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November 2003

## LAMDA STUDENTS CREATE ORIGINAL PLAY THROUGH REAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Final year acting students from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) will be performing an exciting new work, *Collateral Damage*, written by established writer Philip Osment and directed by Mike Alfreds. The play was devised at LAMDA last year by the same group of students in their second year and is a fascinating and moving exploration of civilian responses to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.

Inspired by a radio interview with Bud Welch whose daughter was killed in the bombing, *Collateral Damage* is part of LAMDA's *Long Project* initiative – an established part of the training relating study to real work. Every year, a playwright and a director are invited to LAMDA to create a draft of a new work by spending three months with a group of students. After a series of workshops focusing on imagination and improvisation, the first draft is created.

To date, two such projects have grown to be National Theatre productions: Di Trevis production of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* and *Mother Clap's Molly House* by Mark Ravenhill. Above average employment of LAMDA graduates at the National Theatre followed.

Peter James, Principal of LAMDA: The LAMDA *Long Project* encourages the students to explore the additional responsibilities actors face when they are asked to create as well as rehearse. Mike Alfreds and Philip Osment are a formidable pairing and together they have a wealth of experience which has and will continue to benefit the students who are working with them.

*Collateral Damage* will show at LAMDA's MacOwan Theatre from Friday 5th until Thursday 11th December 2003.

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