

Coming up this term:

Third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present **Cabaret** at The Corbett Theatre
7.30pm, Thursday 17 January to Saturday 19 January

Second-year BA Acting students present **Music Hall** at The Corbett Theatre
7.30pm, Monday 4 February to Saturday 9 February

Third-year BA Acting students present **The Good Hope** at The Corbett Theatre
7.30pm, Wednesday 13 February to Saturday 16 February
2.30pm matinee, Friday 15 February

Third-year BA Acting students present **Afore Night Come** at Studio Five, Roding House
7.30pm, Wednesday 20 February to Saturday 23 February
2.30pm matinee, Friday 22 February

Third-year BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) students present **Julius Caesar** at The Corbett Theatre
7.30pm, Wednesday 20 February to Saturday 22 February
2.30pm matinee, Friday 22 February

Third-year BA Acting students present the world premiere of **The Machine Breakers** at The Corbett Theatre
7.30pm, Wednesday 5 March to Saturday 8 March
2.30pm matinee, Friday 7 March

Third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present **Attraction to Atrocity** at The Space
7.30pm, Wednesday 5 March to Saturday 8 March

Third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present **Round Round** at The Space
7.30pm, Wednesday 12 March to Saturday 15 March

Third-year BA Community Theatre students present **The Hatching Project** or **Mobilisation** at The Corbett Theatre
7.30pm, Thursday 20 March

For tickets to The Corbett Theatre and Studio Five, please contact East 15's Box Office, telephone: 020 8508 5983 or e-mail: east15@essex.ac.uk

For tickets to The Space (269 Westferry Road, London), please contact The Space Box Office, telephone: 0208 7515 7799

Welcome to the first edition of *Curtain Call*, East 15's termly newsletter for students, staff and Friends of East 15. We hope you find *Curtain Call* informative and useful, please feel free to contact Victoria Bartholomew, Marketing Manager, on e-mail: vbarth@essex.ac.uk if you have any ideas or wish to contribute to future issues.



East 15 graduate and star of stage and TV, Ann Mitchell, attended World Performance launch (photo credit: Andrew H Williams)

World Performance launch at The Groucho Club

Teachers, members of the theatre world and distinguished alumni attended East 15's successful launch of their new BA World Performance degree at a glamorous evening reception at The Groucho Club in London.

Entertainment was provided by East 15 students from Denmark, Malta, the Caribbean, Poland and Israel,

who sang in their native tongue accompanied by East 15's Head of Music, and pianist on BBC Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, Colin Sell. There was also Balinese dancing and speeches from Unicorn Theatre's artistic director, Tony Graham, and ON Theatre's artistic director Mick Gordon.

East 15 graduate, and star of stage and TV, Ann Mitchell, who attended the launch, said: 'I wish East 15 and all involved the very best of luck for the future internationally.'

BA World Performance is a unique and radical step away from traditional university or drama school programmes. No other UK institutions offer a similar scheme, as it combines a study of performance traditions and approaches from across the world. It is aimed at students who have an interest and skills in performance but may not want to become an actor. It would also be suitable for students drawn towards performing arts and theatre programmes at universities and academies with a strong performance tradition.



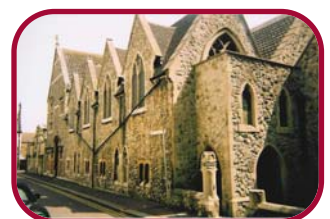
East 15 students provided entertainment at World Performance launch (photo credit: Andrew H Williams)

Southend spread

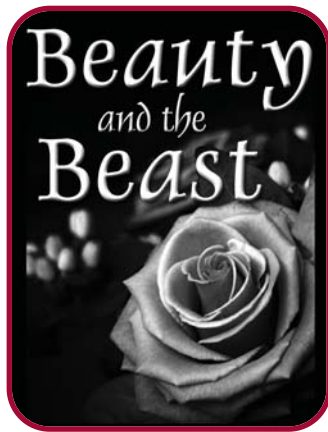
BA World Performance is an exciting step for East 15 and will be taught at the University of Essex's new state-of-the-art campus in Southend-on-Sea, meaning students have access to outstanding facilities, such as large rehearsal rooms with panoramic views across Southend.

Other programmes to be offered in Southend by East 15 include BA Performance Studies and Popular Culture, which has come about as performance studies are no longer simply about training actors, dancers or musicians. Instead, a knowledge of performance and how it influences popular culture is now highly relevant to film-makers, photographers, bloggers, website developers, critics, event organisers and producers. BA Performance Studies and Popular Culture will provide students with extensive skills in all of these areas and equip them to pursue a range of careers in the creative industries.

Last term the University also purchased the Clifftown United Reformed Church, built in 1866, in Southend. This grade II listed building is close to Southend High Street and there are plans to convert into a theatre for East 15 students to use!



The Clifftown United Reformed Church



Beauty and the Beast proved very popular at The Corbett Theatre

Successful season

The autumn term saw another successful season with productions by East 15 students taking place at The Corbett Theatre and in the local area.

Productions staged away from The Corbett Theatre included *Hester's Place*, which BA Community Theatre students performed in October at the beautiful Parndon Mill. Hester was a slave brought by a plantation family to work on their grand estate in Little Parndon, Harlow in 1740. The estate eventually became home to William Smith, who worked with Wilberforce and the abolitionists. By using Parndon Mill, this story of slavery and those who fought against it was performed next to Little Parndon churchyard, where Hester was buried in 1767.

In December, East 15's touring Christmas shows by BA Acting and BA Contemporary Theatre students wowed very different audiences!

BA Acting students performed *Robin Hood* and *Anansi the Spider* to local schools, as well as putting on *Beauty and the Beast* at The Corbett Theatre. These productions, aimed at younger school children, proved very popular.

Tim French, Deputy Head of Daiglen School, whose pupils visited The Corbett Theatre to see *Beauty and the Beast*, said: 'It was an excellent performance. The children were buzzing about it afterwards and spent most of lunch break asking me how the Beast appeared out of nowhere and how he became human again so quickly. I told them, of course, that it was simply magic!'

Aimed at older members of the family, BA Contemporary Theatre students performed *Food for Masses* and *The Inconsiderate Aberrations of Billy the Kid*. Both productions were so well received that the Barbican Centre in London is now looking at staging *The Inconsiderate Aberrations of Billy the Kid* next year!



Touring shows by BA Contemporary Theatre students were well received

After East 15: Another award

In October, East 15 graduate, Anniwaa Buachie, won the prestigious and highly competitive Alan Bates Bursary. Anniwaa, now signed with Nancy Hudson Associates Ltd, beat students from Bristol Old Vic, Italia Conti, LAMDA and RADA, and collected her award from actress Fiona Shaw at the Actors Centre, London.

Anniwaa said: 'This Bursary entitles me to free Actors Centre classes for a year plus £1,000 to cover expenses, like show reels. It enables me to commit full-time to acting, to devote the energy to develop my skills and keep alive the acting spirit developed at East 15!'

More than 200 applications were received for the award, with just eight finalists chosen.

Monstrously magnificent

East 15 graduate Craig Tonks received critical acclaim while touring the UK as The Creature in *Frankenstein*.

His performance was reviewed in *The Stage* who said: 'Craig Tonks' Creature is instantly impressive. Not simply because of his great height, but also the impact of his powerful, deep voice. Tonks, in his first professional performance since leaving East 15 this summer, highlights Mary Shelley's compassion and the Creature's demands for simple human rights.'



Arsher Ali, performing whilst still studying at East 15

International Star of Tomorrow

Arsher Ali, who graduated from East 15 in 2006, has been nominated by the film industry magazine, *Screen International*, as a Star of Tomorrow. Those nominated, which include an array of British actors and directors, were described as 'the brightest new hopes of the British film industry.'

Arsher won the prestigious Laurence Olivier Student Award in his second year at East 15. He recently appeared in Peter Kosminsky's Channel 4 programme about Asian identity in the UK, *Britz*, and has starred in Ayub Khan-Din's stage play *Rafta Rafta*, directed by Nicholas Hytner, at London's National Theatre.

Join Friends of East 15

Would you, or someone you know, like to join Friends of East 15?

Friends of East 15 enjoy:

- Regular newsletters on activities and events at the School
- Information on upcoming performances at The Corbett Theatre and elsewhere
- Two free tickets to all performances by students at the School

For more information, and to complete a Friends of East 15 form, please visit: www.east15.ac.uk/maillist.asp or contact Victoria Bartholomew on e-mail: vbarth@essex.ac.uk

East 15 is keen to maintain contact with alumni! If you trained at East 15, or know about the success of an East 15 graduate, then please e-mail: east15-alumni@essex.ac.uk