



# CENTRESTAGE

## School of Speech and Drama

September 2008



CENTRESTAGE

School of  
Speech  
and  
Drama

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Rebekah O'Dowd  
CENTRESTAGE Principal

- SENIOR PLAY -

## 'The Witches'

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October  
Highbury Little Theatre

'The Witches' is going to be with us very soon and is promising to be fantastic performance! It is set to be our biggest show yet, with up to 45 children experiencing the bright lights of Highbury stage!

As with all Roald Dahl's stories the play is great fun, involving a wicked plot by the Grand High Witch of all the World to turn the children of England into MICE! Follow the journey of the brave young hero 'Boy' (played by a girl - Elvie Broom - in our case) as he discovers and foils the dastardly plot! It would make a splendid Halloween treat for the young and the young at heart.

This year there are 4 performances from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, with a matinee on Saturday afternoon.

Buy tickets now at [www.centrestageschool.org.uk](http://www.centrestageschool.org.uk) or request a manual booking form!

## Staff news...

Congratulations to **Becky Owen** who graduated this summer in Drama and Theatre Arts gaining Upper Second Class Honours, it's a fantastic achievement! She's still deciding on her future plans, but in the interim she is working full time at CENTRESTAGE as 'The Witches' Production Manager.

**Fiona Patterson** has spent the last few months between her first and second year at University travelling to wonderful, far off counties! She has been to South Africa and is currently in Thailand to name but a few of her exotic visitations. We look forward to her return at the end of this month!

## Great LAMDA Success!!

CONGLATULATIONS to all those who took LAMDA Acting and/or Speech exams this summer, the results were excellent! Out of the 31 students entered in June, one-third received Distinction and the rest of the school received very significant Merits.

The results this summer were particularly exciting as some of our students set new heights for exams results in the school: Tilly Broom (Grade 2) and Emma Dunne (Grade 4) both broke the Speech record receiving 91 out of 100 and Ella McGrail (pictured left) received 94 for her Bronze Medal Acting - this LAMDA qualification is also the equivalent an A at AS Level!

Well done all! We look foreword to continuing this success in the next round of exams!



**Ella McGrail**

Photograph taken  
from 'Living With  
Lady Macbeth' 2008

## Junior and Intermediate Triumph!

At the end of last term both Junior and Intermediate classes performed their own plays 'Birthday Surprise' and 'Persephone' at St. Michael's Church Hall (photos right).

The plays were a fantastic success with outstanding performances from the casts:

Patsy Ollerenshaw, Tilly Broom and Bed McDonald took the leads of 'Persephone' with great energy and enthusiasm, supported by superb characters such as 'Hecate' and 'Apollo' played by Ali Davison and William Harris, to name a few. 'Birthday Surprise' tickled the audience with Georgia Waldron and Milly Coleman's colourful performances of Mr.E and Ezmerelda. Sarah Norton created a wonderfully stropky 'Stuart', supported strongly by Kieren Jenkins and Lily Mannion ('Mum' and 'Dad') and a whole gang of exciting, funny friends! Well done for all you hard work and congratulations!



**'Birthday Surprise'**

Back Row:

Nina Adriano, Maddy Muir, Serena Phagura, Riona O'Dowd, Harry Beckford, Sophie Dunne and Annabel Kemp

Front Row:

Georgia Waldron, Sarah Noton, Milly Coleman, Lily Mannion and Kieren Jenkins.

## What a Day! Sutton Arts Festival

This summer **CENTRESTAGE** took to the streets (well shops!) of Sutton Town Centre for the first time to take part in the Arts Festival.

Audiences had the opportunity to indulge in a range of performance treats at Starbucks, including the original and witty creation 'Jimmy Seville Investigates' (penned by Sion Perks and David O'Sullivan), the moving dramas 'Adult Child Dead Child' and 'Find Me', and devised pieces 'Memory of You' and 'Enquiry'. There was also a recital of students speech work in the more intimate setting of Waterstones, where people could witness Distinction earning performances and Silver Medal level work.

All in all it was a very busy but successful day! Well done to all those involved and thank you to those who came along in support.

If you missed any of these performances, never fear: Upstage are performing a showcase at Highbury Theatre containing most of the work performed in Sutton! →



**'Persephone'**

Back Row:

Ben McDonald, Gregory Ryans, Katie Gamlen, Sophie McCabe, Gunjun Sain, William Harris and Bo McGrail

Middle Row:

Robert Butcher, Peter Lawlor, Emily Savage, Romy Ashmore-Hill, Zoe Newman, Hannah France, Emily France and Christina Fee

Front Row:

Grace Green, Aoife O'Dowd, Tilly Broom and Patsy Ollerenshaw

## NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE!

Don't forget that now is the time to start thinking about the National Youth Theatre! Auditions are coming up very soon, and the earlier you start work on your monologues the better!

Contact Rebekah, Becky or Fiona for advice on what to do next!

## New Look Hall!

I'm sure most of you will have noticed by now that St Michael's Church Hall has had a rather drastic makeover!

One of the biggest changes is the loss of the stage, but not to worry, we will have portable staging, so plays and recitals can continue to be performed at this venue!

## Upstage Showcase!

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
7.30pm at Highbury Little  
Theatre

Upstage present scenes from 'Find Me' by Olwyn Wymark; speech and acting pieces and an extract from 'Adult Child Dead Child' by Clare Dowie. Obviously this is an event for friends and families of performers, but also an opportunity for Senior's to sample the type of work they could be involved in in the future at **CENTRESTAGE**.

## Important Information...

- On **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November**, **CENTRESTAGE** will not be held at St Michael's Church Hall, instead it will be at Wylde Green United Reformed Church on the corner of Highbridge and Britwell Roads.
- This term **CENTRESTAGE** will be closed both Saturdays of the half term (**25<sup>th</sup> Oct** and **1<sup>st</sup> Nov**)
- Rehearsal dates have not been put on the following calendar due to the sheer number and different children needed, so if you have been given a separate rehearsal schedule please keep it visible.

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER.....

7<sup>th</sup> October – Upstage Showcase

9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October – Performance 'The Witches'

23<sup>rd</sup> October – Last formal lessons

25<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> November – HALF TERM

8<sup>th</sup> November – Terms Starts @ **Wylde Green United Reformed Church**

6<sup>th</sup> December – End Of Term

7<sup>th</sup> December – LAMDA examinations

Key:



REHERSAL



PERFORMANCE



SCHOOL CLOSED



IMPORTANT