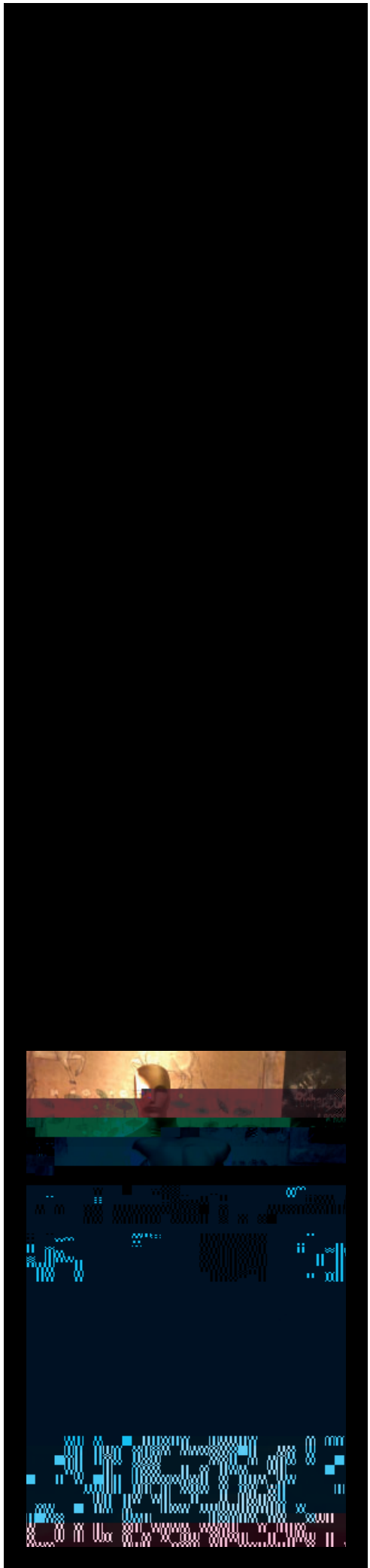
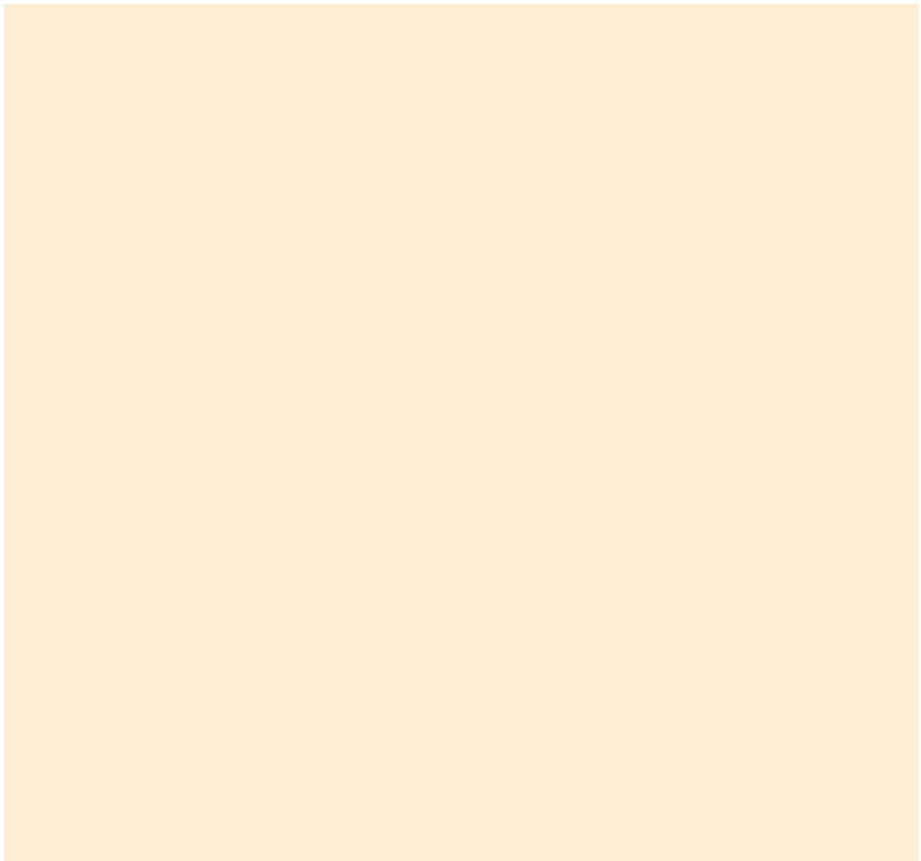
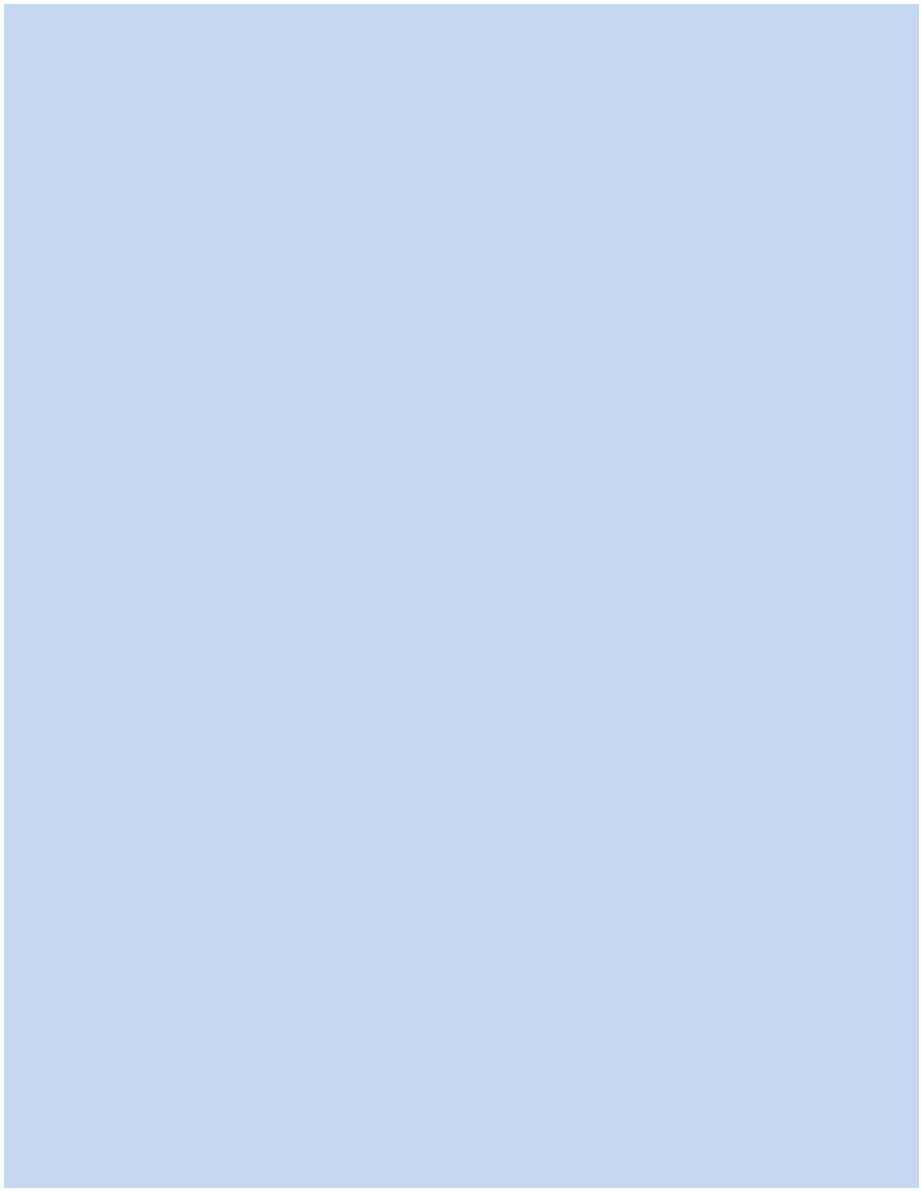


See me now



It's been a landmark year for Hannah Peel (Music, 2004): a new album, high-profile collaborations and scoring a feature-length Game of Thrones documentary. "Twelve months of total joy," says Hannah. "It feels like years of trying ideas out and experimenting have grown into one fruitful tree."

As well as the Game of Thrones documentary The Last Watch, which marked the end of the final series, Hannah also wrote many of the string arrangements for Paul

Weller's album True Meanings. This led to her scoring his orchestral shows at the Royal Festival Hall in October, with Hannah directing the orchestra. "I only conducted, because he encouraged me to do it over and over again. I was very happy to let someone much more experienced do it, but you know I'm so glad it happened.

"I learnt a lot about myself. I'd do it all again in a heartbeat."

Earlier in the year, she released

## Making mega hits

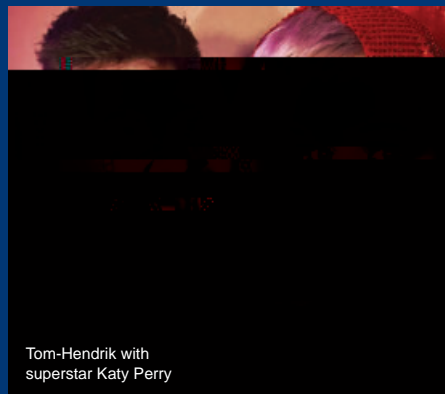
As a product manager for Universal Music in Germany, Tom-Hendrik Uebelgünn (Management, 2017) gets to work with some of the biggest artists in the world to promote their new releases.

"I look after a roster of international artists within the dance and electronic repertoire, but the term electronic is so broad and has influences on so many other genres. So, I have the pleasure to not only work with core electronic DJ/producers like DJ Snake, Marshmello and The Chemical Brothers, but also with artists like Years & Years, Katy Perry, Maggie Rogers and The Weeknd."

Based in his hometown of Berlin, 26-year-old Tom-Hendrik explains: "It entails a lot of marketing and project management, but also a lot of team management and coordination, as I work with an in-house team of TV, press and radio promoters, digital sales specialists, content creation managers and many more."

"I work across 15+ artists and campaigns at once. My day-to-day schedule can really vary from putting together promo schedules, when the artist is on tour, to creating a unique content plan building up to a release."

Although Tom-Hendrik says all his artists are equally exciting, one stood out, in particular, for him last year. "The Years & Years record release show we did in Berlin was an absolute highlight. We transformed the whole venue into a Years & Years world."



Tom-Hendrik with superstar Katy Perry

## Bryan's perfect Storm(zy)

continued from page 1

Bryan, who hails from Toronto in Canada and now lives in London, tells us he was overwhelmed by the

alums represented the end of the engineering portion of my career and became the first UK alums

Platinms certification. It was also BRIT and Ivor Novello Award-winning and Mercury Prize-nominated: what a great way to finish."

Since then, Bryan has worked with American duo Sofi Tukker, attracting more awards attention with two GRAMMY nominations. "I would definitely say I'm proud (and surprised) to be able to say I'm a multi-GRAMMY-nominated producer/songwriter/mixer so soon.

"But it isn't so much 6A- awards 6A-mselves for specific projects that make me happy. For me, the culmination of awards and titles represent all the hard work and teymous moments and whatever else you had to go through to get to where you are now."

## Technical theatre in Tromsø

Johanna Coraline Jensen (TPT, 2015) describes Hålogaland Teater as a theatre which "does everything". She tells us: "I can go from doing an immersive toddler show in a tent for ten babies, to a large-scale musical to a multi-venue show, where the audience is split into three groups and ends up on a floating stage on the sea."

Since 2016, she has been a stage manager at the theatre in her hometown of Tromsø, where she regularly works with fellow LIPA graduates. Jørn Fuller-Gee (Acting, 2004) is a permanent actor there and Mari Lotherington (TPD, 2013) and Gjermund Andresen (TPD, 2004) have designed some of her shows.

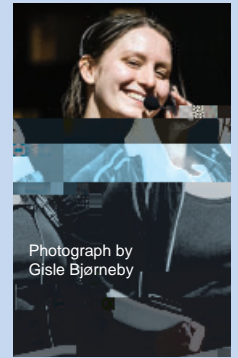
Last year, the theatre staged *Le Père* by Florian Zeller, which is about a character with Alzheimer's and how he sees the world. During the play, the set shifted to reflect his condition, with 14 carefully choreographed scene changes. "To make the furniture and props disappear seamlessly, the technicians had to wear night vision goggles and move quietly in the dark, while also guiding actors to their next spot. While rehearsing the show I had an infrared camera and monitor, so I was

able to see what was actually going on."

Johanna, who is 26, played another important role on *Le Père* Having spent time growing up in Belfort in France, she translated the French play into Norwegian, which she will do on another production later this year.

Another recent rewarding show for Johanna was *Tobias og dagen det smalt* The play addressed gender nonconformity for younger audiences and won a Hedda Award, Norway's biggest theatre accolade, for Best Children's Play.

Next up, is Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* which opens in September. "The set involves foam machines and a giant sandbox. The role of younger and older Peer is being played by two women. It will be really interesting to see their take on it."



Photograph by Gisle Bjørneby

## A royal appointment

Over the last two years, Tom Munno (Sound Technology, 2017) has worked on a whole series of high-profile live TV events, but there's one that stands out: the wedding of Prince Harry to Megan Markle in May 2018.

"The royal wedding was a personal highlight. It involved climbing up various towers around Windsor Castle to rig microphones along the route of the couple's procession.

"It was nice to know that I played a very small part in a historic event - albeit a bit scary to think that the microphones that I rigged were live to 1.9 billion people."

Tom, who is from Bedford but now based in Reading, works as a sound engineer for NEP UK: a company that supplies equipment and crew for TV outside broadcasts. As well as the royal wedding, his credits include Michael McIntyre's Big Show ESPN's Wimbledon coverage and the Korean tennis open.

The job involves a lot of travel, which Tom loves, and working in some highly pressurised situations. "I learnt quite early on that communication is key if something goes wrong. I will aim to clearly communicate what's happening over radio before I do anything else.

"I've also learnt to relax. For example, walking to a problem instead of running. It means when I arrive, I'm in a better frame of mind and have had more time to think about a solution."

A career in broadcasting has long been an ambition of Tom's and was confirmed



by working on live broadcasts throughout his time here. Tom confirms the technical skills weren't all he learnt. "LIPA was very good at ensuring that there were enough group-based tasks to allow us to develop our team working skills. This is vital in something like broadcast, which is such a collaborative effort."



For rock fan Beth Hogan (Management, 2010), championing her home county's musical heritage, is a dream job. Originally from Wolverhampton and now based in Birmingham, she is project coordinator for Home of Metal.

"Just like we associate Liverpool with The Beatles, Birmingham is the

"I'm a working-class lad from Leeds, from a single parent family. I didn't go to Cambridge or Oxford and I've no theatrical ancestry. To get to where I am now, I had to start at the bottom, learning my craft on the London and Edinburgh fringes." So says Ryan McBryde\*, the newly appointed creative director of Mercury Theatre in Colchester. The journey has taken him via the West End and the world of German theatre, with several award milestones along the way.

Ryan (Acting, 1999) explains how he came to direct in Germany: "I started out working at the English Theatre of Frankfurt, directing English language productions. My work got spotted by a producer in Stuttgart, who invited me to direct plays like *The Crucible*, 1984 and *Faust* in German. It was genuinely daunting at first, but the German actors spoke fantastic English, so we never had problems understanding one another. I work with a bilingual text, which I action within an inch of its life. Once I'd learnt what the action verbs were in German, I was good to go."

Language proved to be no barrier. 1984 was nominated for the prestigious Deutscher Theaterpreis Der Faust and *Faust* won the Stuttgart Audience Award. Ryan ranks both among his favourite pieces of work. Another of his recent favourites was *Pieces of String* at Mercury Theatre, which was nominated for the

2018 UK Theatre Award for Best Musical Production and won Best New Musical at The Stage Debut Awards.

The 41-year-old's many other credits include resident director on *Billy Elliot* and *Bat Boy* in the West End and working for the RSC on the development of *Matilda the Musical*.

Directing was always Ryan's passion. When he was studying here, he and four other graduates established theatre company Rogue State. They went on to create a name for themselves in fringe theatre, with Ryan directing five of their productions. As an actor, it was the rehearsal process and creating a performance that he enjoyed most. He is delighted therefore to be back at Mercury Theatre in his new role, responsible for the artistic vision and creative direction there.

\*Ryan Stephenson at LIPA

# The alumni network

Studying here offers you the opportunity to network from day one. A chance to meet like-minded people at the start of their careers and then work and develop together throughout your time here.

These connections and friendships often last long after you leave offering you a ready-made pool of talent and support to help you throughout your career, whether that be forming a band together or, hosting a day of one-act plays, as witnessed by Mark when he visited London to see Six Plays, One Day at the Tristan Bates Theatre, The Actors Centre.

## All together now

When Billie Van\* arrived at LIPA in 2009, she'd never met her fellow Norwegian Music students Jonas Alaska\*\* and Mikhael Paskalev\*\*\*. In the ten years since, they've regularly worked together and are about to release their first album as a band.

Recording under the name Hollywood since April 2018, they've already released four singles. Billie, who is from Asker and now based in Oslo, says: "Getting to know Jonas and Mik at LIPA turned out to be one of the best things that could have





# Snapshots

## 2015 Graduates

Welcome to the eighteenth edition of Snapshots, a series of alumni newsletter supplements providing short profiles of graduates from LIPA's Higher Education programmes, nearly four years after they graduated.

The 2016 graduate supplement will be issued with next summer's edition of LIPA's alumni newsletter.

Graduates will be contacted in spring 2020, however, you can update your profile at any time by ringing Jan Buchanan in alumni relations on +44 (0)151 330 3261, by emailing [alumni@lipa.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lipa.ac.uk) or by writing to The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, Mount Street, Liverpool L1 9HF, UK.

The graduates featured in this edition of Snapshots studied one of the following Higher Education programmes running in 2015:

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[BA \(Hons\) Acting](#)

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[BA \(Hons\) Community Drama](#)

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[BA \(Hons\) Dance](#)

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[BA \(Hons\) Music](#)

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[BA \(Hons\) Music,](#)

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Full details of our current Higher Education programmes can be found at [www.lipa.ac.uk](http://www.lipa.ac.uk)

If you graduated in 2015 and you're not featured in this supplement then please do get in touch – we'd love to hear what you are up to.

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, Mount Street, Liverpool L1 9HF, UK. Telephone

## Starting from scratch

When rehearsing at home with his band became too much for his family, drummer Adam Trevor had to find somewhere else to practice. The solution became the catalyst for his own business.

Adam (PMST, 2015) decided to build a rehearsal room in the family garden. It was to be the start of Scratch Studio, Adam says: "When I was practising with my band, I realised there weren't enough affordable recording opportunities. So, using the



## Kick-start for Jung dancer

'That which we do not bring to consciousness, appears in our lives as fate.' The quote, from Carl Jung, proved inspirational to Mathilde Caeyers. It was the spark that led her to create Eksogen\*, a contemporary dance project that has received Norwegian Arts Council funding to the tune of £20,000.

Mathilde tells us: 'Eksogen will be a contemporary dance performance with integrated live video design and electronic music. We are a team of three dancers (Intakt Dance), a musician, a lighting and video designer, a producer and a stage designer. Eksogen aims to explore whether there is a potential for violence in every human body. It will be an abstract



## Living in the (magic) moment

“It’s all about living in the moment,” for Ferne Collins (Community Drama, 2015), that’s the essence of what she wants to achieve in her workshops for people with dementia. The two-hour sessions, part of Small Things Theatre Company’s Storybox project, are delivered in care homes, libraries and hospices.

She explains what her role as a facilitator involves: “Each session has a theme, for example, a day at the beach would involve us dressing up, taking along flags and other sensory objects. Along with the participants, we then come up with creative ideas for stories, songs and poems. Some of the people we work with are brilliant at improvisation, others might just raise their head to see what’s going on. We don’t do reminiscence work, so there is no pressure on anyone to try to remember anything, not even their own name.”

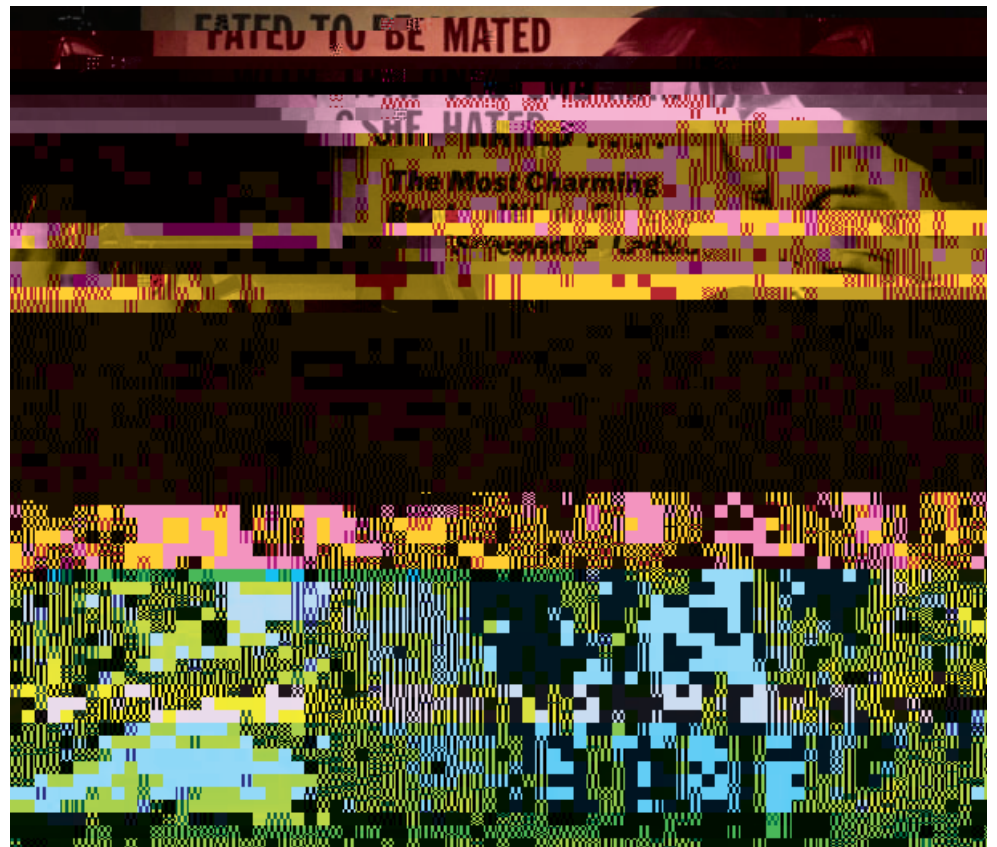
Encouraging those taking part to just enjoy the present brings its own magic moments. “We did a session with a Hollywood theme and, at the end of it, one of our ladies stood up and gave a lovely speech thanking everyone for coming along to the premiere. Her carer told us later how astonished she was – the woman hadn’t spoken for months.”

It’s the variety of working with clients of all ages and from all sectors of society that Ferne enjoys most. She recently worked on a theatre for democracy project for looked-after young people and care leavers in Oldham. Over twelve weeks, they put together and rehearsed a show about what they wanted to do next with their lives, culminating in a performance in front of social workers and council staff early this year. She says that the ability to go out into the community and create her own work is crucial in her field and one of the most important things that she learnt from her time here.

Aside from her freelance projects, the busy 26-year-old also works six days a week as a director and workshop leader at a Footlights theatre school in Manchester and delivers sessions at local schools.

# Quick, send in the clowns

If you are looking for a quick-change artist,  
Bandu04 0 0 31 ox ratost m W\* nn hey





# Memories of Her's

In March this year, we lost two outstanding graduates Stephen Fitzpatrick and Audun Laading. The pair, who had formed the band Her's together, were killed along with their manager Trevor Engelbrektson in a crash while travelling to a gig in California.

Stephen, from Barrow-in-Furness and Audun - from Flekkeroy, Norway - met here in 2013. They formed Her's in 2015 with Audun on bass and Stephen, originally a drummer, on guitar. Head of Music Martin Isherwood says: "Stephen was a great drummer and was in so many bands here. We were all surprised when he got up on stage as a singer and a guitarist in Her's with Audun."

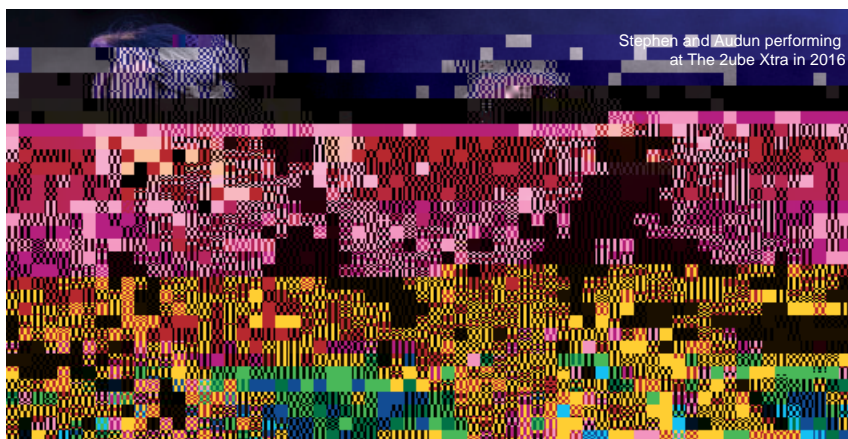
By 2016 they'd already started to attract a following. Tim Pike was Audun's bass tutor in his final year. "In their third year, they were able to concentrate on the band as a career. They were doing festivals and a lot of gigs around town. I remember them doing a great gig at The 2ube Xtra. They had the drum machine (affectionately known as Pierce Brosnan) on a stool as a third member of the band and it was Audun's job to start and stop it. Occasionally, he messed it up - which was all part of the experience and charm."

After leaving us in 2016, a series of headline gigs and festival performances in Liverpool were followed by a UK tour and a contract with record company Heist or Hit. In 2017, they released their mini compilation album Songs of Her's. The NME commended the collection and how they managed to "shift and float between sounds. Never really fitting into one genre, but somehow nailing whatever they end up doing."

At the start of 2018, Stephen was nominated by LIPA for a UK Music Outstanding Graduate Award (the Music department had wanted to nominate both Stephen and Audun, but the rules stipulated only one name be put forward). In August, they released their first full length album Invitation to Her's which earned them praise from The Guardian who marked them as 'One to watch.'

Spring 2019, saw a return to SXSW Festival, including a filmed performance for BBC Introducing, followed by a full US Tour. It was towards the end of that 19-date tour that they and their manager died after their vehicle was involved in a head on collision on 26 March.

Martin Isherwood remembers Stephen, who was 24 and 25-year-old Audun as, "just the funniest, sweetest, loveliest, most creative lads you can ever meet. They were just so down to earth." He believes they had an exciting future to look forward to. "The songs are just great and we all thought that they were going to be one of the biggest things out of Liverpool. They were just such lovely boys with so much ahead of them."

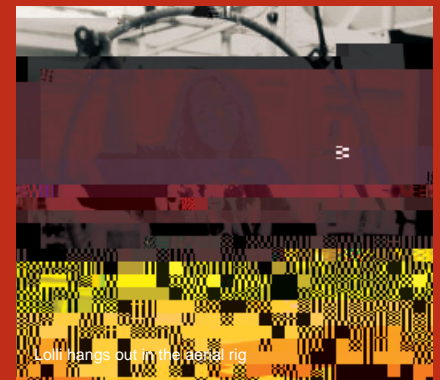


# Celebrating culture in Coventry

In 2021, Coventry will become the UK City of Culture. It's a great source of pride for Lolli Fallon (Community Drama, 2012), who is company manager for Imagineer Productions and Open Theatre - both based in the city. "I am from Coventry, so being able to work in my hometown in time for 2021 is extremely important for me."

Twenty-eight-year-old Lolli explains: "Open Theatre uses a non-verbal theatre approach with Young People with Learning Disabilities (YPWLD). We wholeheartedly believe in the ability of YPWLD to contribute to the creative and cultural life of the places where they live."

"Imagineer Productions specialises in cultural events and celebrations, whose ambitious work combines imagination, creativity, engineering and spectacle." Best-known for the landmark Cultural Olympiad project, Godiva Awakes, Imagineer creates extraordinary outdoor work.



Lolli's role encompasses producing and project management, operations, HR, relationship management and logistics. She feels her training here has stood her in good stead. "Although many of us didn't appreciate it at the time, 'Raising Funds and Managing Finance' has been invaluable. The knowledge and ethos that LIPA staff instilled in us has also been vital to my career."

Before joining the two companies earlier this year, Lolli was learning and participation manager at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. There, she worked with Melissa Daly (Acting, 2008) and regularly worked with Jay Crutchley (Community Drama, 2003). She recently contracted Jay to work on an Open Theatre project with a special school in Birmingham. Melissa has since also joined Open Theatre part-time.

Lolli is now focusing on a new project with Imagineer called BRIDGE "It's a large-scale, ambitious outdoor arts project celebrating the intersection of art and engineering. It will be a spectacular circus-inspired, physical theatre performance brought to life by outstanding artists." BRIDGE will be seen in Coventry later this year.

When Francesca Peschier developed a problem with her vision, she was forced to reconsider her career as a model maker and scenic designer. She made a full recovery,

# Olivia gets ready to roar

A year after graduating, Olivia Jones (FC Commercial Dance, 2015; Dance, 2018) is preparing to join the cast of one of her favourite stage musicals – as an ensemble member of the UK and Ireland tour of *The Lion King*

“Finding out I’d been cast was surreal. Landing a job in my favourite show almost straight out of training is so exciting – I feel extremely blessed to have this opportunity to fulfil a huge ambition of mine.”

The Windsor-based dancer tells us how inspired she was, the first time she saw the show: “It’s a timeless story and I found it mesmerising as it came to life in front of my eyes. I greatly admired the dancers: their technical ability, strength, dynamics and characterisation really brought the show together for me.”



Photograph by Andy Park

Starting among hundreds of hopefuls in January with an open call, the audition process lasted three months with two rounds of call-backs. Twenty-four-year-old Olivia says her training with us helped secure the role. “My four years at LIPA were vital in providing me with the tools and skills needed to be able to audition for a production such as *The Lion King*. The extremely high level of technical training underpins everything I do as a dancer. This, combined with the invaluable knowledge of the professional world, taught through mock auditions and lectures, gave me the ability to sustain myself through the long audition process.”

The tour opens at the Bristol Hippodrome on 7th September, where Olivia will perform with an international cast from Brazil, Hong Kong, Jamaica, South Africa and the United States, among others. “I’m also looking forward to working with an incredible creative team, all top specialists in their fields. Being able to work alongside them and learn from them is an invaluable experience.”

# Update from our founder

Sunshine and showers – that sums up 18/19. Our Sixth Form College had been inspected. We were waiting in the canteen for the result, Charles, our Sixth Form Director, arrived (he’d been an actor, so no trace on his face). He told us that that we’d scored ‘Outstanding’ in every category. We leapt to our feet to hug and cheer. Within moments, everyone eating round us was also cheering, having no idea what the excitement was about. If that doesn’t capture our vibe, I don’t know what does. A sunshine moment.

Another one was the graduate acting festival that Matthew and Stephen created (I’ve described my reactions on page 7), all the more sunshiny because, for some reason, I didn’t anticipate what I was about to experience. And on the acting front, the quality of auditionees has prompted us to recruit two groups starting this September, as well as 18, who will be receiving enhanced screen acting skills in our new TV studio.

‘Our new TV studio’? Yes. Over the summer our Sennheiser Studio Theatre is being converted. So, for the next teaching year onwards, the new studio theatre in our art building will become what the SST used to be. And be named after George Harrison, the only remaining Beatle, who studied in our buildings, not recognised with a space named after him.

We’ve had another year of inspiring ‘Conversations with’ that have included Rowan Atkinson, Gary Barlow, Peter Capaldi, Maxine Peake and Stephen Fry.

Also, over the summer, we are building an extension into the courtyard between our two historic buildings for more teaching spaces, that will include another good size rehearsal space ... a bit like 4.24.

Before starting on the showers, it’s always an uplift to attend one of your reunions (this year from those who left between 2011 and 2013), as well as our graduate panel, who inform incoming students what working life is like and our discipline specific See Me Now events for our second years. When I say at graduation that this is what staff live for and why LIPA was created, I mean it.

One shower is our continuing battle to recover the additional money we used to receive for high cost teaching that was removed. Very much on the plus side (and as mentioned last time), the UK Parliamentary Ombudsman is investigating what went on. Paul has backed our publicity campaign, which started in the *Financial Times*, no less. Among other words, he said: “LIPA is my passion and a part of my legacy. It would not be fair to allow injustice to affect its future.”

The other has been that our bid to start a High School (11-16) has currently been turned down. We discovered that the reason was a difference between the way government assesses pupil capacity in any UK city and the way UK cities calculate the same thing. Into battle again. We deeply want youngsters to have a brilliant learning journey from 4 to 24.

This magazine is a celebration of your lives. To have been a part of your life, even for a short time, is a wonderful thing.



# Golden Years

We welcomed back alumni who graduated from 2011 to 2013 for a reunion event on October 20th. The pull of meeting up with old friends and sinking a few pints in our bar drew graduates from as far away as Gdansk in Poland and Oregon and Georgia in the USA (picture 1), as well as a number from Norway. Guests enjoyed chatting with the lovely ladies from our canteen over the buffet (picture 2) and catching up with teaching staff (pictures 3-5). Some were persuaded to pose in our photo booth for a memento of the evening (picture 6). We ended the night with a visit to our Arts School lecture theatre to share a lively viewing of graduation videos (picture 7).

