

ZURICH | WINTER 2016

Backstage



SIMPLY
THEATRE

Academy★
joining the scene

www.simplytheatre.com

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2016 Showcase Students

WELCOME

Welcome to our “Backstage” newsletter as we approach the end of our first term.

It has been brilliant to welcome back old faces as well as new ones and we hope that all of our students have enjoyed their courses this term.

The new academic year has, as always, been very busy for us in Zurich. We kicked off the year with two new venues in Feldmeilen and Baar and our Academy Students auditioned and performed a production of *Blood Brothers* at the Zentrum Sankt Franziskus in November. And of course we are now in Open Class season...

We're planning a fantastic production of *Danny the Champion of the World* for March and are looking forward to auditions and rehearsals for that show!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

The Simply Theatre Team



LAMDA

We are extremely pleased with our hardworking LAMDA students for their amazing achievements with their examinations in 2016. The hard work paid off and 120 students took the exams with a 100% pass rate with over 60% of our students achieving a distinction. All the staff are incredibly proud!

Our examiner was very impressed with the standard of work produced and the opportunities Simply Theatre is offering. She was delighted to visit and hopes to come back again soon. LAMDA is in full swing again and we are looking forward to another terrific and rewarding year. Thanks again for all your hard work and very well done to all of you!

Particular congratulations to Alexia Von Schirmeister, Leo Thomas, Anna Munz and Paula Leon Gambetta who all passed with Distinction.

MARY POPPINS

We are excited to announce a Simply Theatre trip to see Mary Poppins at the Theatre 11 in Zurich on the 12th February at 1.30pm. We will meet at the theatre at 1pm, see the show, and afterwards we may get a chance to have a backstage tour and meet some of the cast. (please note that the backstage tour and meet and greet of the cast will only be confirmed at a later date). We have a 20% discount off the best seats (111CHF instead of 138CHF). Parents, Students and family are all welcome. To book – please send us an email to academy@simplytheatre.com or go to the Zurich section of our website. It promises to be a really fun day.



OPEN CLASSES, REPORTS AND SHOWCASES

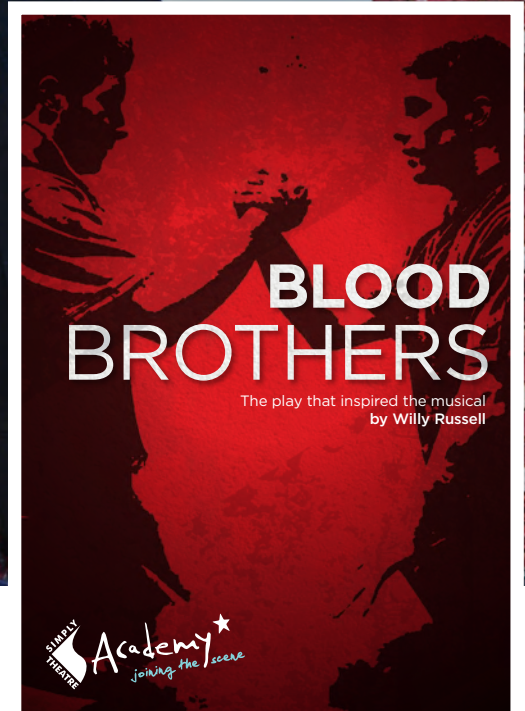
At Simply Theatre Academy we have 3 opportunities for parents to get involved in what is happening in class:

OPEN CLASSES run for the last 2 weeks of term. They take place during your child's class and last for approximately half of the duration of a class. The open classes are semi-taught and semi-performed which gives you an opportunity to see the type of activities the students have been working on during the first term.

After each Open Class, the class teacher will be available to catch up with parents. This is the perfect chance to ask any questions regarding the course curriculum, your child's development or any other burning questions you may have. If you've already attended your child's Open Class then we hope you found it insightful!

REPORTS are an opportunity for the teachers to give individual feedback on each student. The report enables the teachers to reflect on each student at the end of the first term's activities. For students, the report gives them a chance to put into practice any tips that are given which will help them during the rest of the year, ensuring that they get the most out of their course. Students should receive their reports by email before Christmas.

SHOWCASES take place in the third term, with each class working towards a Showcase that is the culmination of the year's work in the form of a performance. The Showcases take place in June and you will have been given the date of your showcase at the beginning of the academic year. The performance experience at the end of each year is really important, so please make sure that you have your child's Showcase date in the diary, and that they are able to attend. If you have mislaid your Showcase date, please don't hesitate to let us know and we'll remind you!



BLOOD BROTHERS

Congratulations to the cast of *Blood Brothers* for their fantastic interpretation of this iconic play:

Mickey	Leo Thomas
Eddie	Fabrizio Faragalli
Mrs Johnston	Anna Munz
Mrs Lyons	Ella Kaufmann
Linda	Leonore Courcier
Narrator/Brenda	Talia Kunszt
Narrator/Police woman/Donna-Marie	Paula Leon-Gambetta
Narrator/Sammie	Nicola Pickup
Narrator/Milkman/Gynaecologist	Kiara Shey

The cast were treated to a workshop with Mike Southern, who was in the West End production of *Blood Brothers* for 10 years and runs workshops endorsed by Willy Russell. Here's what Mike had to see about the workshops he ran at Simply Theatre:

"I just wanted to say a few words about the time I spent out in Zurich working with the young cast on their production of Blood Brothers. I was only with the group for a couple of days, but the time I did spend with them was an absolute pleasure. It's always tricky when you only have a short space of time to build a rapport with students that you have never met, but from the very first exercise when I challenged the cast to throw

inhibition out of the window and throw themselves in to the world of the seven year old they were enthusiastic and willing to really go for it.

We had fun looking at the Liverpool accent and by the end of the 'buzz sentence' they managed to talk about their "Kentucky Fried Chicken at the County Cricket" as if they had been Liverpool born.

The final thought that I took away with me from my two day visit was that these students were enthusiastic, hungry, talented, and an absolute pleasure to work with. They had taken Blood Brothers to heart, and it was great to work with a group of people that had become as passionate about this great play, as I am myself. I hope the show was a great success."

And here's what the cast had to say about their experience:

"Working with Mike was for most of us the chance of a lifetime, the very thought of working with someone from the West End, let alone someone who's been part of the same production we're doing here in Zurich...Mike has done it for 10 years! Learning from him definitely made our play better as we have pointers from someone who knows this production inside and out. It was so much fun and all the experience and energy Mike brought with him really helped us with our characters and scenes."



AUDITIONS – DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

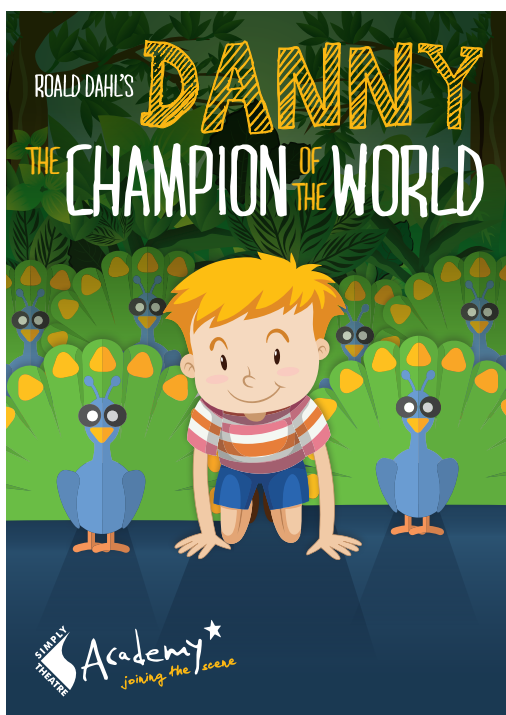
Here at Simply Theatre, we strive to make the audition process as easy and enjoyable as possible and hope that even if not cast, students still benefit from the experience of getting up and having a go! For those that do wish to take part in our next set of auditions, *Danny the Champion of the World* will be auditioning on 14th & 15th January, so grab an audition pack, prepare yourself and come along and have a go!



GOODBYE VICTORIA!

Congratulations to Victoria Corlass our Zurich Coordinator, who has been cast as 'Principal Boy' in Hull City Hall's production of *Mother Goose* this Christmas.

Victoria has brought her endless enthusiasm and energy for all things dramatic to Simply Theatre this term. Victoria has been teaching drama to students at Zurich (Central + Feldmeilen) and Zug, as well as directing our well-received production of the Willy Russell play *Blood Brothers*. Victoria was part of the original team at Simply Theatre Geneva 10 years ago, before pursuing her career as an actor. She has been delighted to have the opportunity to work with Simply Theatre Students again and will miss all her students greatly. We wish her a fond farewell as she 'treads the boards' and hope she will visit us again very soon.





WELCOME TO LUKE!

Luke Renwick will be filling the rather large pair of shoes that Victoria has left after her time as Zurich Coordinator – however Luke is no stranger to Simply Theatre having both directed and taught musical theatre at Simply Theatre in the past.

Luke began performing at a very young age and at 15 became a member of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. Following this he went on to study musical theatre at Thomas Telford and then further his training at the Guildford school of acting!

More recently Luke has been teaching drama at a school in the UK whilst continuing to act and perform. With both extensive teaching experience, numerous credits as a Director and previous Simply Theatre experience we know that Luke is a fantastic choice for Simply Theatre Zurich!

We've set up a new email address for Luke which is zurich@simplytheatre.com If you have any Zurich-based queries moving forward, please don't hesitate to contact Luke via this email address.

ENROLMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR

As Simply Theatre members for this year, we will automatically reserve your places on your current course (or if different, where possible, your first choice course) for next year. Around the end of January we will send out re-enrolment options. Your priority place is guaranteed until the end of March, at which time we allocate places to our waiting list. If you would like to talk to us about your child's development before making a decision as to what course/s they should take, please speak to your child's teacher or email us at academy@simplytheatre.com and we will get in touch with you.

SIMPLY THEATRE
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ROALD DAHL'S

DANNY

THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD



18th-19th MARCH 2017

Zentrum Sankt Franziskus
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