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November 2005

## ALISTAIR MACGOWAN AND OTHER BBC STARS TAKE TIME OUT TO SUPPORT AND INSPIRE YOUNG ACTORS

**Shadowing the Stars** is an exciting venture between the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and the BBC. Now in its fourth successful year, this project enables LAMDA students to experience life on set with some of the BBC's most popular and talented actors, giving them the ultimate work placement.

Stars of the BBC's brand new drama *Gil Mayo*, ALISTAIR MACGOWAN, LOO BREALEY, HUW RHYS and JESSICA OYELowo, along with *Silent Witness* EMILIA FOX, TOM WARD and WILLIAM GAMINERAS, *Holby City*'s LUKE ROBERTS, TOM CHAMBERS, PAUL BRADLEY and ROBERT POWELL, *Dalziel and Pascoe*'s WARREN CLARKE, COLIN BUCHANAN, WAYNE PERREY AND JENNIFER JAMES, *Inspector Lynley*'s SHARON SMALL and *Casualty*'s JAMES REDMOND have all agreed to mentor LAMDA's second year students; giving them a unique insight into the rigours of the acting profession. LAMDA alumni NATHANIEL PARKER, star of the BBC's *Inspector Lynley Mysteries*, and PATRICIA POTTER, who plays Diane Lloyd in *Holby City*, have also generously agreed to take part in the project.

Jane Tranter, Controller of BBC Drama Commissioning says, "This is a fantastic initiative and we are once again thrilled to be involved. Nurturing new talent is important to both BBC Drama and LAMDA and so being able to work together on this project is very exciting. In offering students first hand knowledge of working on our high profile, long running shows, we hope to help prepare them for successful careers in acting."

LAMDA, an affiliate of the prestigious *Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (CDD)*, is renowned for being a vocational Academy. Preparing students for the reality of working within such a demanding business is at the very heart of the Academy's training. Through this exciting collaboration with the BBC, LAMDA is able to offer its students the opportunity to experience firsthand the many challenges presented by the small screen. Perhaps this is yet another example as to why the Academy remains such an outstanding leader in its field.

*Shadowing the Stars* took place at various BBC television studios across the country during the week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

**Ends/**

**[Photographs from the *Shadowing the Stars* scheme in previous years available on request]**

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