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FOCUS Autumn 2014

News from the  
School of Performance  
and Cultural Industries



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## Congratulations Graduates of 2014



## Graduation 2014

Staff at the School of Performance and Cultural Industries were proud to celebrate with the graduates of 2014 this summer. The School held an informal celebration in stage@leeds where staff, graduates and families joined together to toast their success. Awards were given to students with the highest achievements throughout their degree, including three joint winners of the Best Dissertation Award: Eleanor Chadd, Ellen Hanbury and Simone Harrison.



## Honorary degree for Sir Patrick Stewart

As part of the Graduation ceremonies Professor Sita Popat, Head of the School, presented Sir Patrick Stewart with an honorary doctorate from the University of Leeds. The honorary doctorate was in recognition of his outstanding achievements in theatre, film and television and his extensive work for charities including Amnesty International and Combat Stress. In his speech, he talked about the serendipity that has brought him to where he is today. He spoke to the graduates of the importance of believing in yourself and taking hold of every opportunity that life presents.



## Students are a hit in hospital

In May 2014, five final year Theatre and Performance students delivered a series of interactive performances on the paediatric wards of Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) earning themselves high praise from NHS staff. Their aim was to explore the ways in which the theatrical moment could be recreated for individuals unable to access traditional theatre spaces. They covered eight wards across the hospital, including Oncology, Dialysis and even worked one-to-one with children in isolation. Due to the diversity of the children's needs they had to be flexible and, together with storytelling and song, developed a range of skills including card tricks, craft making and balloon moulding to keep the children engaged. The feedback they received from the hospital community – families, doctors, nurses and play therapists – was outstanding and their work is to be featured in an NHS newsletter that is circulated nationwide. Company member Molly Ward says, "We found a combination of rehearsed performance and improvisation was the best way to encourage play and respond to individual circumstances. We hoped the interactions with characters would create a temporary 'escape' for the patients and offer distraction from the often difficult experience of hospitalisation. This was an extremely rewarding project to have been a part of and my group and I wholeheartedly encourage students to pursue similar work in the future!"



(From left) Molly Ward, Ellie Hanbury, Philly Marshall and Paige Hurley

## Study Abroad: Expanding opportunities!

October-November is the time for applying for Study Abroad 2015-16, and there are two exciting developments. Firstly, the introduction of a new form of Study Abroad, the Horizon Year, which will focus on the development of linguistic and intercultural competencies and allow students to take modules beyond their degree subject. Secondly, an increase in the Universities with whom Leeds has agreements. There are now partnerships with 19 countries across North & South America, Europe, Asia, and Australasia. As well as the 'worldwide' partnerships to which any appropriately qualified student at Leeds can apply, there are partnerships limited to specific Schools or groups of Schools. PCI's partnerships with Universities in China, Finland, Germany and Ireland are now joined by one with Telemark in Norway.

For details of the schemes and coming preparation events go to:  
[http://studyabroad.leeds.ac.uk/outgoing/applying/study\\_abroad\\_options/](http://studyabroad.leeds.ac.uk/outgoing/applying/study_abroad_options/)

For individual queries, contact the PCI Study Abroad Tutor Susan Daniels:  
[s.m.daniels@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:s.m.daniels@leeds.ac.uk).

## Dr Ben Walmsley appointed by Taylor & Francis Journal

Dr Ben Walmsley has just been appointed as the new Book Reviews Editor for the Taylor and Francis journal Cultural Trends. Cultural Trends aims to stimulate analysis and understanding of the arts and wider cultural sector and provides a critique of the empirical evidence upon which arts and wider cultural policy may be formed, implemented, evaluated and developed.



## Welcome to new PCI staff



**Laura Griffiths**  
Teaching Fellow in  
Archival Practices



**Terri Watkins**  
Senior Student  
Education Service  
Officer

Photograph provided by BA Theatre & Performance student, Megan Stewart (far left), with students she met at University in Australia, during her Study Abroad year.

# Whats on 2014

Date	Production	Time	Price	Venue
<b>September</b>				
25	Don't Let Go (Manic Chord)	7.30pm	£12.00 (£9.00)	A
<b>October</b>				
01	Educating Ronnie (Joe Douglas)	7.30pm	£12.00 (£9.00)	S
01 - 02	Conscientious (Pillbox Theatre)	7.30pm	£10.00 (£8.00)	W
03	Digital Narcissus (Leeds Light Night)	5.00, 6.30, 8.00pm	£Free	S
08	Double Bill (Worklight Theatre)	7.00pm	£12.00 (£9.00)	S
16	Chewing The Fat (Selina Thompson)	7.30pm	£12.00 (£9.00)	S
22 - 25	Saved (Theatre Group)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	S
22 - 23	Swipe Right (Open Theatre)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	B
28 - 30	Pains of Youth (Theatre Group)	7.00pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	B
30 - 31	Bus Stop (Open Theatre)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	A
<b>November</b>				
01	Bus Stop (Open Theatre)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	A
04 - 06	The Pillowman (LUU Open Theatre)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	B
06 - 08	King Lear (Theatre Group)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	S
11 - 12	Pussy and her Boots (PCI Society)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	S
11 - 13	Let's Get Lade (Theatre Group)	7.00pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	B
13 - 14	Negative Space (Reckless Sleepers)*	7.30pm	£12.00 (£9.00)	S
13 - 14	Of This Room (Oliver Bray)*	6.30pm	£Free**	A
19 - 22	The Waiting Room (Theatre Group)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	A
27 - 29	War Songs (PCI Production)	7.30pm	£9.00 (£7.00)	S
<b>December</b>				
03 - 06	But The Kitchen Sink (Open Theatre)	7.30pm	£8.50 (£6.50)	A
11 - 13	FEAST (PCI Production)	7.30pm	£9.00 (£7.00)	S

## Venue Key:

A = Alec Clegg Studio

B = Banham Theatre

S = Stage One

W = Workshop Theatre

\* Presented in partnership with Compass Festival

\*\* Negative Space audience members only. Limited availability.

**Box Office: 0113 343 8730**

**Online: [www.stage.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.stage.leeds.ac.uk)**



Subtext & Rain 22-24 May 2014 Photography by Phil Jones



Bacchae 08-10 May 2014 Photography by Patrick Bannon

## Get Involved

Did you know that we are always looking for student contributors for the School's newsletter. This might include; reviewing performances, articles about extra curricular activities you have been involved in, news about any awards or prizes you have received. Articles should be 150-300 words and include an image if possible. Send your news to [pcumark@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pcumark@leeds.ac.uk) subject 'Focus'



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