

Coming up this term:

Second-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present *Forum Theatre* at Redbridge Drama Centre, 7.30pm, Thursday 24 April

Second-year BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) students present *The Essex Rebellion at the Tower of London* at the Tower of London, throughout the day during Tower opening hours, Tuesday 27 May to Saturday 31 May

Third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present *Debut* at The Corbett Theatre, 7.30pm, Wednesday 28 May to Saturday 31 May
2pm matinee, Friday 30 May and Saturday 31 May

Third-year BA Acting students present *The Actor's Centre Season* at The Actor's Centre, various times, Wednesday 28 May to Friday 6 June

Third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present *Web* at Redbridge Drama Centre, 8pm, Friday 6 June

Third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students present *Debut* at The Unicorn Theatre, various times, Wednesday 18 June to Saturday 21 June

MA in Acting students present *The Dog Beneath The Skin* at Battersea Arts Centre, times TBC, Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June

Third-year BA Community Theatre students present *Act Locally* at The Unicorn Theatre, various times, Monday 23 June to Saturday 28 June

Ticket prices for all productions at The Corbett Theatre are £8 (£5 concession). For tickets to The Corbett Theatre, telephone: 020 8508 5983 or e-mail: east15@essex.ac.uk

For tickets to Redbridge Drama Centre, telephone: 020 8504 5451

For tickets to the Tower of London, telephone: 0844 482 7799 (please note: there is no fee for the performance but usual entry rates to the Tower apply)

For tickets to The Actor's Centre, telephone: 020 7240 6283

For tickets to The Unicorn Theatre, telephone: 020 7645 0560 or e-mail: boxoffice@unicorntheatre.com

For tickets to Battersea Arts Centre, telephone: 020 7223 2223 or e-mail: boxoffice@bac.org.uk

Keep an eye on: www.east15.ac.uk for information about future productions!

Welcome to the summer edition of *Curtain Call*, East 15's termly newsletter for students, staff and Friends of East 15. We hope you find *Curtain Call* to be 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.

Somalia's success

Somalia Seaton, a final-year BA Contemporary Theatre student, has won Epping Forest District Council's Leisure Bursary Award, worth £750. She is the first East 15 student to win this award and was nominated by her course tutor Uri Roodner, who is also a director and a performer working in theatre, dance, film and TV.

Somalia explains: 'I was in rehearsals for *I am Green*, a play I directed initially at East 15 as part of our student festival, Debut. My Leisure Bursary Award will go towards taking my new show to Edinburgh. This show will be a devised piece featuring myself and other students on my course, Alan Devally, Rachael Boulton and Amy Dolan. Coincidentally they were all in *I am*

Green, so the money will go towards a production with the same company of people!'

Somalia received her cheque at a ceremony at Epping Forest Council. Before joining East 15 on the Certificate of Higher Education in Theatre Arts course in 2004, Somalia went to St Dunstan's College in Catford and then Hayes Sixth Form College. She will graduate from BA Contemporary Theatre this summer.



Somalia is the first East 15 student to win Epping Forest District Council's Leisure Bursary Award



A scene from *I Am Green*, the play that Somalia directed (photo credit: Brian Astbury)

Funding for East 15

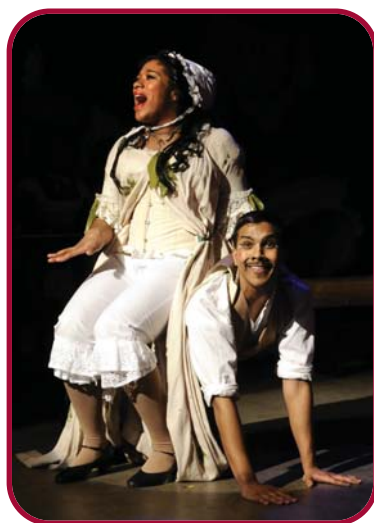
Final-year BA Community Theatre students have won a grant of £5,586 from the University of Essex's Annual Fund. This will help support their graduation projects at the Unicorn Theatre, London, this June.

These graduation projects are to be a community event and there will be four productions, all involving members of the local area.

BA Community Theatre student Sarah-May De Souza explains: 'We have formed four separate companies within the year and are proposing to run workshops with various Southwark community groups, introducing them to opportunities that may not have previously been accessible. This process will culminate in a collaborative performance between us and participants at the Unicorn Theatre.'

'Our aim is to produce work of a professional standard, whilst establishing long-term relationships between East 15, the Unicorn Theatre and the various client groups. Future students on BA Community Theatre will benefit from the links secured, the Unicorn are interested in a long-term relationship and we plan to invite representatives of well-established theatre companies, who may also forge links with East 15.'

In addition, East 15's Alison Taylor, Deputy Head of Technical Theatre, has won a Creative Way award of £7,000. This will enable her to set up feeder agreements with local institutions.



Second-year BA Acting students in Music Hall (photo credit: Mike Eddowes)

Spring backwards

The spring term saw productions and events by East 15 students taking place at The Corbett Theatre and elsewhere, including London and Southend.

Productions at The Corbett Theatre involved second-year BA Acting students, who undertook a week-long Music Hall performance. This raised almost £600 for deserving local children's charity Haven's House Hospice after one fundraising night.

Third-year BA Specialist Performance Skills (Stage Combat) students also wowed Corbett Theatre audiences with a modern version of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, whilst third-year BA Acting students put on a gritty season of productions at The Corbett Theatre and at Roding House. This included a world premiere performance of Ernst Toller's *The Machine Breakers*, translated by Alan Raphael Pearlman.

In addition to performing *Mobilisation* at The Corbett Theatre, third-year BA Community Theatre students took four shows to Southend Central Library. Katherine Pond, Children's Manager at the library, said: 'I received very positive comments from attendees, "They were fantastic!" and "It's great to see new faces coming into the library. My daughter loves it so much she wants to join in!" The actors really encouraged the participants to use their imagination and we learnt new skills to use in our own storytelling!'

Also away from The Corbett Theatre, third-year BA Contemporary Theatre students made use of innovative Isle of Dogs theatre, The Space, for their productions of *Attraction to Atrocity* and *Round Round*.



BA Acting students make use of a magnificent set for *The Machine Breakers* at The Corbett Theatre (photo credit: Mike Eddowes)

48 hours in a car

Two BA Contemporary Theatre students spent 48 hours in a car as part of the contextual studies element of their course. Carrie Acors and Darrell Jackson, both in their final-year, started this experiment at East 15's Hatfields car park.

Carrie explained: 'The rules were no communication with the outside world, so we couldn't get out off the car and had only one tank of petrol to last 48 hours. There was no eating; just drinking water and we had to carry out necessary toilet duties in the car. Although spectators could send us feedback via text messages, we were not allowed to reply!'

'The weekend went really well, there were some low points but generally it was a fulfilling experience. By Sunday my body was quite in tune with not eating but on Saturday we drove to Southend, where the smell of fish and chips, and sight of happy people sinking their teeth into lovely food, was quite distressing!'

As well as being a different way to spend the weekend, Carrie and Darrell wished to challenge the boundaries between a stunt and a piece of theatre or performance art.

After East 15:

Old Vic, New Voices and East 15

The final acting ensemble for this year's Old Vic, New Voices: 24 Hour Plays has been announced with five East 15 graduates taking part: Jack Brackstone Brown (graduated 2007), Sian Breckin (2005), Robert Carragher (2005), Natalie Duvall (2005) and Charlie Platt (2007).

With so many alumni involved, East 15 is the most represented acting school within the final ensemble.

BBC bursary

East 15 graduate Charlotte Bradford is one of only 36 performers to receive a BBC New Talent for Musical Theatre grant of £1,200.

BBC business

East 15 graduates have recently appeared in two popular BBC programmes.

Suzie McGrath, who graduated in 2006, is currently appearing in the BBC soap *EastEnders* as Keisha. Francois Pandolfo, who graduated in 2004, starred as Quintus in the second episode of the new series of *Doctor Who*, set in Pompeii on volcano day.

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, please get in touch, via e-mail: east15-alumni@essex.ac.uk

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 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