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THE LONDON  
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ACADEMY OF  
MUSIC AND  
DRAMATIC ART

December 2004

## What a Swell Party!

On Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) took part in a special evening celebrating Sir Peter Middleton's retirement from Barclays Bank. As the Bank's Chairman, Sir Peter championed an extensive programme of investment in the communities it serves, supporting a wide range of projects benefiting the environment and young people, as well as the arts. In particular, Sir Peter was so impressed by LAMDA's benefit concert performance of *Kiss Me, Kate* in conjunction with the Royal College of Music in 2000, that when the bank began to plan the party in his honour, they returned to LAMDA, asking the Academy to create a programme of entertainment to celebrate Sir Peter and Lady Middleton, for their service to Barclays.

The audience, made up of over 300 business, social and political leaders were wowed by LAMDA's illustrious alumni **Jim Broadbent**, as Master of Ceremonies, **Patricia Hodge** and **Nichola McAuliffe** in an evening's cabaret. They led the company of recent LAMDA graduates, Jenny Grove, Hywel John, Christian Malcolm and Jessica Sedler, in such favourites as *Well Did You Evah*, *Brush Up Your Shakespeare* and *Wouldn't it be Lovely*, along with lesser known but show-stopping numbers as Cole Porter's *Experiment* sung by Patricia, and *Love Late* sung by Nichola, but written by another fellow alum, Dillie Keane.

Following the performance, the Bank's new Chairman Matthew Barrett made a presentation of a £15,000 donation to the Academy on the night to support The Campaign for LAMDA

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