

ARTSED 90th YEAR MARKED WITH OLIVIER SUCCESS

TRAINING THE AWARD WINNERS OF THE FUTURE

2 STUDENTS FROM ARTSED WIN THE 2009 OLIVIER BURSARY AWARDS

Marking the schools 90th Year, for the first time 2 Acting Students from the same Drama conservatoire, Arts Educational Schools London have won the top two awards at the 2009 Laurence Olivier Bursary Awards, the most prestigious national award for drama students in the UK.

We are proud to announce that this years' top prize of £7500 was awarded to Lashana Lynch 2nd Year BA Acting student and the prestigious Behrens Bursary Award of £5000 has been awarded to Jack Durges 2nd year BA Acting students. These awards will allow these students to complete their training and follow in the footsteps of Arts Ed Alumni, Dame Julie Andrews, Nigel Havers, Hugo Speer, Martin Clunes, Janie Dee etc

Students from Arts Educational Schools London have been consistent winners of the Olivier bursary awards since its start in 1987 with the first Olivier Bursary in 1987 presented to David Chittenden who studied on the 3 year Acting diploma. Previous recent ArtsEd winners include: - Alexander Campbell, 2000 (Specially commended by Behrens Bursary), Gavin Bocker, 2004 (Olivier Bursary), Mark Martin, 2005 (Specially commended by Behrens Bursary), Nena Edwards, 2005 (Specially commended by Behrens Bursary), James Bravery, 2008 (Specially commended by Behrens Bursary).

"When I was told that I had been nominated, that was enough to take in itself. And after the audition, I never really thought about what would happen next, I just thanked God for a great opportunity. When the Principal told me that I had won, I was literally rolling on the ground! It was such a surreal moment going from a relaxing voice class to hearing life changing news. I didn't really know what to do with myself. It didn't actually hit me until a few days after, when I realised just how much I've been helped financially and what this has and will do for my life. This money can help me in so many ways in my career, its overwhelming to think about. But firstly, I can now go into the 3rd year less pressurised financially, even more focused on my work and look forward in hopefully having more opportunities, such as this, come my way." Lashana Lynch

'It was such a shock when we found out. It really makes you trust in your training. On the day, we just felt prepared! We were both completely focused and confident. I remember saying to Lashana before she went on "We could be doing this in a year's time as a job so just go out there and do what you know you can do." Thinking of it in that way helped combat the nerves of performing on a west end stage for the first time. ' Jack Durges



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Note to Editors:

- 1 The Laurence Olivier Bursary Scheme was set up by the Society of London Theatre, in consultation with Lord Olivier, to help the development of future acting talent for the British stage. The awards are open to second year drama students attending a National Council for Drama Training accredited drama programme. Each of these 22 schools can nominate only two students.
- 2 Society of London Theatre (SOLT) founded in 1908 by Sir Charles Wyndham is the trade association that represents the producers, theatre owners and managers of the major commercial and grant-aided theatres in central London.
- 3 The two-day selection process for the award takes the form of a ten-minute audition on a West End stage, followed by an interview. The selection panel consists of casting directors from TV and theatre as well as West End producers.

For further details on Arts Educational Schools London's 90th Year and Press Launch please contact:

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NB. Both Students are available for interview.



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