age of seven. She gained her BMus degree from the School in 1998 and continued her studies on the Opera Course, which she completed in 2001. Natasha won the Gold Medal Competition in 1999. Her roles at the School included Bernadette in the world premiere of Andrew Schultz's *Going into Shadows*, including a collaboration project in Brisbane, Australia, Lia in Debussy's *L'Enfant Prodigue* and the title role in Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Snowmaiden*. In 2002 she completed a year at the National Opera Studio. Natasha is presently studying privately with Susan McCulloch.

She has performed in masterclasses with Graham



Johnson, Iain Burnside and Sir Thomas Allen at the Royal Opera House. Oratorio performances include Handel's *Samson*, *Acis and Galatea* and *Messiah* at Arundel Cathedral, Haydn's *Creation* at St George's Chapel as part of the Windsor Festival, Schubert's *Mass in A Flat*, Faure's *Requiem* and Dvorak's *Requiem* for Goldsmiths Choral Union.

Her operatic roles include Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Papagena in *The Magic Flute* for Longborough Festival Opera, Rosalinda (Wexford Festival Opera) and Adele (Kentish Opera) in *Die Fledermaus*, Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* for the William Walton Foundation Actor-Singer course in Ischia and Elisetta in *The Secret Marriage*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, First Lady in *The Magic Flute* and First Wood Nymph in *Rusalka* for Opera North, and *Mélisande Pelléas and Mélisande* and the title role in *Rodelinda* (covers) for Glyndebourne.

Natasha recently performed in William Christie's Les Arts Florissants' Young Artists Programme *Le Jardin des Voix*, which included concert performances throughout Europe. Future plans include the cover of Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

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Simon Emes - oboe



Simon Emes was born in London and began his musical education as a chorister at St. Pauls Cathedral. He studied the oboe at the School where he won the Gold Medal in 1982. Simon has been Co-Principal Oboe with the Halle Orchestra, Solo Oboe with the Royal Danish Orchestra in Copenhagen, and Co-Principal Oboe with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra which he joined in 1986. He has also appeared as soloist with the orchestra. Simon is currently Principal Oboist with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. As a freelance player he has appeared as guest-principal oboe with the BBC Scottish, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

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Maria Radicheva - violin



Maria Radicheva studied violin at the School with the late Yfrah Neaman. She was the recipient of the 'Premiere Prix' Diploma from the School.

Maria has been met with critical acclaim as recitalist and guest soloist in major concert halls throughout Europe including Paris, Vienna, London, Geneva and Rome. In the United States, she has performed at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City, Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC as well as in Dallas, Houston and other cities. A frequent guest at summer festivals, Maria has attended those of Aspen and Marlboro.

Maria Radicheva presented her New York recital debut in 1987 at Merkin Concert Hall as winner of the National Federation of Music Clubs Competition. She has been an adjunct professor at NYU Department of Music.



Maria is visiting violin specialist at Montclair State University, and is currently on the violin faculties of Manhattan School of Music, and Mannes College of Music, and is Programme Director of Summer Chamber Music Retreats at Vassar College.

'An artist of outstanding and exceptional talent' - Yehudi Menuhin

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News of former students



Camilla Roberts represented Wales in the BBC Singer of the World Competition in Cardiff. The competition was broadcast on BBC2, BBC4 and Radio 3.



Joby Talbot

Composer **Joby Talbot's** piece *Vanishing Point* for violin and

piano was premiered by Laura Samuel at the Wigmore Hall. Joby is writing a trumpet concerto for **Alison Balsom**, to be premiered by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Turku Philharmonic and Munich Chamber Orchestra in Autumn 2006.



Nathan Berg

Nathan Berg performed the role of Alidoro in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* at Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

Jonathan Beatty won the Accompanist's Prize at the 2005 Kathleen Ferrier Awards.

Kate Royal performed the role of First Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* Glyndebourne Festival Opera. She also performed the role of Iris in Handel's *Semele* for Scottish Opera.

'The hugely promising Kate Royal – winner of the 2004 Ferrier Award – makes a striking Iris.' Hugh Canning, Sunday Times

Sa Chen won third prize in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Texas.



Fay Ripley

Fay Ripley played Sam Phillips and **Max Beesley** played Jake in the critically acclaimed BBC series *Hustle*.

Hanna Barrie played Cecily in the *Importance of Being Earnest* at the Greenwich Theatre, London.

Dame Eileen Atkins played the role of Meg in the critically acclaimed production of Pinter's *The Birthday Party* at the Duchess Theatre, London. *'Atkins is extraordinary as Meg, the smothering landlady who presides over these dingy seaside digs'*. Michael Billington, The Guardian

Rhys Ifans won the Best Actor BAFTA for his remarkable performance as Peter Cook in the Channel 4 drama *Not Only But Always*. *"I was a fan of Peter Cook, I was frightened of doing this role, I turned it down several times, but was finally persuaded by the writer and director of the film."* Rhys Ifans

Lesley Sharp played Laura Mayfield and **Lennie James** played Errol Bridges in *Born*

With *Two Mothers* a compelling Channel 4 drama about the emotional trauma caused by an IVF mix-up.

'*Lesley Sharp is one of the most intelligently empathetic actresses on television*'. Mark Lawson, Guardian



Julia McKenzie

Julia McKenzie starred in the stage production of the *Philadelphia Story* at the Old Vic, London.

Reflections on Liszt

Former student Alan Walker is the author of a new publication, *Reflections on Liszt*, published by Cornell University. It is a major contribution to the study of music history, and has already garnered considerable praise by scholars in the field.

Cornell University Press
ISBN: 0-8014-4363-6
Price: £21.95

Alan Walker is Professor Emeritus of Music at McMaster University, Canada, and author of numerous books, including *The Death of Franz Liszt, Franz Liszt: The Virtuoso Years, 1811-*

1847 (volume 1), The Weimar Years, 1848-1861 (volume 2), and The Final Years, 1861-1886 (volume 3), all from Cornell. He has been awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Prize and the medal Pro Cultura Hungarica, presented by the President of Hungary.

Success at the Classical Brit Awards

Sir James Galway won the Outstanding Contribution to Music Award. **Bryn Terfel** won the Male Artist of the Year Award. **Sally Matthews** was nominated for the Young Classical Performer of the Year Award.

Mostly Mozart at the Barbican

Mark Stone sang in the *A to Z of Mozart Opera*. **Alice Coote** sang in the performance of Mozart's *Requiem* and in the Overture and Ballet Music from *Idomeneo*. **Sally Matthews** sang in the performance of *Exsultate Jubilate*.

Sally Matthews's performance of Exsultate Jubilate, with her lustrous soprano polished, agile and unerringly expressive, was a blissful journey into seventh heaven. Geoffrey Norris, Daily Telegraph

The Orchestra of the Swan

Dobrinka Tabokova was commissioned to compose a new piece as part of the Orchestra of the Swan project celebrating the 100th anniversary of Sir Michael Tippett's birth. This commitment to developing new talent is also reflected in a long-standing collaboration with the School's Composition Department. Thanks to the orchestra's association with the School's Head of Composition, **Julian Phillips**, five students' works have been workshopped and recorded by the orchestra. The Orchestra of the Swan celebrated its 10th anniversary by launching an annual prize for the best piece by a student studying at the Guildhall School – won by Colomina I Bosch's *The Blue Flask*.

Alumni updates

Leonie Anderson (née Gershon) PDOT 1984-1986 (viola)

I'm still playing and teaching the viola. I am Chair of London Centre and on the management committee for ESTA British Branch, so hope to see a few more Guildhall students, past and present, at ESTA events!

Stuart Crane

Since leaving GSMD I spent a short time as a member of the stage LX crew at the Palladium before moving to the Donmar Warehouse where I spent 10 years as Chief Electrician, working on over 100 shows. I moved across the Thames in August 2004 to the Old Vic Theatre, where I am currently touring, and have worked extensively as Prod LX on Labour Party conferences and events Head of Lighting. During those years I have also worked as a Production Electrician on many shows. Recently voted ABTT 'Technician of the Year 2005'.

Jackie Downey Acting 1997-1980

I am still an actress, with a marvellous London agent, and I teach as well. Just done a tele job for Channel 4. I really enjoyed my time at Guildhall.

Honoka Fujita (Cello BMus 1991-1995, AIS 1995-1999) Arisa Fujita (Violin BMus 1991-1995, AIS 1995- 1999)

Members of Fujita Piano Trio, which made its debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1999. Made two CDs as a Trio (Takemitsu & Tchaikovsky). Arisa made her solo debut at the Wigmore Hall

in 2003, and released her debut CD of Ysaye sonatas this year. Arisa currently teaches violin at the Guildhall School. Website: www.fujitapianotrio.com

Gill Gordon (née Hollands) Singing & Piano 1969-1973

I have been reading the recent newsletter you distributed and am writing to inform you of what I am currently doing and also Rae de Lisle, who was a contemporary of mine in the early 70s. I studied singing with Noelle Barker and piano with Bridgette Wild.

Rae came to Guildhall on a bursary from New Zealand in 1969 and studied piano with Bridgette Wild. When she returned to NZ, after continuing her studies with Maria Curcio and Cyril Smith, she became an established concert pianist in the southern hemisphere and was part of a renowned chamber ensemble, the Zelasny Ensemble.

At the same time she trained in teaching piano by Suzuki method, for which she is now one of the top teacher trainers. She had tendon problems even when at Guildhall, and seven years ago, had to stop playing professionally due to RSI. She has continued as a top piano teacher at Auckland University and this year one of her students, at the age of 18, won the prestigious Sydney International Piano Competition. On a visit to New Zealand in 2003, Rae

suggested to me that I should learn Suzuki method, so I have begun the course in England, taking my level one qualification in April this year and currently studying for levels 2 & 3.

I have had 14 years away from teaching music, which was what I did after leaving Guildhall in 1973 and am just rebuilding my practice, having dropped out of the business training world. The Suzuki method is a whole new dimension in teaching, which I find very effective in working with very young children. There is currently no brass Suzuki method, so following completion of my piano studies, I am about to embark in my mid-50s on an MA, with development of Suzuki method for brass as my dissertation material. I already have a four-year old "guinea pig", whose mother, a Suzuki flute teacher, is able to work in the appropriate style with me, so I will have some ground work already in place when I am ready to start the course.

Carl Halling Acting 1978-1979

I have acted with Barrie Stacey Promotions, Bristol Old Vic, Old Vic, London, Phoenix Theatre, Gate Theatre, Jacksons Lane, Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, Rose and Crown and Tristan Bates. I've also modelled, taught, worked as ASM, singing voice-over, had my own comedy and cabaret act, been in several

bands, including Nuages (www.nuages.co.uk). Still an active actor but also much into music and song writing right now, rehearsing with a new band, of my own songs and standards for a CD. Gave up the wild life and became a Christian in 1993. More info from: profiles.yahoo.com/carlroberthalling or hometown.aol.com/carlhalling

Guy & Nicky (née McRoy) Hargreaves
Acting 1991-1994

Married in 1999 and now have two children – Evie (3½) and Christo (1).

George Hlawiczka
Violin 1995-1998

Member of the English Chamber Orchestra, Music Director *I Maestri* (a conducting academy orchestra) and Fellow at Aspen American Academy of Conducting 2000.

Elly Hurren (known as Eloise/Elly Roberts whilst a student)
AGSM 1990-1994
Performance & Communication Skills 1995-1996

I enjoyed many years of professional singing work when I left the Guildhall, some of my most recent work to date having

been with The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, at The Savoy Theatre in the Strand, and in-between my singing I have worked in offices, my most current position being as a coordinator within the training department for a large international charity for the last year and a half.

Chantal Kielich
Acting 1977-1978

Chantal Kielich would like to contact former Guildhall drama students from her time at the School. If any former students who graduated between 1977 and 1979 are in touch with Emma Rogers, Nicholas Reader, Tony Fragar, Alan Palanski, Stella Goodier and Judy Ron, please could you contact the Guildhall School Office (tel no: 0207 382 7157 or email

charity@gsmd.ac.uk). Chantal sent in the following piece about her life since leaving the School.

After leaving Guildhall in July 1978, I married a Greek Naval Officer and spent the next six years working with him on a luxury cruise ship doing worldwide cruises. We then made our home in Athens where we started our family. I began to teach drama in the English language to Greek children as a form of their learning English through theatre. For the past fifteen years, I have been working with numerous publishing companies as a voice actress for English language

videos, cassettes, DVDs and CD/CD ROM, as well as reading audio classical literature for the above- mentioned. Therefore, as you can see, I have put my training at the Guildhall to good use. Although I only completed the first year of the Associate Professional Acting Course, the Guildhall, being internationally renowned, has opened doors many times for me through the years.

I have many fond memories of Guildhall and feel quite honoured that I was able to attend such an institution. As the years have passed I have often thought of my fellow-students and wondered what became of them.

Mark Letheren
Acting 1989-1992

Guildhall gave me a great start and I have since made a great career in theatre, television and film. Interviews with Parkinson still elude me (unlike some other Guildhall graduates), but I live in hope and it's good to have a goal!

Teresa McElroy
Acting 1984-1987

A lot of theatre, some tv and film, voice-overs. Devise and facilitate workshops for teachers for NT education. Married and have 15-month- old son.

Guy Parry
Acting 1991-1994

Theatre includes: *Macbeth*, Salisbury Playhouse, *Three Sisters*, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Eric Birling in Stephen Daldry's production of *An Inspector Calls*, Aldwych Theatre, Australian tour & Vienna International, *Dissident: Goes Without Saying*, Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond, London French Theatre Festival, *Mohicans*, Birmingham Repertory Theatre studio and tour, Oswald in *Ghosts*, the King's Head Theatre, Islington, London, Liz in *Liars*, Oxford, *The Bacchae*, directed by Bill T Jones for the RSC at The Other Place, Stratford. For Northern Broadsides Theatre Company (international tours) : Prince/Murderer, *Richard III*, John the Baptist, *The Mysteries* (Millennium), Conrade, *Much Ado About Nothing*, Dauphin, *Henry V*, Shafton, *A Woman Killed With Kindness*, Angelo, *Comedy of Errors* and Thomas in *Sweet William* by Alan Plater, all directed by Barrie Rutter. TV includes *Wire in the Blood*, *Beneath the Skin*, Roland in *Mile High*, Jay Rodgers in *Coronation Street*, *Cold Feet*, Dr Neil Kelly in *Brookside*, *Casualty*, *Emmerdale*, *My Wonderful Life*, *City Central*, *Hollyoaks*, *Agony*, *Stake*, and Uri Gagarin in *Starman*. Radio includes *A Raging Calm* (Radio 4).

Douglas Payne
Piano Teachers' Course
1948-1950

Principal, Harewood School of Music 1950-1963, Principal, Almondbury Adult Education Centre, 1964-1968, East Surrey Institute of Further Education, 1968-1972, State Director of Adult Education Tasmania 1972-1976, Regional Chief Officer, WEA South, 1977-1987, retired, part-time teaching and lecturing.

Kamolvan Punyashthiti
GGSM 1967-1970

At that time the School was in John Carpenter Street. It has been a long time since I contacted my friends in England. Now that I have settled down and have more time in each day I would like to get in touch with the people I knew at GSMD. I would be most grateful if you could help me contact my former classmates and teachers. My piano teacher was Mr Cecil Belcher, my flute teacher was Miss Averil Williams, other teachers were Mr Harold Dexter, Miss Lewis (passed away), Mr Wilson, Yfrah Neaman and Mrs Grindear. My classmates were Margaret Archebald, Irene Steadman, Jackie Lester, Madelene Tate-Richardson (passed away) and John York.

I teach piano privately and I also write music for a TV programme for children. I am also the

Honorary Secretary of the Bangkok Chopin Society which is a member of the International Federation of Frederic Chopin Societies in Warsaw. There will be the Seventh Bangkok Chopin Piano Competition in October this year. The three international members of jury will be represented by Poland, Australia and Hong Kong.

Please could you contact Mark Davies in the Trust Office (tel no: 0207 382 2325 or email mark.davies@gsm.ac.uk) if you would like to get in touch with Kamolvan Punyashthiti.

Susan Rawlings
(née Chambers)
Voice 1980-1983

Still singing as much as I can, although being a director of my own company (specialising in regeneration consultancy) and having two teenagers curtails it a bit! I raise a lot of money for various charities through concert work, run a singing group for young offenders at the local institute and do loads of amateur dramatic shows. Glad to say that both of the children have got good voices and play instruments and have caught the music bug.

Jennifer Wiltsie
Acting 1986-1990

Very fortunate to have made a living acting and singing. Theatre and TV in London before moving to New York. Some plays

there, more telly and film. Back in London now, after 12 years away, but on a break as recently gave birth to second child.

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2004 Acting Graduates

The following update features the acting students who graduated in July 2004.

Peter Barrett

Wire In The Blood, The Bill, Murder City II (ITV), *Casualty, Dalziel and Pascoe* (BBC)

Samantha Bloom

Pride and Prejudice (film)

Kristen Bush

Returned to work in USA

Georgina Cooke

The Snow Queen (Working Space Theatre), voiceover work for Civic Trust Awards and commercials.

Michelle Dockery

The UN Inspector, Henry IV parts 1 and 2, His Dark Materials (All RNT), *Fingersmith* (BBC)

Laura Elphinstone

Breathing Corpses and Country Music (both at Royal Court), *Cut By The White, Seduced By The Red* (Soho Theatre), *Writers' Workshop* (RNT)

Wela Frasier

The Baker's Abjection (film); *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* (West End), *Transmissions* (Birmingham Rep)

Kris Gummerus

Theatre in Education in Spain

Curtis Jordan

Lysistrata (Camden People's Theatre), *Close Encounters* (English Chamber Orchestra's Outreach Programme)

Laura Lee

Heaven (Film), *Close Encounters* (English Chamber Orchestras Outreach Programme)

Sergio Matamala

Play The Game (Zum Zum Theatre, tour of Spain)

Thomas Morrison

Kes, On the Shore of the Wide World (Royal Exchange Manchester), Danny in *Blackpool* (series), *Holby City, Oddsquad* (BBC)

Luke Neal

Love From Colditz (ITV)

Thomas Padden

Lady in the Van (Bath Theatre Royal and National Tour), *The Winter's Tale* and *Troilus and Cressida* (Shakespeare's Globe)

Matthew Parish

Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, Joey in *Road* (Mercury, Colchester)

Clifford Samuel

Julius Caesar and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (RSC, Stratford and USA)

Esther Shanson

Vesta Tilley in *A Little Bit of What You Fancy* (Wilton's Music Hall), *The Snow Queen* (Barbican), Professional Diploma in Dance Studies (Laban)

Eliot Shrimpton

Winner of Lilian Baylis Award 2004, Performance Art Installation (Tate Modern), Shakespeare scenes (Middlesex University MA Directing Programme)

Laurence Spellman

The Libertine (film); *Anthony and Cleopatra* (Royal Exchange, Manchester), lead in *Charley's Aunt* (Northcott, Exeter)

William Woods

Telstar (New Vic/Tour), *Where the Heart is* (ITV)

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The 2005 City of London Festival

A number of current and former students took part in this year's City of London Festival with a diverse series of events in venues throughout the City. Vocal students performed *The Chicks*, five miniature operas which they composed and developed with John Fulljames from the Opera Group. **Susan Bickley** sang at St Giles, Cripplegate, the programme included Weill's *Berlin Songs* and Mahler's *Five Rückert-Lieder*. **Ailish Tynan** sang Ravel's *Chansons Madécasses* and *Gaspard de la Nuit* at Skinners' Hall. The world première of **Joby Talbot's** new work, *Path of Miracles*, was performed by Tenebrae, at St Bartholomew-the-Great. Tenebrae are one of the leading

professional chamber choirs in Britain. The piece celebrates the experience of the yearly pilgrimage to the great cathedral of Santiago de Compostella, undertaken since medieval times across northern Spain.



We are pleased to announce that *Connecting Arts* won the 2005 Deutsche Bank Pyramid Award. *Connecting Arts* is a new and vibrant group of performers, which incorporates a film, symphonic and chamber orchestra and brass and woodwind ensembles. They aim to collaborate with visual artists and dancers at their concert performances and will also undertake a series of film music concert in schools. *Connecting Arts* was founded by recent music graduates **Simon Sturgeon-Clegg, Christopher Lund** and **Amy Wetmore**. They won £8000 to set up their company, together with business mentoring and an intensive business course. Watch this space for news about their concerts.

MUSIC & SINGING AWARDS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Ivan Kiuwua** (Pianist) who won 1st Prize in the Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition.

Congratulations to **Sophie Roberts** (actress) who won the Carleton Hobbs Competition which includes a six-month contract with BBC Radio Drama. Congratulations to **Martin Sturfalt** (Piano Fellow) who won the Terence Judd Award. The prize includes concerts with the Halle Orchestra and a recital at the Bridgewater Hall.

Congratulations to **Ian Ryan** who has been awarded the 2005-06 Scottish Opera / RSAMD Repetiteur Fellowship. Congratulations to **Andrzej Zawiska** who won the 7th Broadwood Harpsichord Competition.

Congratulations to **Evelina Puzaite** (piano) and **Ivan Kiuwua** (piano) who have been awarded solo Purcell Room recitals next season, following the recent Martin Musical Scholarship Auditions. **Evelina Puzaite** also won the Maisie Lewis Young Artist Fund.

Congratulations to **Nerys Brown** who won first prize in the 19-25 age category of the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

Rising Star Anna Stéphaney



Anna Stéphaney - winner of the 2005 Kathleen Ferrier Award and the Gold Medal Competition

It has been a tremendously successful year for Anna Stéphaney who graduates from the Opera Course in July 2005. Anna is a remarkably gifted mezzo soprano who won the Kathleen Ferrier Award the week before winning the School's Gold Medal Competition. Anna has gained a place at the National Opera Studio for 2005-06 and starts in September.

**Patsy Rodenburg
awarded OBE**



We are delighted to report that Patsy Rodenburg, Head of Voice at the School, was awarded an OBE in the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours list. Patsy has been Head of Voice at the School since 1981 and at the Royal National Theatre since 1990. She has been voice tutor at the Royal Shakespeare Company and works regularly with many other major international theatre companies, including the Almeida Theatre, Shared Experience, Cheek-by-Jowl, Théâtre de Complicité and the Donmar Warehouse. Patsy Rodenburg’s principal achievement has been in the training of actors for speaking Shakespeare for which she has given her all. She has an exceptional depth and breadth of experience in enabling actors to tackle this most difficult of tasks. She has shared her experience and methods unselfishly and has

disseminated her advice through four major books: *The Right to Speak* (1992), *The Need for Words* (1993), *The Actor Speaks* (1997) and *Speaking Shakespeare* (2002). In consequence, Patsy Rodenburg’s lead has been followed in many parts of the world.

Patsy has played a significant part in enhancing Britain’s enviable reputation for the quality of its theatre and its training for the performing arts. The great cultural institutions such as the RNT, the RSC and the Guildhall School, are central to sustaining this reputation and in delivering, through our cultural institutions, the economic and social benefits which profit the UK as a whole. But the most important resource are talented young people, and Patsy’s work in developing the best acting talent makes her a vital ambassador for the UK and its culture. It is no exaggeration to say that very many of the actors who speak Shakespeare well on stage do so in consequence of her support and advice.

Patsy Rodenburg on her award:

‘It’s a great honour to be recognised for something one loves doing and is passionate about’.

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**Reflections from
Hilaire Benbow, MBE,
DSC**

We pleased to reproduce the following letter from Hilaire Benbow about his close association with the School.

‘Now 80 years of age, I am delighted still to have the privilege of attending stage performances at the Guildhall School, which I have been doing since 1947 when the School was situated in John Carpenter Street, and to admire the versatility of the students as they pass through their courses. As a member of the Town Clerk’s Office at Guildhall for 44½ years, I used to write the fair copy of the Music Committee Minutes in ox gare (record ink) in the Minute Book in the early 1940s before joining the Navy, and remember Sir Henry Kimber, founder of the School’s Gold Medal Awards, before he left the Corporation in 1949 after a membership of 50 years.

In the late 1950s and early 60s, I was responsible for the booking of the Guildhall for functions by outside bodies, subject to the approval of the City Lands Committee. One of our frequent applicants was Mr du Pré, a professional conference organiser, who would apply on behalf of such organisations as the Milk Marketing Board, and would end our telephone conversations by telling me, with

considerable pride, of the latest achievements and engagements of his daughter, Jaqueline.

With all good wishes for the continuing prosperity of the School in its 125th year.'

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CALLING ALL ALUMNI

We are very keen to hear from former students – please keep in touch and let us know your news.

**PLEASE CONTACT
THE ALUMNI OFFICE**

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