



CENTRESTAGE

School of Speech and Drama



May 2011

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School of
Speech
and
Drama

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the summer holidays approach, there is no let up at **CENTRESTAGE**, with a Murder Mystery, a charity concert and summer exams still to prepare for! Backstage, so to speak, Helen Goaley has been working hard on our re-vamped website, with links to facebook, ticket bookings and our latest newsletters. Helen has also put together our current newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy. Many thanks to all our parents for your support during the academic year. I look forward to seeing many of you at our various events, and wish you all a very happy summer.

Rebekah O'Dowd (**CENTRESTAGE** Principal)

Murder Mystery

CENTRESTAGE is proud to invite you to two nights of exciting Murder Mysteries, **CENTRESTAGE** style! On June 24th and 25th year 7,8 and 9 pupils will be transforming St. Michael's Church Hall into a glamorous Manor house, where their friends and family are invited to a formal evening of cheese, wine and murders! We at **CENTRESTAGE** are extremely excited, as our very own pupils have created their own characters and even written some of the script! We will need your support to help us investigate, if you dare!

Helena Jones and Sebastian Peniket as
Lord and Lady Partridge



Erin Neville and
Alex Burns as Miss
Harriet Emerald
and Master Rupert
Hamilton



The CENTRESTAGE Team

We have been very lucky in having lots of help this past year. Shaun Corcoran and Laura Shaw have taken **CENTRESTAGE** by the horns in becoming senior assistant teachers, and bringing their own creativity to nearly all the classes. Shaun will be graduating from the University of Birmingham with a BA (Hons) Drama and Theatre Arts in July 2011. Shaun intends to pursue a career in the field of Stage Management, and will be undertaking further training at drama school once he graduates. Laura also will be graduating in July from the University of Birmingham with the same degree. Laura hopes to pursue a career in the inclusive Arts and Television industry, and will be moving to London when she graduates. We wish both Laura and Shaun the best of luck for the future; we have thoroughly enjoyed their input at **CENTRESTAGE**.

Chrissy Jones, a second year drama student from the University of Birmingham, works as one of the Thursday evening staff of **CENTRESTAGE** and we are looking forward to her ongoing work with us next year. Also next year we welcome back Lauren Barnes, who worked with us for a full year before heading down-under to Australia for the third year of her degree. The children and staff are eagerly awaiting her return.

We will say goodbye to Ella and Helen in the summer, after 12 years of involvement with **CENTRESTAGE**. Ella has an offer from De Montfort University to study Drama Studies and Helen will be studying Marketing at the University of Liverpool. Rebekah expects Ella to return as Principal Teacher and Helen as Marketing Manager after they graduate(!)

Jane Pryer-Smith has also been a loyal assistant at **CENTRESTAGE**, taking control of Intermediate and Gold Medal Speech classes this year. Jane has taught Speech at the Shrubbery School for over 10 years.

CENTRESTAGE has also enjoyed the help of Jenny Marples, Ruth Marples and Niamh O'Dowd who have continued to assist with classes and administration.

CENTRESTAGE thoroughly appreciates everyone's input to the school; it wouldn't be the same without you!

Excellent Lamda Results!

Once again *CENTRESTAGE* pupils have received outstanding results in their LAMDA examinations in December. All groups from grade 4 to grade 8 received Distinctions, and there were many individual Distinctions aswell. Congratulations to all concerned.

We are awaiting the results of the April examinations which were held at the Millenium Point in Birmingham, and the May examinations which were held at our very own private centre (St. Michael's Church Hall).

This term *CENTRESTAGE* has also entered their first Performance Diploma candidate. Meave Sullivan, 17, has been taking LAMDA examinations since the age of 8, and after taking her grade 8 exam, she wasn't ready to leave it at that! She therefore decided to take on the Performance Diploma. She enjoyed the complete independence of choosing her own theme for the recital, and performing a monologue within the exam was a new and exciting experience. Meave feels confident with the exam, however, it is hard to judge the results as she is the first one from *CENTRESTAGE*!

Meave has received an offer from the Univeristy of Aberystwyth in Wales to study Drama and English. She found that she was able to put this Diploma on her application to university and she felt this really helped her application to stand out.



Elvie Broom: National Youth Theatre Success!

Once again, one of our *CENTRESTAGE* pupils has got a place at the prestigious National Youth Theatre. Elvie Broom, 16, auditioned in February and says she is looking forward to spending time in London and meeting new people. Elvie will be taking part in workshops and performances for two weeks in August and *CENTRESTAGE* wish her all the best. Previously *CENTRESTAGE* pupils Mark Steel, Hannah-Marie Fisher, Mark Murphy, Lucy Oldacre-Bartley and Meave Sullivan have all gained places at the National Youth Theatre.



The Last Resort





CENTRESTAGE is performing at Highbury Theatre Centre once again! Upstage, Year 11 and Year 10 pupils have begun rehearsing the "The Last Resort" by Chris Owen. It is an affectionate and comical portrait of a day in the life of a typical English beach resort. The play is great fun to watch and take part in, with its array of stereotypical characters, which make you laugh out loud! From Blackpool to Brighton or Cleethorpes to Clacton, "The Last Resort" is a must see show.

CENTRESTAGE will perform at the end of November 2011, and we would appreciate everyone's support in making the show as successful as possible. Tickets will be available to purchase, in the near future, via our new improved website <http://centrestageschool.org.uk>.





We look forward to seeing you all there!









Raising money for St. Giles Hospice

On July 2nd, **CENTRESTAGE** Intermediate pupils are performing some of their impressive creative drama and speech work in a charity concert, to raise money for St. Giles hospice. St. Giles hospice is a charity which offers specialist care in a variety of settings for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses, as well as providing support for their families and helpers. The event will be held at Grace United Reformed Church, in the Sutton Coldfield Town Centre, and we all at **CENTRESTAGE** would appreciate your support.

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

Key:

-  REHEARSAL
-  PERFORMANCE
-  SCHOOL CLOSED
-  IMPORTANT/
EXAMINATIONS

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

IMPORTANT DATES 2011

School Closed: 2nd June and 4th June HALF TERM
 14th July - 7th Sept SUMMER HOLIDAYS
 Examinations: 16th, 17th and 18th July
 Murder Mystery Performance: 24th and 25th June
 Charity Performance: 2nd July