A FESTIVAL OF NEW WRITING FROM HIDDEN STUDENT TALENT
CORRUPT ACADEMICS | DYSTOPIAN UTOPIAS | STUBBORN SALESMEN
SMALL-TALKING SPIRITS | FALSE MEMORIES | A FLAMING CIRCUS

LONDON
STUDENT DRA MA
FESTIVAL

UNCOVERING THE
BEST OF LONDON
STUDENT THEATRE

Programme
5th, 6th & 13th March 2016
MESSAGE FROM
THE ORGANISERS

The London Student Drama Festival (LSDF) began in 2013 in order to provide a platform for the fantastic theatre created in London universities. London is globally renowned for its theatre. And yet the voice of untried, experimental new writing is often drowned out by the booming noise of London’s big theatres. Our festival aims to throw light on some of the most outstanding original student work created in the capital, and give this work a platform for industry exposure.

The festival has grown considerably in the past four years. Starting life as a student-led event in UCL’s Bloomsbury Theatre in 2013, LSDF saw four shows competing on one night. This year we invite eight drama societies to compete over three nights at two different professional venues.

Our aim is that LSDF will provide a platform from which student writers, directors, actors, and designers, all replete with ideas and passion, can start their journey towards professionalism. That which makes this journey possible is the support of the special guests we have invited over the years. In 2013 we invited Susan Vidler, Rob Watt and Andrew Tidmarsh. 2014 saw Ian Rickson, Lesley Manville, and Christopher Campbell. Last year, Ella Hickson, Tim McMullan, Barney Norris, and Richard Goulding provided some excellent feedback to all the students involved. This year we are honoured to welcome Henry David, Jessica Edwards, and Isobel David to Student Central, and Bola Agbaje, Felicity Dean, and Tom Coxon to the Pleasance.

In 2015 the London Student Drama Festival began working with Student Central, who have enabled the festival to grow to the heights it is at today. A huge thanks must be given to Allan Adams and his team. A further thanks to Rob Thomson for helping to establish LSDF, to Sophie Vellacott for helping it evolve, and to Katherine Higgs and Julia McGill for making it look so good.

We hope you enjoy the shows and that you’ll join us again next year.

Eoin and Josie
MESSAGE FROM
STUDENT CENTRAL, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The London Student Drama Festival is one of those events where it would be correct to say, “from little acorns grow big trees”. From an idea to offer a group of aspiring students the opportunity to write original scripts and to perform on stage, to the resulting vast collaborative effort that is LSDF today.

LSDF has grown into what it is today through merging with the University of London Theatre Project at the Fuel Arts Festival in 2015. This year we see the full emergence of the LSDF with representation from UCL, King’s, LSE, Goldsmiths, Imperial, Royal Holloway, Queen Mary and the University of London Theatre Project (comprised of students from various colleges).

The LSDF is about student involvement, displaying student talent and encouraging cross-London student participation in the arts. Here at Student Central London, we actively encourage the enhancement of student life. We aim to make the festival bigger and better each year, so please take the time to come along and support the amazing work created by our students.

Allan Adams

Student Activities and Ent. Manager
Student Central, University of London
Running Order
5th March

7:00 INTRODUCTION
7:10 UCL NO ONE LIED
7:45 LSE CONVENIENCE

Interval

8:50 QUEEN MARY JELLYFISH

Short Break

9:45 JUDGES’ FEEDBACK
Running Order
6th March

7:00 INTRODUCTION
7:10 GOLDSMITHS GRANDAD DIED
7:45 IMPERIAL NEET

Interval

8:30 KCL MERITOCRACY
9:10 ROYAL HOLLOWAY WHAT COMES NEXT
9:45 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON DRAMA SOCIETY
   WILL THE WORLD GO SILENT WHEN YOU DIE?

Short Break

10:30 JUDGES’ FEEDBACK
ISOBEL DAVID

Isobel graduated from the Stage One Apprenticeship programme in 2015, a scheme which offers unique hands-on training for outstanding entrepreneurial individuals on West End productions. West End productions she has worked on include *Guys and Dolls* (Savoy & Tour), and *The Railway Children* (King’s Cross Theatre).

Her own company, Fight in the Dog, recently put on a production of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* at King’s Cross Theatre with a cast consisting solely of comedians. Isobel was also co-founder of Strip Theatre, a new-writing company responsible for fringe successes such as *Principal Parts* (Edinburgh Fringe, Curtain’s Up and Network Theatre, 2011), *Jesus II* (White Bear Theatre, 2011) and *Prayer Meeting* (Brighton Fringe, 2012).

**JUDGES** 5th and 6th March at Student Central

Over these two evenings, eight theatre companies will compete for a place at the final at the Pleasance theatre on the 13th March. Our guest judges will choose four pieces to progress to the final. The finalists will be announced via social media on the morning of 7th March.
JESSICA EDWARDS

Jessica is a freelance director and Artistic Director of Flipping the Bird. She read English at Oxford and trained with Theatre Royal Bath and Les Enfants Terribles as Resident Assistant Director. Recent directing includes: *The Late Mr. Shakespeare* (R&D with RSC); *The Cherry Orchard* (The Rose Bruford). Recent associate directing includes: *The Bull* (Young Vic); *Bakkhai* (Almeida Theatre); *King Charles III* (Almeida/Wyndham’s/UK Tour). Currently associate directing: *Doctor Faustus* (Jamie Lloyd Company / Duke of York’s); *The Maids* (Jamie Lloyd Company / Trafalgar Studios).

HENRY DAVID

Henry David is a writer and Renaissance man. His play credits include: *Principal Parts, Perfect Corpse* and *Jesus 2*. Screenwriting: *Undercover, Once Upon a Time in Sarajevo, Where Seagulls Dare*. Television: *Catcher*, one episode of *Holby City*. Writer in residence at the Print Room Theatre. Founder and member of Hotrocs (supporting Willie Nelson 2017).
Our three distinguished guests will allocate the following awards: ‘Best Individual Performance’ (a headshot session courtesy of Alishia Love Headshots); ‘Best Writing’ (a meeting with multi award-winning playwright Simon Stephens); ‘Best Design’ (a meeting with the designer of Pins and Needles Productions, Zoe Squire); and a ‘Special Mention’ prize (two tickets to see Sunny Afternoon / Harold Pinter Theatre).
FELICITY DEAN

Felicity Dean is an actress who has been critically acclaimed both here and in America. She is a theatre award nominee (Critics Circle award Masha /The Three Sisters) and has worked extensively in theatre including both the RSC and the NT. Her film and television credits are far reaching, including playing opposite Michael Caine in *The Whistleblower*, being hand-picked by Dame Rebecca West to play the lead Laura Bowen in an adaptation of her novel *The Birds Fall Down*, and working in popular episodic drama, *Midsomer Murders*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, and *Casualty*, among others.

TOM COXON

Having completed a degree in Architecture at Central Saint Martins, Tom now works as a freelance Set Designer and Theatre Maker. Tom is the co-Artistic director of withWings Theatre Company, of which he is a founding member. He has also recently worked for the National Theatre, National Trust, and Rift theatre company. Tom has received an individual award from the Sunday Times for ‘Spirit of Invention’.
UCL NO ONE LIED

Following a traumatic event eight years previously, three siblings meet up to discuss their pasts. As each are detrimentally changed by the experience, tensions rise and questions are asked of one another as it becomes clear they each remember the event differently. No One Lied explores memory and false memory. Is it better to remember the bad, or replace it with the good?

Sophie Mercedes Bromwich
Dan Lovis Maurer
Emma Avy Tennison

Writer/Director Phoebe Benfield
Assistant Director Rita Sijelmass
Designer Judith Gerstenkorn
Producer Tara Carlin

LSE CONVENIENCE

Robert returns home from a long trip abroad to find two salesmen in his living room. He finds out that a law has been passed, allowing salesmen to enter anyone’s home at any time and try and sell them things. Now, Robert must live with the salesmen, while they try and sell him their inscrutable “product”.

Robert Nikhil Parmer
Dan Ben Chua
Trini Celine Buckens

Writer/Director Scott Hunter
Designer Anna Diamond
Producer Alice Harrison

QUEEN MARY JELLYFISH

On a dark, stormy night, a grandfather plays cards with his Grandson. It’s the last night of Grandfather’s life, and Grandson has come to pay his respects. However, this is no time for tea and biscuits… and Grandfather isn’t going down without a fight.

Grandfather Jack Ridley
Grandson Sam Woodyatt

Writer Reece Connolly
Director Emily Collins
Designer Patrick Balcombe
Producer Georgia Moorhouse
Lesley Manville and Ian Rickson at LSDF 2014

Rehearsals for UCL’s 2016 entry No One Lied

Queen Mary’s 2016 entry Jellyfish

UCL’s 2015 entry The Parting Glass
GOLDSMITHS GRANDAD DIED

Set in a post-apocalyptic dystopia, Grandad Died follows two men’s thought process in what seems like purgatory. Aaron and Brian await the arrival of their friend Mary and contemplate both the society in which they live, and whether they should try and escape.

Brian: Stephen Caswell
Aaron: Jeremy Franklin
Wendy: Cydney Wood
Mary: Laurie Ogden

Writer: Henry Asplin
Directors: Henry Asplin & Theo Mason Wood
Stage Manager: Lewis Kirk Patrick
Set Designer: Courtney Paige McMahon
Costume Designer: Kaela Pereira

IMPERIAL NEET

Adam struggles. Living in a closed off world of his own making, the lines between reality and fantasy are all too easily blurred. NEET offers a peek into the life of a young man on the fringe of society, and asks if the harsh realities of the world leave any room for daydreamers.

Nate: Ben O’Malley
Boy: Nathan Patel
Girl: Olivia Gatliff
Patrick: Conall O’Neill
Cara: Helen Root

Writer: Aslan Sayfimehr
Directors: Erick Hinds-Mingo & Steven Kingaby
Producer: Agnes Donnelly

ROYAL HOLLOWAY WHAT COMES NEXT

Two people meet in the waiting room of the afterlife. One is a twenty-year-old student. The other is a banker in his forties. They start by making small talk, but as the conversation progresses they reveal more and more about themselves and what led them to end up in this waiting room.

Greg: Kieran Salmon
Adam: Matty Sheen

Writer: Gerogina Marsay
Director: Rebecca Hasslegard
Production Team: Drew Rae Tucker, Jeannie Fong, Maddie Oslejsek
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON THEATRE PROJECT
WILL THE WORLD GO SILENT WHEN YOU DIE?

Ember Valley was a peaceful place based on trade, where crime never happened until an item was stolen. Two are accused but who really did it? Who did it? This piece is about betrayal, mistrust and love. Follow the journey of discovery as we uncover the truth when as we piece together the fragmented Ember Valley.

Rose Kiri Sampson
Samantha Maxine Stephanie Lee
Viola Giulia Marzuoli
Tyler Shaun Jackson
Charlotte Billie Puyat
Tony Jaime Espinella Garcia
Marty Adrian Doorn
Jenny Shauna
Sarah Kirsty Doig
Jason Arjun Takhar
Liam Alessio Papa

Writers Andrew Marks & Alex Morris
Director Andrew Marks
Producer Alex Morris

The University of London Theatre Project is comprised of students from all over London’s universities. The majority of the actors and production team come from universities that do not have a drama society of their own. The UL Theatre Project began in 2014 with the objective of creating a project that widened student participation, creating a collaborative group made of diverse students. The crux of the UL Theatre Project is the belief that productions should be created by the all members of the society.
Over the years LSDF has provided the opportunity for writers, directors, actors, and designers to engage with the professional world of theatre. Not only has it given students confidence to pursue their own projects, but it has also provided exposure to those who have already carved out their careers in theatre.

Andrew Marks KCL

“At the London Student Drama Festival 2015, I played the Archangel Uriel in King’s *The Ascension of Mrs. Leech*. After receiving a very warm reception at the festival, we decided to take our efforts to the Edinburgh Fringe, where we received five-star reviews from Broadway Baby and FringeGuru and regularly sold-out throughout our month-long run.

‘…it has inspired me to pursue many of my own projects more seriously…’

My experience throughout the six months of work on *The Ascension of Mrs. Leech* inspired me to co-write *Meritocracy*, which will play at the LSDF this year. For me, the London Student Drama Festival was an incredible jumping-off point, from which I have had the opportunity to gain experience in all aspects of producing theatre, and it has inspired me to pursue many of my own projects more seriously. I am currently producing and directing King’s first improvised show for EdFringe 2016 through Running-a-Mock Improv and perform with Story Kitchen Impro, London’s official Theatresports improvisation team.”
“London Student Drama Festival 2015 motivated me to write Save + Quit, a play about two lonely Londoners who talk to the audience about the days leading up to when their paths first cross. The judges, Barney Norris, Tim McMullan and Ella Hickson, were incredibly helpful both in terms of feedback about the piece itself and advice on how to pursue a career in writing. ‘I got my first proper playwriting job through the magical wonder that is LSDF.’

Barney and I have stayed in touch and he has commissioned my first full-length play that will have a rehearsed reading at the Oxford Playhouse this Easter. I got my first proper playwriting job through the magical wonder that is LSDF. Ella Hickson, despite meeting me almost a year ago, still makes time to read drafts of my work and offer words of wisdom when the going gets tough. ‘I’ve even launched my own theatre company…’

LSDF is the reason why Save + Quit will be on at The Cockpit Theatre in May and have a run at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. I’ve even launched my own theatre company (Hairpin Productions - follow us @hairpinprod) because of the support and advice I received at the festival last year.

I can’t stress enough how brilliant a platform it is for anyone wanting to pursue a career in theatre. It’s bigger and better this year and I urge everyone to make the most out of this incredible opportunity.”
Alishia Love Headshots is proud to sponsor the ‘Best Individual Performance’ Prize at LSDF, offering the winner one headshot session worth £150. Take a look at previous testimonials from Agents and Actors…

What is it I look for when recommending a headshot photographer? I look for a professional shot with a professional service. I look for someone that has proven that their headshot increases the audition rates for my clients. I look for someone who always goes the extra mile. Alishia truly knows what is required to achieve all of this. My clients only speak highly of her personal approach, she is flexible and affordable. Most importantly her headshots increase auditions rates. Thank you Alishia!

Sam Connor - Agent at Connor Management

Wonderful shoot with Alisha. Made to feel very calm and relaxed. The shoot was fun and direction all very clear. She listened to what I wanted from my shots and also gave some really great advice and pointers. So impressed with my shots, would 100% go back to her again.

Please visit www.alishialoveheadshots.com to see Alishia’s previous work.”
Simon Stephens is kindly sponsoring the ‘Best Writing’ prize, offering a meeting with the winning writer.

Simon is an internationally acclaimed, multi-award-winning playwright. He had success with his earlier plays Pornography (Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Hanover, 2007 and Edinburgh Festival / Birmingham Rep, 2008 and Tricycle Theatre, 2009) and Punk Rock (Lyric Hammersmith / Manchester Royal Exchange, 2009), which won the 2009 Manchester Evening News Award for Best Production.

His adaption of Mark Haddon’s novel The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time won the Oliver and Tony Awards for Best New Play (National Theatre, 2012; Apollo Theatre, 2013; Gielgud, 2014 – present; Barrymore Theatre in Broadway, 2015). His version of Brecht and Weill’s Threepenny Opera will open at the National in May 2016.

Other awards include the 2001 Pearson Award for Best Play for Port and the 2005 Olivier Award for Best New Play for On the Shore of the Wide World. Simon has won the Theater Heute’s Award for Motortown in 2007, Pornography in 2008 and Wastwater in 2011.

Simon is Artistic Associate at the Lyric Theatre and Associate Playwright at the Royal Court. He was also on the board for Paines Plough between 2009 and 2014, and was a Writers’ Tutor for the Young Writers’ Programme at the Royal Court between 2001 and 2005.
The designer of Pins and Needles Productions, Zoe Squire, is sponsoring our ‘Best Design’ prize, facilitating a meeting with the best designer.

Pins and Needles Productions is a visually stunning theatre company, founded by Zoe Squire and Emma Earle in 2009, whilst they were both training at Bristol Old Vic.

They have worked with Oliver Lansley and Les Enfants Terribles on Ernest and the Pale Moon, taking the show to Edinburgh in 2009, followed by a UK tour. They have designed and directed many Christmas shows including: The Elves and the Shoemakers (The Brewery (Tobacco Factory), 2010), Holly and Ivan’s Christmas Adventure (Lyric Hammersmith, 2011), Father Christmas (Lyric Hammersmith, 2011).

Pins and Needles are proud to be the Associate Company of the egg, Theatre Royal Bath. They have been involved in a number of projects with the egg, including staging Beasts and Beauties with their youth theatre, Treasure Island with a cluster of local schools, and Glengarry Glen Ross with their adult engagement strand Engage.
Our judges have a ‘Special Mention’ award to allocate courtesy of Sunny Afternoon. They have provided us with two tickets to see the award-winning musical about The Kinks.

Now booking in to 2016 for a second spectacular year!

Winner of the 2015 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, with Music and Lyrics by Ray Davies (Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music), a new Book by Joe Penhall and Direction by Edward Hall, Sunny Afternoon depicts the rise to stardom of The Kinks.

Set against the back-drop of a Britain caught mid-swing between the conservative 50s and riotous 60s, this production explores the euphoric highs and agonising lows of one of Britain’s most iconic bands and the irresistible music that influenced generations.

The Kinks exploded onto the 60’s music scene with a raw, energetic new sound that rocked a nation. But how did that happen, where exactly did they come from and what happened next?

If you are a student or young person save up to 64%! Band A tickets just £25 (usually up to £69.50).

Book your tickets now at www.sunnyafternoonthemusical.com

Tickets valid on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening performances, subject to availability. Tickets are collected at the Harold Pinter Theatre box office only and valid ID will need to be presented to prove that the customer is either a student or under 25 years old.