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November 2004

## 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 third year, this project enables LAMDA students to experience life on set with some of the BBC's most popular and talented stars, giving them the ultimate work placement.

Eastenders SHANE RITCHIE and CHRIS PARKER; Dalziel and Pascoe's WARREN CLARKE, COLIN BUCHANAN and WAYNE PERRY; Holby City's VERONA JOSEPH; Doctors SEAN GLEESON and STEVEN HARTLEY; and Casualty's SIMON MACCORKINDALE, have all agreed to mentor LAMDA's second year students and give them a unique insight into the rigours of the acting profession. LAMDA Alumnus Nathaniel Parker, star of the BBC's *Inspector Lynley Mysteries*, has also generously agreed to take part in the project.

Commenting on the scheme, 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 the 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 venture 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* takes place at various BBC television studios across the country during the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004.

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