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June 2006

DEUTSCHE BANK HELPS LAUNCH FIVE YOUNG LAMDA STARS

This June, LAMDA is proud to announce its first winners of the **Deutsche Bank Pyramid Award Scheme**.

Now in its 14th year, the Pyramid Award Scheme offers first class business advice and financial support to arts students; helping them to launch their professional careers in the crucial year after graduation. LAMDA's particular award, open to graduating students from LAMDA's Acting Courses, Director Course and Stage Management & Technical Theatre Course, is new for 2006 and celebrates Producing, New Writing and Directing within the Dramatic Arts. ***The Clash of Steel***, a team of 5 final year actors highly skilled in the art of stage combat, fought off strong competition to win the prestigious Award. *The Clash of Steel* [Danny Seldon, John Beale, Brendan Quinn, Grant Jones and Luke Treadaway] will receive a prize of £8,000 and the invaluable advice of a Deutsche Bank Business mentor for a year. They will also benefit from business training organised by East London Small Business Centre.

The Clash of Steel was born from a highly successful performance at the Swanage Carnival Regatta [home-town of Danny Seldon] in the Summer of 2005. With the support of the Deutsche Bank Pyramid Award, *The Clash of Steel* will now be able to establish themselves as a viable company and develop their initial ideas to the next level. The company will produce, direct and perform historically accurate and informative stage combat shows; providing thrilling spectacles tailor-made for both corporate and festival audiences.

Kate Cavelle, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility UK, Deutsche Bank: We are delighted to welcome LAMDA to the Pyramid Award scheme. Through the Award, we aim to identify, invest in and nurture graduating arts students; helping them with our business expertise to turn their ideas into reality.

John Beale, from *The Clash of Steel*: This is a brilliant opportunity to build a company around something which we love doing. We will benefit hugely, not only from the money invested but also from the valuable mentoring system, which will be well needed to further our business minds .

The Clash of Steel received their Award on Tuesday 27th June 2006 at the National Theatre.
Ends/

[photographs available on request]

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Notes to Editor:

Deutsche Bank-

- The Deutsche Bank Pyramid Awards scheme was launched in 1993 and recognises entrepreneurship and innovation within graduating art students from some of the leading art institutions in the UK. Financial awards are presented to the Pyramid Award winners to start a business or conduct a project in the crucial year after leaving college.
- Deutsche Bank works with the following schools in determining the Awards: The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), The Circus Space, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Contemporary Dance School, Royal College of Art, Royal Academy of Arts, Royal Academy of Music and University of the Arts London.
- Deutsche Bank will make 10 Awards of £8,000 each which will be paid to the winners in two tranches by the appropriate college - the college will decide when the money is distributed. In addition to financial awards, Pyramid winners will benefit from a Deutsche Bank business mentor to help guide them in their project through their first year. Deutsche Bank will also help winners access a business training course at the East London Small Business Centre and will provide an opportunity to participate in the Bank's London-based community and arts programmes. Such participation often brings the winners into contact with people able to identify future business opportunities.
- Deutsche Bank is a leading global investment bank with a strong and profitable private clients franchise. A leader in Germany and Europe, the bank is continuously growing in North America, Asia and key emerging markets. With Euro 1,035 billion in assets and 64,103 employees, Deutsche Bank offers unparalleled financial services in 73 countries throughout the world.

LAMDA

- LAMDA is one of the oldest drama schools in the UK dating back to 1861 and LAMDA graduates are generally recognised as among the leading theatre practitioners around the world.
- LAMDA is an affiliate member of the 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, stage management & technical theatre tuition, as well as special programmes in directing, scenic design, stage combat, voice and movement.
- Nearly 100% of stage management & technical theatre graduates in the last three years have found work in their chosen field within three months of graduation.

THE CLASH OF STEEL

- Each member holds a Gold Certificate from the British Academy of Dramatic Combat (BADC) and is qualified to use an array of weaponry.
- *The Clash of Steel* are all final year students on LAMDA's Three Year Acting Course and will graduate in July 2006.
- *The Clash of Steel* performed at the Swanage Carnival Regatta in July 2005; 2 members were employed by the Royal Armouries as historical interpreters at the Tower of London in 2005.
- They also intend to use their skills to bring history and Shakespeare to life in collaboration with the current school syllabus.