

# DRAMA



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**NEWSLETTER: December 2023**



As we come to the end of a busy term, we wanted to highlight all that our students have achieved including; six theatre trips, New Directors' Season, the return of our group of Sixth Form performers 'The Siege of Herons' after a triumphant week at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, LHS Celebration of the Arts night, pupils doing great things in local theatres and the West End and to introduce our newest member of the Drama team.

Our LAMDA pupils have been working hard this term and will have taken their exams by the time you read this. We look forward to hearing of their successes in the new year.

Our trips and productions would not run so smoothly without help from staff across the Foundation; driving the minibus, accompanying us on trips, serving refreshments to our audiences, helping front of house and opening drama studios on a Sunday for rehearsals, so a very big thank you from the Drama Department.

We hope you enjoy the resurrection of our Drama Newsletter, and the words of our students as they reflect on their experiences. We also have a very active Twitter account with regular updates on our rehearsals, productions, trips and more so please follow us: @LSF\_Drama

**Sally Bruton**  
Head of Drama LGS

**Sally Boon**  
Head of Drama LHS

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# The Siege of Herons: 1518



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“Our fringe experience started long before its showcase in August, once a week after school we would meet for a rehearsal, this rehearsal process stood out to me like no other. The way in which (Old Loughburian) Hamza treated us like adult professionals was so refreshing, it allowed us as group to really trust Hamza and his creative vision. This carried through to the trip itself; the freedom to explore the city with friends, watching theatre and comedy, speaking to other festival go-ers whilst handing out flyers. One thing that was vital in 1518 was the sense of ensemble, getting to know and work with a group for such a long time allowed for seamless teamwork and created a safe space devoid of judgement. I think all this was cemented in the time we spent together outside the show, sharing student accommodation where we cooked, ate and spent free time together. Overall I had the most amazing experience that I'll never forget.”

**Victor Year 13 LGS**



The Edinburgh Festival  
**fringe**

# Autumn Term Theatre Trips



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In September our A Level Drama pupils travelled to London to see *Burnt City*, Lilla describes her experience of the production below:

“The Punchdrunk *Burnt City* Drama trip was an intensely immersive experience unlike any theatre piece I’ve seen before. It tested my limits on my bravery, to explore such an intense space on my own without knowing where the rest of the group was. With Punchdrunk being such a unique field of theatre and something I had never heard of before ALevel Drama it was extremely beneficial to my understanding as it gave me a whole new outlook on the style to be able to experience it first hand.

It’s helped me immensely with knowing how to structure a similar piece in my writing section of the exam. Aside from being useful for Alevel Drama, it was also beneficial to a wider understanding of what theatre can be and how creative and broad it is, which has inspired me further with my passion for the subject.”

**Lilla Year 13 LHS**



© Leicester Curve

In September our Years 10 & 11 Drama GCSE pupils went to the Curve theatre in Leicester to see Frantic Assembly’s production of Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*. Here are a few thoughts from one of our Year 10 pupils, Lawrence:

Seeing *Metamorphosis* at the Curve was an overall enjoyable experience, even though some may have found it confusing! I thought that the emotion in the piece was excellent and we all had a chance to experience physical theatre and Frantic assembly’s unique style; some of us for the first time. As we walked in the set was the first thing that caught my eye, with strange angles making it almost like an optical illusion and disorientating. It helped to express the chaos of the story and was the perfect backdrop for the character of Gregor Samsa’s change into an insect. I liked how his unnatural movements emanated around the set, how he clung from the ceiling and swung on the light fitting with great strength whilst also making it look very easy. We found it overly wordy in parts and the plot was rather confusing, but we all enjoyed it in different ways and it gave us lots to discuss in our Drama lessons.

**Lawrence Year 10 LGS**



**In October some of our Year 10 & 11 pupils went to Nottingham Playhouse to see this poignant piece of physical theatre based on the performer's and director's experience of migration, racism, empathy and home. This heartfelt review by Sophia sums up her experience beautifully:**



Gecko present  
**Kin**

© Nottingham Playhouse

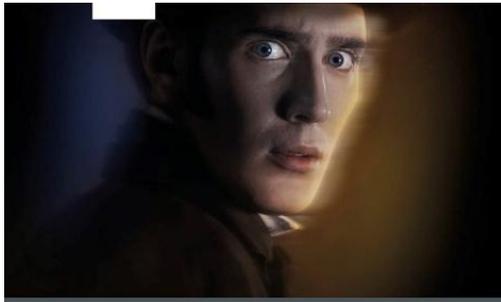
Kin - beautiful and powerful and important. It told a story I can't understand ever, and a story that a lot of us ignore. I know why, it's too much for us to take in. Kin forced us to see it, in languages we didn't speak and movements we didn't understand. But something struck, maybe the emotion? The truth. I'll call myself naïve for truly not getting it, and I still am for letting myself recover after a four minute sob. My wonderful friend, who cried with me understood a million times more than me. If I got it like she got it I'd be stuck. That's why we can't bear to understand and choose a lot of the time to stay "immune" to things people are forced to feel, see, and experience - things that we are privileged to be able to ignore. The lighting, sound and movement and emotion was intricate and delicate and strong. I know it meant more to the actors than to me and I'm ashamed to not be able to unpick every minute. I'm disappointed I can't recall every moment and forever feel the impact. Truthfully and thoroughly I am glad I don't have a path that relates to this story. Beautiful yes, but too much for a little kid like me to ever get my head around. So for now, this was a show that ran through my eyes and my ears and became a story and, a real one everyone should force themselves to hear (not that it's much of a chore to, it's totally captivating and beautiful, wonderful to watch) I truly truly loved it.

**Sophia Year 10 LHS**

**In November we took LGS Years 6 and 7, along with one of our year 11 English groups who are currently studying the text for GCSE, to see the Mark Gatiss production of A Christmas Carol at Nottingham Playhouse. We never get bored of all the compliments we get from members of the public on our pupil's behaviour on theatre trips and this one was no exception.**



© Nottingham Playhouse



The Woman in Black

© Nottingham Theatre Royal

The cold dark November night felt very apt for our trip to the Theatre Royal in Nottingham with some of our GCSE Drama students, to see *The Woman in Black*. We were on the edge of our seats and often jumping out of them! Joey gives us his thoughts:



*The Woman in Black* was a very impressive performance by two very talented actors. It effectively used the trope of a play in a play but also deviated in order to create a brilliantly tense twist ending which left us, the audience, still somewhat scared even after the show had finished. Both actors were incredibly effective and the incredibly varied range of roles in which the older Arthur Kipps excelled was a particularly impressive feat. Overall, some excellent acting and very scary sound and set design came together to make a brilliant performance.

### Joey Year 11 LGS



© Leicester Curve

We love a ghost story! and our A Level Drama pupils will have the opportunity to write about this production in their final exam. Henry tells us a little about their recent trip to see *2:22 A Ghost Story* below:

We raced out of House Music and drove to the Curve in Leicester to watch *2:22 A Ghost Story*. Once we got there, we entered the theatre and took pictures of the set for our analysis before settling down to watch the play. The actors were amazing and coupled with the tech and set, I thought the show was great. It was very comedic in parts and enjoyable. I liked Sam's character, since he was a main comedic character, and Ben, who I enjoyed just as much. There were the jump scares which got me in the beginning, but I eventually got used to them. Overall the show was really effective and I wouldn't mind seeing it again, especially knowing the plot twist now.

### Henry Year 12 LGS

# New Directors' Season



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**From September to November, a group of student directors, adapted, wrote, auditioned and rehearsed 13 short plays and musicals, under the guidance of Mrs Kinson. The pieces were performed across two nights in the LHS and LGS drama studios to very appreciative audiences. Here are some thoughts from one of our directors and one of our actors who both worked on an adaptation of 'La La land'.**

I remember walking into the Drama Studio that first week, seeing all the cast's nervous but anticipating faces. I remember us trying to do icebreakers when the ice was already broken. I remember all of the jokes we made. The pounding headache I had on our tech rehearsal and the silly Tiktok videos we tried to make before the show. But I think most of all I remember seeing how their faces lit up, so proud of what they'd done. I remember just watching their smiles as they bowed. A mix of pleasure and sadness that it was over. I can safely say, NDS has been one of the best experiences of my life. So, Jacob, Megan, Mondanny, Sophie, Ella, Amber, Harry, Dan, Freddie and Lilia I want you to all know, from the bottom of my heart, how proud of you I am.

**Isaac Year 10 LAS**

I've always enjoyed performing because of my crazy energetic persona. Right before leaving Prep at Amherst, my Year Six teacher recommended I participate in the New Director's Season once I join the Upper school. I jumped to discover that these performances were taken really seriously and performed on the big stages across the Foundation. After closing my first NDS show 'Swallows and Amazons'. I walked off that stage feeling heroic. The concept of being directed by fellow students stuck out to me, and after three years I can honestly state that it feels like I have a whole Drama career ahead of me because of NDS.

**Jacob Year 9 LAS**

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# Celebrating our Pupils



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© RSC



In September as well as moving up from Fairfield to start Year 7 at LHS, Estella also took on the lead role of Matilda in the West End. She

shares the role with three other young performers across eight performances a week. We caught up with Estella during her busy schedule to ask her a few questions....

**Q. What was it like performing in front of a huge audience for the first time?**

**A.** It's something I've really got used to now and I love it but the first time was quite scary but once I'd got to the second or third scene I was fine!

**Q. How do you all prepare for a performance?**

Everyone's way of getting ready for a show is different but first I warm up with the whole cast, then they do safety checks for dangerous scenes (like 'when I grow up' on swings) while I do a Matilda voice warm up. Then we go up to the dressing rooms and brush our teeth, get our hair done and our mics on and finally costumes, and then we go down to backstage for the start of the show!

**Q. What's your favourite scene to perform?**

My favourite scene to perform will always be 'Naughty'. I love to bring out the cheeky side of Matilda and I love the choreography.

**Q. And finally, what's the very best thing about being in a west end show?**

The amazing connection between the whole cast, adults and children, everyone always works well together. And the bows, there is nothing more rewarding than when I've finished a show and 'Matilda' comes out and the whole audience stands up and cheers. One of the best moments of my life.

We are very proud to have **THREE** members of LGS all currently appearing in the Curve theatre production of *Evita* running until 13 January. It is an interesting production, modernised in so many ways. If you're lucky enough to be going, look out for David (Year 11), Lorcan (Year 8) and Jude (Year 9).

Good luck to Lexie (Year 8) at LHS in Derby Theatre's Pantomime - *Cinderella* and Lily Kersey (Year 12) who's dancing in the Melton Mowbray pantomime - *Aladdin*.

Also to Edelyn (Year 8) who is dancing in *Peter Pan* at Loughborough Town Hall.

Congratulations to Martha (Year 12) at LHS who played Princess Ana recently in a production of *Frozen Jr* at Melton Theatre and to Izzy (Year 12) who recently performed in *Go Back For Murder* by Agatha Christie in Long Eaton.

Please encourage your sons and daughters to share their Drama achievements outside School with their form tutors, so we can include them in our newsletters.



# Celebration of the Arts Night - LHS



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Our student led night to celebrate the Arts at LHS this term was a huge success. Featuring some of our LAMDA pupils performing their exam pieces, some of our NDS performers had a chance to perform again along with a final performance of our Edinburgh festival show 1518. We were treated to Music, Dance, Art and a beautifully decorated poetry corner which was very well received by our audience.



Our Middle school 'Shout Out' group, performed a short experimental piece called 'Look Out' which they devised together specifically for Arts night, Gioia describes the experience below:

The 'Look Out' project was truly astonishing as we had only a few weeks to achieve what seemed like an impossible outcome. Despite the lack of time, the results were sensational. The moment within the performance felt like reverie and fantastical for me. I am so honoured and glad to be working with this incredible team of people. This experience definitely made my love for drama grow, leaving me excited for what's to come in the future for Shout Out.

**Gioia Year 10 LHS**



# Upcoming productions



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## MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

A new musical lovingly ripped off from the motion picture  
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail

Spamalot rehearsals are galloping ever onwards! Miss North has created dances with beautiful choreography that showcase all of the students' talents, while Mr Morris has been teaching songs to experienced and nervous singers, promoting confidence in their performances. The scenes are very funny and by the end of term we will be nearly finished, leaving the Spring term to polish it for our audiences. Tickets will be on sale after the Christmas break. Snap yours up quickly - we promise hilarious visual gags, amazing projections, outstanding performances and a great night out! Don't miss out!

**Sally Bruton - Director**



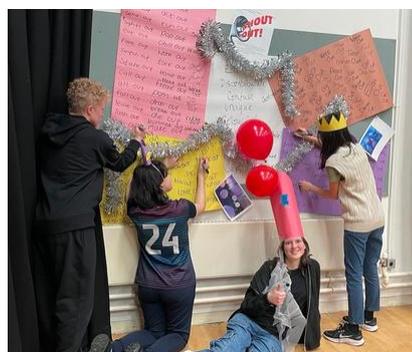
Loughborough Schools Foundation  
Middle School Production  
2023/24  
Year 9 & 10



# SHOUT OUT!

Taking part in 'Shout Out!' is not for the faint hearted. It has required the cast to be open minded and absorb quickly, challenging creative concepts that they haven't been exposed to before. Their first performance, which was created in just under three weeks of rehearsal time was compelling and brave. The audience witnessed a cast who were willing to push themselves beyond their comfort zone and take artistic risks. We are now preparing ourselves for the next creative phase of the process and the cast are very excited, if not slightly apprehensive, to develop a piece of performance art, in collaboration with the Art Department, combining sound, film, movement and text in which they hope to discombobulate yet captivate their audiences.

**Sally Boon - Director**



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# Spotlight on our Drama team



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This term we have welcomed a new Drama and English teacher to our team. Miss North is teaching full time at LGS and is looking forward to directing our Lower School production of Alice in Wonderland involving pupils from across the Foundation, in the new year.

Graduating with a First Class degree in Performing Arts from Leicester De Montfort University in 2014 followed by a Masters in Psychology from Nottingham Trent University. Miss North has worked as both a Drama teacher and Head of Year at a school in Leicester. With a Drama and Dance background, She has taught freelance dance in various settings and particularly enjoys physical theatre and movement-based work.

Outside her role at LSF, Miss North is a regular performer with ESNA Theatre and choreographs for LAOS.



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LSF DRAMA PRESENTS...

## Alice in Wonderland



Auditions  
for year 7 and 8

Wednesday 10th January 2024  
16:10 - 17:30  
LGS Drama Studio

If you're interested in auditioning for the role of ALICE, please ALSO attend an audition from 13:10 - 14:00 in the LHS Drama studio on Wednesday 10 January

Rehearsals will be after school until 17:30 EVERY WEDNESDAY  
Mandatory technical rehearsal: Sunday 9th June from 11 - 15:00

**PERFORMANCE DATES:** 12th & 13th June  
(where you will be needed from 16:10 - 19:00)

Posters are going up around all three Senior schools in the Foundation, for Years 7 and 8 to audition for our Lower School production of Alice in Wonderland after the Christmas holiday. We are hoping for a cast of 32 and you will have recently received information in your inbox about it. Pupils from LAS, LGS and LHS are encouraged to get involved and join us for a very relaxed and fun audition in the LGS Drama Studio, after school on 10 January 2024.

**Wishing you all a relaxing Christmas break,  
from everyone in the LSF Drama Department.**

### 2024 dates for your diary:

Senior School production SPAMALOT: 12 - 14 March

Middle School production SHOUT OUT: 25 - 26 March

Lower School production ALICE IN WONDERLAND: 12 - 13 June

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