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ACADEMY OF
MUSIC AND
DRAMATIC ART

September 2004

MARK RAVENHILL AND LAMDA REUNITE

Final year acting students from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) will be performing an exciting new work, *North Greenwich*, written by renowned playwright Mark Ravenhill. This new work, directed by LAMDA Principal, Peter James, was devised at the Academy last year by the same group of students while in their second year. Following interviews conducted with a wide spectrum of individuals connected to Greenwich and the Millennium Dome, the students and Ravenhill created theatre from the verbatim material collected. The result is Ravenhill's fascinating exploration of the impact of the Dome on the local Greenwich community, which simultaneously examines the concepts of multiculturalism and globalization.

North Greenwich, the Academy's second collaboration with Mark Ravenhill, is part of LAMDA's *Long Project* initiative – an established part of the training intended to increase students' awareness of the responsibilities involved in creating theatre as opposed to simply rehearsing. Every year, a playwright and a director are invited to collaborate with a group of students over three months to create a new work. After a series of workshops focusing on imagination and improvisation, the first draft is created. The project may then be developed into a full public show during the following year.

To date, two such projects have grown to be National Theatre productions: *Mother Claps Molly House* by Mark Ravenhill and Di Trevis' production of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*, both of which included a number of LAMDA graduates who had worked on the pieces' development.

LAMDA, an affiliate of the prestigious *Conservatoire for Dance and Drama (CDD)*, is renowned for its dedication to preparing students for the challenges they will face in the profession. Participating in play-making or devising is one such challenge. The *Long Project* enables students to experience this first-hand. LAMDA is delighted to work closely with such an innovative writer as Mark Ravenhill on a project that has become an integral part of the Academy's training.

North Greenwich opens on Wednesday 20th October at LAMDA's MacOwan Theatre, W8 before transferring to the Old Laundry Theatre for the Bowness Theatre and Film Festival in Cumbria.

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