



CENTRESTAGE

School of Speech and Drama

July 2009



CENTRESTAGE
School of
Speech
and
Drama

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Many congratulations to all our senior pupils who have received outstanding results in April's LAMDA exams. With a tremendous amount of hard work from everyone, we are as ever, very proud of this year's results, and even more so of the many students who received merits and distinctions! Well done to everyone!

Special mention has to go to Junior speech who all received distinctions and also to the Broom family who all achieved distinctions, three of which were 90% or over! Well done Amelia, Elvie, Tilly and Patsy! Other higher achievers were Sophie Dunne, Milly Coleman, Rose McGoldrick, Emma Dunne, Calum Gill, Esther Norton, Alessandra Davison, Aoife O'Dowd and Riona O'Dowd, who all got distinctions of 88% or over!

As I write we're coming to the end of an exceptionally busy term, including performances from our junior and intermediate classes and acting examinations on July 12th.

The final Thursday classes at **CENTRESTAGE** are on 9th July; Junior and Intermediate classes finish their term on Saturday 11th July and Saturday Senior Drama finishes after classes on Saturday 18th July.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have taught or assisted at Centrestage this year and to Fiona for writing and editing this newsletter. Centrestage will re-open for the Autumn term on Thursday 10th and Saturday 12th September. Enjoy the summer!

Rebekah O'Dowd (CENTRESTAGE Principal)

Scheherazade

Saturday 11th July

CENTRESTAGE can sing! Belly Dancers, Arabian thieves, Sultans and Princesses... the Intermediate play *Scheherazade*, by Nick Perrin, is set to be a magical performance that really does justice to the talent abounding in Intermediate Drama.

Rebekah, Lauren, Helen and Amelia have worked like Trojans to make sure that the performance is the best it can possibly be. That's meant quite a few extra rehearsals to have those vocal chords tuned for 8 songs, and we'd like to say thank you to all the parents who have ferried and costumed our young actors!

Upstage to Perform A Midsummer Night's Dream

FOR the first time in **CENTRESTAGE** history, the Upper school will not be performing at Highbury in October ☹ due to a sad glitch in Highbury's annual timetable.

Consequently, we are planning to perform the Upstage play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Sutton Arts from the 6th to 10th January.

It is a play set in 1599 when freak weather conditions brought topsy-turvy weather in England, such as snow in Summer! So it's fitting that the Midsummer's Night play should be performed in the Winter.

Rebekah, Fiona and Lauren have been assisted by Heather Rowe in directing the restrictive world of Athenian law and the magical world of Fairies - but these are fairies with a difference! Energetic, mischievous sprites replace balletic dancers - watch

Movin' On Up

YOU should have received a letter about moving up. Any queries please phone Rebekah.

Welcome packs have been sent to new pupils on our waiting list. If you were expecting one but haven't received one, please get in touch, as classes for September are almost full.

We look forward to welcoming six new pupils in Junior Drama and two new pupils in Intermediate Drama.

Ten Juniors will move up to the big world of Intermediate and nine Intermediates will enter the Senior school in September.

We're looking forward to having you with us in September!

'The Clown Who Couldn't Smile'

Sunday 5th July

CENTRESTAGE's junior performance of the *Clown Who Wouldn't Smile*, by Alison Chaplin, is the first of its kind, being performed in the new St. Michael's Church hall, and it promises to be a very different experience this year.

The new refurbishment of St. Michael's hall has opened up many more staging opportunities, having said goodbye to the stage we were all used to.

Junior pupils have risen to the challenge however, performing 'in the round' so that it really feels like you are performing in a circus ring! With five teaching staff to the ready, the show is bursting with creativity and hard work.

Annabel does a great job of drawing in your attention as she announces all the many wonders that the juniors have turned themselves into: we have acrobats, strong men, lions tamers, (lions!), seals and of course some very mischievous clowns!

These ambitious characters have come with some pretty ambitious costumes too, so it's a huge thanks to all the parents who have hunted their closets for multiple colourful costumes!

With all those ballet lessons, it would be a shame to miss the acrobats' beautiful routines and there'll be plenty of banana peeling and water squirting going on, but will Lily as Bonzo the Clown ever get her smile back?

Recitals

SPEECH pupils may have done fantastically well in their April exams, but they have been back working very hard this term on group recitals.

The year 5s and 6s have been getting creative with their mysterious sides as they have tackled not one, but 5 poems and a piece of prose. Phew!

The year 7s have been getting cheeky with Victorian Hillarie Bellock's poetry. It's a sticky fate for the naughty Matilda who told lies!

The year 8s have been progressing onto higher level 2 material, thinking about the sounds created in speech and Bronze medal students have been working on a very ambitious recital on War and Peace. It sounds eerie and powerful; can't wait to see it girls! Higher up the school, silver medal class are working on a Freedom theme and Gold Medal Students are tackling the macabre subject of Death!

GOLD Acting Exams!

FOR the first time *CENTRESTAGE* is entering candidates at Gold Medal level for LAMDA Exams. On Sunday 12th July, 6 students will enter examinations for their Bronze medal Acting, 1 student will take Grade 5 and 6 students will enter Gold medal Acting.

One of these students, a certain Rose Dunne, who has just finished Year 13, attended the very first lesson that Rebekah taught 11 years ago at what would become *CENTRESTAGE*.

All medal examinations carry UCAS points: a distinction at Bronze medal carries 40 points, which is the equivalent to a 'C' grade at AS level, whilst a distinction at Silver is the equivalent of an A- at AS level (55 points) and a distinction at Gold counts as a B- at A2 level (90 points).

So these examinations give older students the chance to pursue their interests, whilst getting an accreditation recognised by universities. It's great to know you've got some extra points already in the bag when you're sitting in that exam hall!

We wish them the very best of luck!

Hello Lauren!

IN the last Newsletter we said farewell to Becky Owen, and now we welcome Lauren Barnes who joins our teaching staff on Thursday evenings and Saturdays. We look forward to sharing all that she will bring to lessons.

Lauren is from Cheltenham and is currently studying Business and Communications at the University of Birmingham. She has lots of dramatic experience and holds her LAMDA Gold medal. Furthermore, she is very involved with the student TV station, where she met Fiona.

Having graduated from the University of Birmingham last year with a 2.1, Becky Owen has been travelling Europe before working in a school in Africa. She is now living and working in Nottingham and we wish her all the best of luck!

Simon Kingsley is jet setting as well, entertaining on Cruise ships.

Kathryn Bellshaw is still very much a part of **CENTRESTAGE**, coming in to offer her vast expertise as a speech therapist. Her experience is invaluable and we are always grateful for her support.





Jane Smith still teaches on Saturdays, offering her considerable skill as a longstanding speech teacher into the **CENTRESTAGE** mix. Her experience in teaching Speech at the Shrubbery School bring variety and a different perspective, keeping **CENTRESTAGE** progressing with the rest of the Industry.

Helen Goaley continues to work with us, as a very competent assistant teacher and director, and we also thank Amelia Broom for her help with productions. Next year Ella McGrail will be joining the team - Welcome on board Ella!

The school hopes to be welcoming on board a new teacher in September, as Fiona begins her third year at University and so will be working with us less.

July							September						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4			1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30			

Key:

-  REHEARSAL
-  PERFORMANCE
-  SCHOOL CLOSED
-  IMPORTANT/
EXAMINATIONS

Autumn half term is the last week of October, so Centrestage will be closed on Thursday 29th and Saturday 31st October 2009.