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February 2004

STARS OF THE NATIONAL THEATRE RETURN HOME TO LOCAL DRAMA SCHOOL

Local drama school, The London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA), based in Baron's Court, boasts seven of its graduates in Nicholas Hytner's epic production of *His Dark Materials* currently at the National Theatre. Anna Maxwell Martin and Dominic Cooper, who play the lead characters in the production, were joined by fellow LAMDA stars, Patricia Hodge, Samuel Barnett, Chris Larkin, and Helena Lymbery for a reunion and tour of their old school's new home in Talgarth Road, W14. LAMDA alumnus, Nicholas Wright, who adapted Philip Pullman's three novels into the two plays, was unfortunately unable to join them for the photograph.

His Dark Materials is one of the National's most ambitious projects and has received some exceptional reviews. LAMDA is proud to have so many of its alumni involved and to continue its strong association with the National Theatre. (To date, two original LAMDA productions have grown to be National Theatre productions: Di Trevis' production of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* and *Mother Claps Molly House* by Mark Ravenhill).

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