

155 Talgarth Road
London W14 9DA

DRAMA SCHOOL : LBP : LLP
Tel: 020 8834 0500
Fax: 020 8834 0501
Email: enquiries@lamda.org.uk
Web: www.lamda.org.uk

EXAMINATIONS
Tel: 020 8834 0520

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THE LONDON
LAMDA
ACADEMY OF
MUSIC AND
DRAMATIC ART

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Local Sixth Formers Learn New Moves At LAMDA

The smell of the greasepaint. The roar of the crowd... 20 local sixth formers discovered what it is really like to train as an actor, at the heart of one of the UK's leading drama schools – **the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)** – this June. Spending an afternoon away from **The William Morris Academy** and **St Paul's Girls School**, the students were put through their paces in a challenging movement workshop led by the LAMDA Faculty.

This fourth annual Hammersmith & Fulham workshop offered participants a rare insight into vocational drama training, as well as a chance to seek practical careers advice from accomplished LAMDA Tutors. Commenting on these bespoke sessions for local school pupils, LAMDA Principal Peter James said: *"Since moving to the Borough in 2003, it has been a pleasure to share the Academy's expertise with the youth of Hammersmith & Fulham in this way."*

LAMDA tutor Donna Berlin, who has led each of the workshops to date, added: *"We take a group of young people, put them in a room, play some music, beat a drum and make them sweat. By the time they leave, they have broken down barriers, discovered something new about themselves and even improved their posture - not only that but we all laugh a lot, which can only be a good thing. This is just a small part of what we do here at LAMDA, but it's something useful that we can share with the community."*

Photo Caption

LAMDA Tutors, Donna Berlin [front, left] and Natalie Turner-Jones [front, right] with the participants of LAMDA's 2007 Hammersmith & Fulham Movement Workshop.

Photograph by Neil Graveney, 2007.

For further information or photographs, please contact Sarah-Jane Chapman on:

+44 (0)20 8834 0513; 07876 527320 or sarah-jane.chapman@lamda.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

LAMDA

- Dating back to 1861, LAMDA is one of the oldest drama schools in the United Kingdom. Its graduates are generally recognised as among the leading theatre practitioners in the English-speaking world.
- LAMDA moved to 155 Talgarth Road, Barons Court in 2003. In 2004, The LAMDA Linbury Studio was opened on the Talgarth Road site, providing the Academy with a much needed second public performance space.
- LAMDA's future is both bright and challenging. Following significant grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Wates Foundation in 2006, LAMDA was able to purchase the remaining portion of land at the west end of the Talgarth Road site and embark upon the initial planning stages of its redevelopment. The ultimate aim is to establish a world-class drama campus for its students, Faculty and the wider community.
- LAMDA is an affiliate of the UK's prestigious Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (CDD) – a premier division in performing arts training established by the government to strengthen access to training for talented students, regardless of their background.
- LAMDA provides acting, directing, stage management & technical theatre tuition, as well as special programmes in musical direction, movement, scenic design and stage combat.
- In recent years, LAMDA has gained a reputation as a source of innovative, new writing with two plays (Mark Ravenhill's *Mother Clap's Molly House* and Di Trevis' *Remembrance of Things Past*) being devised and first performed at LAMDA, before transferring to the National Theatre.