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September 2004

The LAMDA Walk - Stratford to London

Monday 20th September Sunday 26th September 2004

Famous LAMDA actors join fundraising gurus in search of Shakespeare's lost years on an ambitious sponsored walk from Stratford to London

Tho this be madness, yet there be method in t
Polonius, Hamlet Act II, scene ii

A challenge to the unfit or lazy, this 140 mile thespian tramp will begin at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford on Monday 20th September, and finish the following Sunday with a jubilant 10-mile tour for 300 revellers through historical and theatrical London. **LAMDA** Principal Peter James plus further well-known **LAMDA** graduates will join this celebratory ramble, taking in the old haunts of many a famous actor/playwright. The Walk will end fittingly at the Globe Theatre.

This will be the largest fundraiser undertaken at **LAMDA** since its establishment in 1861, aiming to raise a much-needed £100,000 to secure and refurbish the new home of the oldest drama school in the UK and bring together the entire **LAMDA** community in pursuit of a common cause.

With nothing but walking on the menu, our dedicated pilgrims will cook up some bardic gossip, continuing the long tradition of speculation about Shakespeare's mysterious movements. In the late 1580s, the godfather of theatre left his home in Stratford-upon-Avon for London and, according to the records, arrived seven years later! What on earth happened? Did he get lost? Did he take a circuitous route perhaps on the run from his wife and/or his creditors? Was he being pursued by a bear? Or was he just slow on the old pins? Our travelling players attempt to get to the bottom of it once and for all.

The core Walk from Stratford will consist of 10 participants led by **LAMDA** Chairman, **Luke Rittner** and **LAMDA** Development Board Chairman, **Wilf Weeks**.

Luke Rittner, an alumnus of LAMDA's Stage Management & Technical Theatre course, is currently Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Dance and was the founder of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, now known as Arts & Business. He was Secretary General of the Arts Council of England and also Director of Marketing at Sotheby's. In recognition for his dedication to the Arts, Luke was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from the University of Bath.

Wilf Weeks is Chairman of European Public Affairs at Weber Shandwick. He is also the unsung hero of many arts organisations and was awarded the prestigious *Goodman Award* at this year's Arts & Business Awards for his outstanding achievement in a voluntary capacity in the encouragement of business support for the arts.

LAMDA has recently been selected to join the Government's elite division of Performing Arts training institutions the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (CDD), proving its status as a true leader in its field. In order to remain a pre-eminent drama school, the Walk is one way the Academy is raising funds to improve its new home.

The **LAMDA** Walk is sponsored by: **Innocent Drinks and Walkers Shortbread**



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