



# dialogue

The newsletter of London Drama

## Looking Back ~ Looking Forward

London Drama has had a very good year this year. As well as a full programme of evening courses we have run a total of seven day workshops through the year as well as developing a regular E-Newsletter.

We began with our regular event, the London Drama Students' Welcome on 27 September 2008 held at the Institute of Education with fifty students from PGCE Drama courses across London and including Reading.

Many of these students went on to participate in the other six events we organised: a drama workshop with Jonothan Neelands on 8 November 2008; a half day workshop with HoiPolloi on 11 March 2009; a Shakespeare workshop with the RSC (in partnership with Richmond Theatre) on Friday 27 March; *Creating Drama with Animated Objects and Puppets* with Oily Cart; a Masks workshop with Trestle on 15 May (see photos on pages 2-3); and the year has been very nicely rounded off with a physical theatre workshop with Complicite (see above photo).

\* \* \* \*



*Enjoying working with Complicite on Sat 20 June*

Looking forward to the coming year we have some exciting new developments. The main one is the development of our website, now well under way. With this people will be able to book and pay for their membership, courses and books online via Paypal and/ or credit card, the books being individually displayed on the site (at last).

We have also built in a special members' area for members' discounts, news, discussion group, blog etc. as well as pages for different phases and for boroughs which our current site does not support.

Another exciting development is the initiation of a Primary Drama Champions Research programme in Croydon. Following its successful establishment in Southwark from 2006 on the project is now being introduced in neighbouring Croydon by an ex-Southwark Drama Champion now a Deputy Head in a Croydon Primary School. We look forward to supporting this initiative and have high hopes for a very successful project in the course of next year.

*Chris Lawrence*

### for your diary



#### LONDON DRAMA Courses & Workshops Autumn Term 2009



Sat 3 October; 10-3.30pm  
London Drama  
Students' Welcome:  
*All Teachers in Training  
beginning their PGCE course in  
Drama orr English are  
welcome to attend.*

led by  
Course Tutors from  
London PGCE Drama Courses  
at  
The Institute of Education,  
20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL

\* \* \*



We are preparing our courses for the Autumn Term including the *Sharing Our Teaching Experience* event outlined in the piece on this page. Please tell us what courses you would like us to run for you next term. Email us at [londondrama1@gmail.com](mailto:londondrama1@gmail.com)

## London Drama: Ending the Isolation ~

### A NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

**BRINGING the LONDON DRAMA MEMBERSHIP TOGETHER to share ideas and resources**

### RESOURCES

As reported in recent *Dialogues* Chris Lawrence has been active in developing member resources - including the E-News, sending up-to-date information on drama and theatre. We are also actively revamping the London Drama Website to facilitate member access and exchanges.

A development area that will utilise these resources, that we want to flag up, and, with your active involvement, progress in stages - is bringing you - the drama practitioner community - into positive contact with each other.

**DRAMA in ISOLATION.** Drama and Theatre / Drama in Education have developed as a diverse range of creative practices. In the *Golden Age* boroughs had Drama Advisors who organised regular developmental meet-ups. However the Local Management of Schools separated schools from each other. Our contacts reveal many Drama teachers working in professional isolation.

The support system is long gone. Schools are self-managed, many with amazing outcomes - but working independently. Our aim is to bring you all, as drama practitioners, into closer contact.

First it will help a great deal to survey the field of drama practice.



Which of these descriptions fits YOUR working context?

### SECONDARY

- member of a Drama Team / part of Performing Arts
- single Drama teacher / parked in Expressive / Creative Arts
- stalwart Lone Drama teacher / in small Studio (except when evicted at exam times into leaking portacabin)

In many cases no-one to share drama teaching experience with. In fact the only time many Secondary Drama teachers come into contact is the annual Syllabus Briefing Day run by the Exam Board on a tight timetable in a central business conference suite.



### PRIMARY / SEN

- teaching in a school with a policy of drama development/ creative/learning skills related/ they exist and are brill!
- using drama as an individual teaching practice/in a school with no drama policy or practice

**POST-16:** Drama and Theatre Studies/BTEC Performing Arts

**FREELANCE:** setting up/running drama in a range of contexts

**THEATRE WORKSHOP LEADER:** youth/community/school

To activate this initiative we need you to sign on to the development - as a member contact:

Simply e-mail us as follows : [londondrama1@gmail.com](mailto:londondrama1@gmail.com) / prefix with: *primary/sen/secondary/post-16/theatre*

You're in there somewhere/ come on out and be tagged!

- Then once we have a clearer picture of the range of member contexts we will be better equipped to support development. Each of the range of contexts could be strengthened through exchange of practices.

- We also plan to promote existing resources. Southwark has developed a primary drama teacher training scheme. Redbridge maintains its Drama Centre. There are key Theatre Programmes across London we intend to develop further links with - Half Moon Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith, Richmond, Bubble Theatre - see our Theatre Member list.

# Building an Active Drama Membership

## HELP build an ACTIVE DRAMA TEACHER NETWORK!

London Drama then plans - with your participation, using the information you supply us with - to build, in careful stages, a mutually supportive Drama Teaching Network.

**Working Exchange Model.** We have been running successful informal Evening Sessions where members share drama ideas and activities - the Drama Swap-Shop. We could develop this concept into a pilot series of Workshops where you as Drama Practitioners meet up to share your practices. There could be both Evening and Saturday practical workshop events :

- exchanging drama and theatre practice
- plus the opportunity to socialise professionally.

### POTENTIAL AREAS for the exchange of information :

We would invite contributions by individuals and department teams.



Sessions related to the range of Drama teaching contexts.

**NOTE: Your next Job!** You've been stuck in your present post for some time: Inner City Gasworks Street - or Overspill Estate School. Time to move on - where? - to what? meet up with colleagues to check out possible sector career moves.

### SO e-MAIL us with IDEAS for Drama Practitioner Meet-ups:

- approaches / themes for improvised projects
- projects / plays to perform for audiences
- productions to take students to see
- feedback on companies touring to schools

### Primary Exchange Sessions

- setting up a class presentation for Year Assembly
- / working in pairs / groups / using narrators
- / movement and mime skills / building stage pictures

### Secondary Exchange Sessions

- mapping the Exam Boards/ practical/written
- AQA GCSE /A level
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- BTEC First/ Diploma/Performing Arts
- Edexcel GCSE/Drama - Performing Arts
- OCR GCSE/Drama - Expressive Arts/A level
- Welsh JEC GCSE/Drama - Drama and Theatre Studies
- developing after-school Drama Clubs

Sign up by e-mail now. We'll report back on the responses.

The Plan is to make a start - then build a try-out programme with your active member involvement over the year.

*Stuart Bennett*  
Chair of London Drama

\* \* \*

*Photos on these pages are from our recent Mask Workshop with Trestle on Saturday 16 May 2009*





London Drama is the Professional Subject Association of Teachers of Drama and Theatre in London. We are a charity and we are run by teachers for teachers:

- We organise INSET Evening Courses in drama/theatre in educational contexts
- We organise Full Day Workshops/INSET
- We arrange INSET for whole LEAs in London
- We run a world renowned drama book service
- We are sister to National Drama and network with many other Arts organisations in London and nationally

**Annual Membership:** (Jan, May or Sept): Students £16; NQTs £20; Individuals £25; Primary/Special Schools £30; Secondary Schools £40; Theatre Standard £40/Theatre Premium £50.

You get: 2 Drama magazines and 6 Newsletters a year; 5% discount on books; 25% discount on courses; a free listing on this page (space permitting) and lots of SUPPORT!!  
**Join Now!!** (Contact details below)

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www.londondrama.org

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**LONDON DRAMA**

## London Drama Students' Welcome

led by

### Course Tutors

from London PGCE Drama Courses

**Saturday 3rd October 2009**

10am-3.30pm

at the Institute of Education,  
20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL

Nearest Tube: Russell Square, Piccadilly Line

Practical drama workshops; ICT; networking; useful info

**Non Members: £10; Student Members: £5**  
London Drama Student Membership: £16

To book: contact londondrama1@gmail.com  
or T/F: 020 7388 6555

\***Bloomsbury Theatre**,  
15 Gordon Street WC1H 0AH  
(Rebecca Reed)  
7 July: *OxTales* by writers for  
Oxfam

\***Blue Elephant Theatre**, 59A  
Bethwin Road, SE5 0XT 7701  
0100 (Jas Cullingford)  
Yntil 11 July: *The Sound* by  
David Mercatali

\***Courtyard**, Bowling Green  
Walk, 40 Pitfield St. N1 6EU:  
7251 6018 (June Abbot)  
Until 5 July: *Who Will Carry  
the Word?* by Charlotte Delbo

\***Fandango Th Co**, 42  
Frankham House, Frankham  
St, SE8 4RL: 8692 1220 (Jamie  
Honeybourne)  
1-26 Sept: *Cloud Nine* by  
Caryl Churchill

\***GLYPT**, No 1 St, Royal  
Arsenal, Woolwich SE18 6ST:  
8854 1316  
Touring: *Thin Ice* by the  
company

\***Half Moon YPT**, 43 White  
Horse Road, E1 0ND: 7265  
8138 (Amy Jones)  
Full youth theatre programme

\***Hampstead Theatre**, 98  
Avenue Rd, NW3 3EX: 7449  
4166 (Andrew Given)

Until 18 July: *Behold the  
Sons of Ulster Marching  
Towards the Somme* by Frank  
McGuinness  
plus youth theatre w/shops

\***London Bubble Th Co**, 5  
Elephant Lane, SE16 4JD:  
7237 4434  
5-26 July: *The Odyssey*: Fan  
Made Theatre project

**Lyric Theatre**, King Street,  
Hammersmith W6 0QL: 8741  
0824 (Cookie Rameder)  
11 July: *Bloomin' Marvellous  
Summer Party* by Jon  
Nicholson

**National Theatre**, South  
Bank, London SE1: 7452 3739  
(Sherry Neyhus) INSET/CPD  
www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

**Orange Tree Theatre**,  
Clarence Rd, Richmond TW9  
2SA: 8940 3633 (Sam Walters)  
3 Sept-3 Oct: *The Ring of  
Truth* by Wynyard Browne

\***Oval House Theatre**, 52-54  
Kennington Oval, SE11 5SW:  
7582 6279 (Stella Barnes)  
Until 4 July: *Hanjo and Hell  
Screen*: double bill by Yukio  
Mishima  
30 June: *The Merry Wives of  
Wedza* by Sarah Norman

**Polka Theatre**, 240 The  
Broadway, Wimbledon SW19  
1SB: 8543 4888 (Annie Wood)  
Until 25 July: *The Monster  
Under the Bed* by Kevin Dyer  
(6-11yrs)

\***Pop-Up Theatre**, 27A  
Brewery Rd N7 9PU: 7609  
3339 (Jo Johnson)  
Campaign at www.pop-up.net

\***Putney Arts Theatre**,  
Ravenna Rd SW15 6AW: 8788  
6943 (Marie Thackwell)  
Until 27 June: *Festen (The  
Celebration)* by David  
Eldridge

\***Redbridge Drama Centre**,  
Churchfields, E18 2RB: 8504  
5451 (Keith Homer) Children's  
Theatre/Drama Workshops;  
Teachers' INSET and theatre  
programme

\***Richmond Theatre**, The  
Green, Richmond TW9 1QJ:  
8929 9360 (Morrigan Mullen)  
6-11 July: *Deceptions* by Paul  
Wheeler  
13-18 July: *Dinner Ladies* by  
Victoria Wood

\***Shakespeare's Globe**, New  
Globe Walk, London SE1 9DT:  
7902 1432 (Fiona Banks)  
Full Resources and INSET on  
Shakespeare's Plays

\***Theatre Centre**,  
Shoreditch Town Hall, Old St,  
EC1V 9LT: 7729 3066  
17 Sep-21 Nov: *Rigged* by  
Ashmeed Sohoje (14+)  
4 Feb-27 Mar 10: *Jake & Cake*  
by Godfrey Hamilton (6+)

\***Trestle Theatre Co**, Trestle  
Arts Base, Russet Drive, St  
Albans AL4 0JQ: 01727 850  
950 (Mark Londesborough)  
Touring Autumn: *The Glass  
Mountain* by Anna Reynolds

\***Tricycle**, 269 Kilburn High  
Rd, NW6 7JR: 7328 1000  
Until 11 July: *Karoo Moose* by  
Lara Foot Newton

\***Unicorn Arts Theatre**, 147  
Tooley St, SE1 2HZ: 7645 0500  
(Cath Greenwood)  
1-12 July: *Under The Carpet*  
by Theatr Lolo (3-5yrs)  
3-10 July: *Class Acts*: Annual  
Schools Theatre Festival

\***WebPlay**, 1st Floor,  
Downstream Building, 1 London  
Bridge SE1 9BG: 7022 1836  
(Sydney Thornbury)  
www.webplay.org

**Young Vic**, 66 The Cut,  
Waterloo, London SE1 8LZ:  
7922 2800 (Sue Emmas)  
Until 15 July: *Been So Long* by  
Che Walker