



LIPA

THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

30

YEARS OF MAKING
PERFORMANCE POSSIBLE

30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

7 JUNE 2026

LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL

WELCOME



“Welcome to LIPA’s 30th anniversary celebrations. I’m so proud to see how far LIPA has come since we reopened the doors 30 years ago.

What began as a dream to give young people the chance to realise their ambitions and build lasting, meaningful careers has grown into a big, brilliant family full of creative energy.

The spirit of LIPA has always been about giving talent a chance, and seeing our students and graduates take that spirit out into the world is one of the great joys of my life.

You inspire me with your imagination, your creativity and your heart.

Tonight we celebrate everything this community has built together, while looking forward to the next generations who will keep the LIPA dream alive.”

Sir Paul McCartney
Lead Patron

IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY

The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts stands on the site of the former Liverpool Institute for Boys, which closed in 1985 following falling enrolment and the national shift from selective to comprehensive education.

The Grade II listed building, long associated with the city's educational heritage, was left vacant and in need of substantial repair.

The origins of LIPA can be traced to the late 1980s, when Mark Featherstone-Witty, who founded The BRIT School in London, started to formulate plans for his next project - a university level performing arts institution.

At around the same time, Paul McCartney returned to Liverpool and visited his former school. Discovering the building in a state of considerable disrepair - he vowed to save it. It was also during this period that a Toxteth resident suggested to Paul that what the city and its young people needed was a 'Fame school'.

A mutual friend, Beatles' producer George Martin - who had worked with Mark on The BRIT School - recognised the pair's common aims and introduced them.



Plans to establish The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts were announced publicly on 28 June 1990, ahead of Paul's concert at King's Dock, Liverpool.

What followed was an intensive fundraising campaign that Mark created and Paul participated in, which secured support from both the public and private sector.

The £20 million project enabled the restoration, renovation and redevelopment of the historic building, adapting it to meet the requirements of contemporary performing arts education while preserving its architectural character.

In January 1996, LIPA welcomed its first cohort of students. On 7 June that year, the Institute was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II.



OUR TIMELINE

JULY

The Liverpool Institute for Boys closes

1985

JANUARY

LIPA holds its 10-year anniversary gala at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

2006

1990

JUNE

Plans to establish The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts formally announced

2012

MARCH

LIPA purchases the former Liverpool College of Art building to expand its teaching facilities

JANUARY

LIPA welcomes first cohort of students

1996

JUNE

LIPA purchases One Hope Place, later securing £2.5m from the Office for Students for new performance and digital facilities

2025

1996

JUNE

Queen Elizabeth II formally opens LIPA

2025

SEPTEMBER

LIPA authorised with New degree awarding powers by the Office for Students. It now has the legal authority to design, approve and confer its own degrees - independently of external validation

JUNE

LIPA's first cohort of 150 students graduates

1998



See full timeline
lipa.ac.uk/about-us/our-story

GEORGE MARTIN - MORE THAN AN INTRODUCTION

Without George it's possible that LIPA as we know it today wouldn't exist. By introducing Mark to Paul, he was instrumental in securing Paul's involvement, but the influence of The Beatles' producer runs far deeper than a single introduction.

He was a polymath and a gentleman - technically adept, musically talented and unafraid to experiment. But possibly his greatest talent was his ability to work with people. He was a great believer in the idea that 20% of the job was technical, and 80% about being able to work well alongside others. This thinking has always been, and will continue to be, a fundamental part of our approach to learning right across the institution."

A passionate advocate for music education, George had been closely involved in The BRIT School in London. And it was during this period that he worked and became friends with Mark. After bringing Mark and Paul together, George remained actively involved in LIPA's development.

Jon Thornton, Director of the School of Creative Technologies, Design & Enterprise, has been at LIPA since the very beginning. He says: "In so many ways, George really defined the role of the modern record producer.



George Martin, pictured in the studio named after him here.

KEN ROBINSON - CHAMPION OF CREATIVITY

Ken isn't a name you might have heard of, although his initial TED talk *Do schools kill creativity?* is the most watched ever, by some 75-92 million people. Over 45 years, he was also Mark's friend and was our first external examiner (required by government) and one of our Companions.

Mark says: "To summarise his wisdom is hard given his breadth. He was an educationalist, who championed creativity and personalised learning using a farming metaphor for teachers: providing the soil, the environment for individual growth.

He wanted everyone to discover what they enjoyed doing well and to fervently develop that, predating Malcolm Gladwell's 10,000 hours. One of his many memorable observations was that if you weren't prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original, which is why we prefer brave failure than a mediocre success."



Ken Robinson pictured far right with Mark, one Companion and some family members after our graduation in 2006.

ON TURNING 30 - REFLECTIONS FROM MARK

Like most, like you maybe, if you have created something from scratch, although it isn't your son or daughter, your creation remains profoundly personal and will always be different from anyone else's, because, when the impulse started, it was invisible, existing only in your own head and in your own heart.

Quite forgetting the inevitable unpaid work that goes into a fresh endeavour, there's *still* a sense of amazement felt by creators when completed. I used to feel this when I took visitors around our building. From the close up in my office to an institutional widescreen, it's sensation that doesn't leave you. Even now, when coming round the corner from Pilgrim Street, I feel: wow, look what we've done.

I had an abundance (and what I now miss in retirement) of purpose. I've always wanted a purpose, ever since I watched the old British film, *The Dambusters*, as a child.

Now that I've mentioned a film, The BRIT School and LIPA impulse began watching *42nd Street*, also when I was young. Uniquely, I now think, it portrayed show business: the show and the business to put an event on. That's how our strap line 'for performance and for making performance possible' was created and



remains. I wanted then and still do, parity between performers and the invisible and veritable iceberg base of people who you don't see and who aren't paraded on red carpets, as well as a practical grasp of how a business is set up and keeps running.

With any start-up, there's the challenge of funding, especially at the start: encouraging others to have a belief in something that doesn't yet exist. If you have a big idea and have no status, which is me, you need to surround yourself with those that do. Although there were many in the end, Paul was extraordinarily pivotal.

Institutions are people. I remember meeting our first years, who were visiting us for an Induction Week one October day in 1995 and then setting off back to their homes, so because of the building delays that meant we could only start teaching in January 1996. At the end at the assembly, I said 'You are LIPA' (and then went away for a quiet cry, since I was emotional and exhausted).

Amongst the many memorable messages I've received from graduates over the years, here's one who wrote like this: 'Thank you for the last three years, which have been, undoubtedly, the most important and best years of my life. Here I found my best friends, my life's companion and the greatest challenges of my life so far. Here I learned who I am and who I want to be. Here I realised that I can do and what I need to learn to achieve my dreams. I also learned I am not alone'.

Graduates: thank you for keeping us in your hearts, as our first students did.

Mark Featherstone-Witty
Founding Principal and CEO

ON TURNING 30 - REFLECTIONS FROM SEAN

Thirty years ago, an ambitious idea became reality, here in Liverpool: to create a place where creativity, collaboration and craft would prepare artists and practitioners not only to enter the creative industries, but to shape and lead it.

Today, as we mark this milestone, we celebrate a community that has consistently done exactly that, growing from strong local roots into an institution with national standing and a global profile.

LIPA has always been defined by its spirit of possibility. From the outset, we set out to break down traditional boundaries between disciplines, recognising that the future of the creative industries lies in collaboration. Actors, musicians, designers, filmmakers, dancers, managers, and technicians learning together, challenging each other and creating together, remain at the heart of who we are. This distinctive approach continues to shape our identity and our impact.

There is much to be proud of. Our graduates are working across the world, contributing to industries that continue to evolve at pace. They are performing on international stages, shaping stories on screen, designing innovative productions and driving change behind the scenes reflecting not only individual achievement, but a shared ethos built on resilience, adaptability and artistic integrity, values nurtured here in Liverpool and carried far beyond it.



Anniversaries are also a moment to look forward. The industries our students are entering are evolving at pace, economically, culturally and creatively. Advances in creative technologies are opening new possibilities for how work is made, shared and experienced, while audiences and expectations continue to evolve. At the same time, the need to ensure that opportunities in the performing arts and creative industries remains open, accessible and inclusive has never been more important.

Our responsibility is clear. We must continue to equip our students with the skills, confidence and critical awareness to navigate this landscape. This means remaining grounded in the fundamentals of storytelling and performance while embracing innovation in creative practice. It means strengthening partnerships with industry, regionally, nationally and internationally, so that our learning remains relevant and connected. And it means championing diversity of voice and experience, ensuring that the stories of tomorrow truly reflect the world around us.

As we look ahead, we are investing in our physical and creative spaces, developing environments that match our ambition and support new forms of creative expression. These are not simply buildings, but places where ideas can take shape, where collaboration thrives, and where experimentation and innovation intersect.

None of this would be possible without our people. Our students, alumni, staff, partners and supporters have together built the vibrant, dynamic community we celebrate today. That sense of shared purpose is one of our greatest strengths, and it will continue to guide us.

The future is not written. But the task before us is clear: to continue to lead, influence and inform, guided by curiosity, creativity, collaboration and a commitment to craft and skills, as we meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that will shape and continue to define the creative industries of tomorrow.

Professor Sean McNamara
Principal and CEO

30 YEARS OF MAKING PERFORMANCE POSSIBLE

For thirty years, collaboration has been the driving force behind every production we've created. Across more than a thousand shows, our students have worked side by side each bringing their skills, creativity and ideas to the table to produce shows that none of them could make alone.

Our students power everything - actors, dancers, designers, facilitators, filmmakers, musical theatre performers, musicians, producers, stage managers, sound technologists and technicians.

It's these shared projects that define LIPA, and which see confidence grow, craft deepen and lifelong creative partnerships begin.

These projects remind us that performance is never the work of one discipline, but the meeting point of many.

We've staged work in our theatres and studios, but also far beyond them, transforming unexpected spaces into performance worlds and turning ordinary rooms into places where stories take shape.

We've produced community projects that spark conversation, social drama that challenges audiences, musicals that energise whole rooms, and dance that speaks directly to the heart.

Our repertoire has stretched from reimagined classics and rich period pieces to bold new writing and experimental work that tests the boundaries of form and technology.

Here are some production images from over the years that give an insight into that shared creative journey. Our digital photo archives start in 2006/07 so we have been unable to source many images from our early years. We have however been able to reproduce some from Mark's book: *LIPA in Pictures: The First Ten Years*.

It's a small selection of the countless moments of craft and collaboration that it has been a privilege to witness. It represents only a fraction of the artistry that has filled our spaces over three decades but offers a glimpse of the spirit that defines every production made together here.



You can discover fuller albums of recent productions on our Flickr account

1995/1996 - 2005/2006



2006/2007 - 2007/2008



2008/2009 - 2010/2011









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It is worth me starting by saying that my time spent as a student at LIPA was a profoundly joyous, enlightening and formative one.

Over the subsequent 25 years (gulp), I have carried in my heart the experiences, the learning and the people that were here with me everywhere I go. It was a golden time in my life where a great many of my core memories were made and the principles by which I continue to live were formed. I am indebted to the training that LIPA provided and the confidence it instilled in me to dare believe that I could live out my working life as a creative artist.

On my first day as a LIPA student, I vividly remember being ushered into the Paul McCartney Auditorium alongside the rest of the school to hear a welcome address from Mark.

The memory I retain of that day; the buzz and excitement of being surrounded by a cohort of like-minded creative young people at the beginning of a lifelong journey, is one that still gives me goosebumps.

The genesis for tonight's Gala performance started from that memory. I wanted to create something

that would feel like a cross between a multi-disciplinary 'Jools Holland' show and a joyous town hall reunion.

An evening where we shall indulge in spectacular live performances while both individually and collectively reflecting on how far we've come over the past 30 years. An evening of celebration and reflection for both the Institute and for each and every person who has been lucky enough to be involved in the LIPA project over the course of its life.

Creating tonight's Gala gave me the chance to explore and indulge in the wealth and range of talent that has passed through LIPA's doors from almost every continent on Earth (we are yet to have a student from Antarctica). It also gave me the opportunity to fully appreciate the Herculean effort that went into the founding of LIPA in the first place. I instinctively felt that the Gala needed to acknowledge both sides of this story.

I must give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has generously given their time to make this evening happen. We are so fortunate to have such a wealth of amazing talent with us, on and off stage.

The goodwill that I received from each and every graduate I approached regarding tonight (whether they were able to be a part of proceedings or not) has been very moving and is a real testament to what LIPA has meant to those who have been fortunate enough to pass through its doors.

The talent pool that the Institute has amassed from the last 30 years is truly an embarrassment of riches and so trying to cherry pick exactly what might go onto the stage this evening was a difficult task.

Early in the process I had to reconcile myself to the fact that I would only be able to show a tiny snapshot of the Institute's success stories.

My intention over the course of this evening is to celebrate some of our brightest and boldest successes, while creating something that feels equitable across the music, acting and dance departments. The whole evening is, of course, being powered and facilitated by alumni and current student designers, managers and TPT students.

Given that LIPA has nurtured such a wealth of creative talent, I felt it important that tonight be largely graduate led; with a member of LIPA's alumni at the helm of each facet of this production; direction, set design, lighting, choreography, costume, musical direction, event management and, of course, everyone you see on the stage and screen throughout the evening.

All of this has been supported by the current crop of LIPA students, members of staff and heads of department without whose support and participation, this endeavour would have been impossible.

I feel honoured to have been asked to put tonight's Gala together and look forward to reconnecting with as many people as possible whilst we are back in beautiful Liverpool.

Happy birthday LIPA, keep up the good work. xx

Jonathan Glew

ACT ONE

Old Friends

From *Merrily We Roll Along*

Written by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth

Performed by our Graduate Ensemble and current musical theatre students

This Life Is Wild

Choreographed by Emma Annetts

Performed by second year dance students and graduates

Paul McCartney's open letter to Liverpool

Read by Leanne Best

Far Too Good

Written and performed by John Smith

Mark Featherstone-Witty's speech to Liverpool County Council

Read by Liz White

Mark Featherstone-Witty speaks

Founding Principal and CEO

Dance performance: Le Chic

Performed by LIPA 4 -19

Dear Bill

From *Operation Mincemeat* written by David Cumming, Felix Hagan, Natasha Hodgson and Zoe Roberts

Performed by Jak Malone

I Wish I Was A Punk Rocker (With Flowers In My Hair)

Written by Sandi Thom and Tom Gilbert

Performed by Sandi Thom and Ben Poole

ACT TWO

Birthday

Written by Lennon and McCartney

Performed by assorted guests

One Man, Two Guvnors

Written by Richard Bean

Performed by Gavin Spokes

From Nowhere

Written and performed by Dan Croll

In Memoriam - With So Little To Be Sure Of

Performed by current music and musical theatre students

Fallen

Choreographed by Thomas Ashton

Performed by third year dance students

Sean McNamara speaks

Principal and CEO

The Endless Dance

Written and performed by

Hannah Peel and Beibei Wang

Got To Get You Into My Life

Written by Lennon and McCartney

Performed by everyone, all at once

Length: About 110 minutes, plus one interval. This time is approximate.

The gala programme, and following cast, company and crew may be subject to late change.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

- ▶ **Artistic Director**
Jonathan Glew
- ▶ **Designer**
Morgan Large
- ▶ **Lighting Designer**
Dylan Howells
- ▶ **Musical Director (band)**
Alex Smith
- ▶ **Musical Director (voices)**
Matthew Loughran
- ▶ **Choir Master**
Max O'Hara
- ▶ **Event Manager**
Alfie Fannon
- ▶ **Stage Management**
Matthew Weeks
- ▶ **Deputy Stage Management**
Matthew Jones
- ▶ **Video**
Steve Davies
- ▶ **Assistant Director**
Xena Gusthart
- ▶ **Choreographer**
Emma Annetts
- ▶ **Choreographer**
Thomas Ashton
- ▶ **Graduate Ensemble Director**
Richard Fitch

THE COMPANY

Alumni Performers

Madeline Appiah
Lena Barth-Aarstad
Leanne Best
Emma Bispham
Gabrielle Brookes
Peter Caulfield
Laura Corradi
Dan Croll
Stephen Fletcher
Chris Grahamson
Jak Malone
Richard Morse
Hannah Peel and Beibei Wang
Sally Rapier
Oliver Roll
Craig Ryder
Natasha Seale
John Smith
Lauren Southwick
Gavin Spokes
Hayley Sutton
Sandi Thom
Liz White

LIPA Dancers - This Life Is Wild

Choreographed by Emma Annetts
and created by
Chenille Brown
Izzy Cadman
Eleanor Cooper
Grace Dabbs
Abigail Dickens
Keaveney Doyle
Sapphire Fennymore
Katie Freer
Annalise Grayson
Jess Grayson
Aimee Grindle
Grace Gummer
Ruby Hampson
Amber Harvey
Sofia Hegarty
Anusha Heritage
Emilie Karlsen
Hannah Killeen

Cameron Knowles
Becca Logan
Maz Magro
Lily Miles
Hollie Milligan
Keira Peoples
Elena Pissa
Bethany Scrase
John Warner
Celia Watson
Kiki Wilcock
Izzy Worship
Charlotte Wright

LIPA Dancers - Fallen

Choreographed by Thomas Ashton
Natalie Asgard-Rasmussen
Maya Aspen
Rhea Chhabria
Becca Edwards
Daisy Empson
Ellie Fletcher
Saskia Harpur
Amber Howorth
Sophie Lester
Chloe McCormick
Martin McDonough
Chloe Nicholls
Amara Nilsen
Millie Norval
Emily Pocklington
Darlene Quinn
Maddy Taylor
Emily Usher
Alma Warvik-Roertveit
Elise Watts
Rhiannon Wilkes

LIPA Choir

Turid Vejbæk Andersen
Hannah Aoyama
Grace Bailey
Jamie Balshen
Anushka Basu
Oscar Boddy

THE COMPANY

Thalia Bolino Askar
Theo Carslake
Chloe Cookson
Eliza Hope Cowdery
Timothy Cowling
Max Curnock
Lexi De Martino
Marcos Del Río
Ky David-Feveck
Alba Ford-Medina
Louie Forward
Maria Friberg
Adam Garrity
Robert Hadnagy
Florence Hills
Ida Høines
Bella Hydes
Mabel Jennings
Lucy Johnson
Heather Jones
Dilly Kanfer
Aaron Kennedy
Lily Koren
Sarah Lacy
Sana Lamba
Sveta Lisenko
Poppy Lloyd
Orlagh McAleese
Grace McCracken
Nell McLaughlin
Dara McNicholl
Emlyn Noble
Helena Pye
Rua Robertson
Elise Rønning
Emily Samways
Paul Norwin Schmidt
Dina-Helene Selvær
Kenya Sheperd
Somma Simmons
Sofie Sleire
Fifi Tal
Eliza Tognetti-Shaw
Sylvia Touris
George Watt
Josie-Mae White

LIPA 4 -19 Performers

Annabella Andrews
Scarlett Bristow Robertson
Alana Carey
Lexie-Mae Clarke
Ava Connor
Florence Cox
Ella Fearon
Summer Feely
Darcey Fisher
Thea Fulton
Isla Greenway
Daisy Holmes
Indie Marshall
Georgia Alexandra Morton
Daisy Nurse
Maizy Richardson
Emily Ross
Florence Terry
Violet Terry
Tallulah Thomas
Mila Vaughan
Isla Weston
Siena Williams
Lucy Wilson

Gala House Band

Musical Director / Trumpet

Alex Smith

Drums

Ross Higginson

Bass

Chris Nicholls

Guitar

Ryan Chan

Keys

Jack Hymers

Saxophone

Eric Animan

Trombone

Simeon Scheuber-Rush

THE CREW

- ▶ **Tech Assistant Stage Manager**
Olivia Carr
- ▶ **Assistant Stage Manager/Book Cover**
Jess Weston
- ▶ **Artist Liaison**
Lou Edwards
Isabel Jones
Anna Wilkie
- ▶ **Lighting Crew/Video Operator**
Matthew Sheldon
- ▶ **Lighting Crew/Lighting Operator**
Alex Jones
- ▶ **Sound Engineers**
Milo Kent
Adam Wood
- ▶ **Video Programmer**
Tom Evans
- ▶ **Camera Operators**
Gregor Aitchson
Luca Maloy
Amelia Woodward-Bottomley

Heartfelt thanks:

To graduates Christopher Dane and Chris Rogers for their video and design support and all the graduates that contributed videos for inclusion in the gala.

To the Theatre & Performance Design and Theatre & Production Technology students who volunteered their time in between their studies to support with so many behind the scenes elements of the gala tonight.

To our staff within Estates, Marketing, Production, Schools of Study, Technical Services and Venue Services (see pages 68 to 71 for our staff list).

To the additional people who provided crew and other support, past the point that we went to print with this programme.

► CREATIVE TEAM



Emma Annetts

Emma was a gymnast invited to join Cirque du Soleil prior to graduating in 2001. She joined Celine Dion's *A New Day* (Dragone, Las Vegas.) for a five-year residency. Emma danced for Elton John, Justin Timberlake, multiple TV and Award shows and contemporary choreographers. Choreography: *So You Think You Can Dance* (CTV), *Le Weekend* (Roger Michell), *Holes* (Nottingham Playhouse, UK Tour), *Kings of Broadway* (Palace), *NT Connections* (Olivier), *Bomber's Moon* (Park), *Touched* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Beauty and the Beast* (Enginehouse), *Run* (Polka), *Carousel*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Urinetown*, *Oklahoma*, *The Hired Man*, *Sister Act*, *Company*, *Marathon 33* (Guildhall).



Thomas Ashton

Aside from entertaining audiences of up to 80,000 people every year as choreographer for Boomtown Festivals' legendary Opening Ceremonies, on the back of many, many, (many), years performing at every music festival under the sun (Wilderness/Glastonbury/Boomtown...), Thomas has also worked with artists such as Eva Lazarus, Catching Cairo and Su I Think. He has created choreography for several large-scale circus productions and is choreographer for the queer surrealist musical *Trompe l'Oeil* (Contact Theatre, The Other Palace). Most proud of all his achievements though, is being Assistant Director for the third-year dance productions at LIPA. Since he was back to choreograph in 2014, he says: "The LIPA Dance family have continued to support me and my work consistently since I graduated, and I couldn't be prouder to be team LIPA. The biggest love to Sarah, Andrew, Carl, Lisi, Jacqui and Darren for the continued mentorship and guidance, I hope I've made you proud."



Alfie Fannon

Alfie is an accomplished experiential Events Producer and TV Production Manager with a proven track record of delivering high-impact live events, immersive brand experiences and large-scale broadcast productions across the UK, Europe, the United States and the Middle East. With experience overseeing projects ranging from £100k brand activations to £40m global spectacles, Alfie combines creative vision with meticulous operational control and calm, decisive leadership under pressure. Alfie's career spans experiential marketing, live music ceremonies, international awards shows, fashion events, reality television and major global broadcasts. Alfie has held senior production roles across world-renowned opening and closing ceremonies, red carpet productions, live televised concerts and influencer-led brand experiences, collaborating closely with A-list talent, global brands and cross-functional international teams. Memorable productions to date; *Elie Saab Fashion Show 2026*, *Tyson vs Usyk*, *Eurovision 2023*, *BBC's Big Night of Musicals 2022 - 2026*.

► CREATIVE TEAM



Richard Fitch

Richard graduated from LIPA in 2010, where he received the Paul McCartney Human Spirit Award. For over 15 years, he has directed and associate directed internationally, including serving as International Associate Director of the Olivier Award-winning *Back to the Future: The Musical* across the West End, Broadway, and worldwide. In 2024, he was UK Associate Director of *MJ The Musical* in the West End. He is currently developing three new musicals and regularly teaches at leading drama schools. Richard is delighted to return to LIPA for its 30th anniversary.



Jonathan Glew

Jonathan graduated from LIPA with a first class degree in 2001. After a 15-year love affair with acting which included winning a 'Best Supporting Performance' Olivier Award for *Jerry Springer the Opera*, Jonathan pivoted into directing and writing, starting by turning John Lennon's *In His Own Write* into a piece of theatre. In 2017, Jonathan began his creative collaboration with friend and LIPA alumni Jamie Lloyd, first working on the West End *Pinter at the Pinter* season and subsequently going on to be Jamie's associate director on *Betrayal*, *The Seagull*, *A Doll's House*, *The Effect*, *Romeo and Juliet* and most recently productions of *The Tempest* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, on which Jonathan was also the text editor. Jonathan has returned to LIPA over the past ten years, directing productions including *Girls Like That*, *Second Person Narrative*, *The It* and *Spring Awakening*. Jonathan is currently developing a number of projects including a new version of *Mother F**kin' Courage* and a rock musical based on Kafka's *Metamorphosis*.



Xena Gusthart

Xena graduated from LIPA in 2008 and was awarded the Enterprise Award by Paul McCartney. Choreographer credits include: *Bat Out of Hell: The Musical* (original and international productions, including North American Tour and New York City Center); *Wild About You* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); *Beauty & the Beast* (Mansfield Palace Theatre); *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Kenton Theatre); *9 to 5* (Breakin' Convention / Sadler's Wells / Festival Theatre); *Ah Cannea Wait* (Sadler's Wells). Associate Choreographer credits include: *MJ: The Musical* (Prince Edward Theatre, West End); *Bat Out of Hell: The Musical* (Dominion Theatre; New York City Center; Ed Mirvish Theatre; Paris Las Vegas; Australasia Tour); BBC's *Big Night of Musicals* (Manchester Arena). Additional theatre and directional work includes: *The Lady with a Dog* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); *Black Venus* (The Other Palace). Live, television and commercial choreography includes: Rita Ora - *Chime for Change* (Twickenham Stadium); *The Weeknd* (Twickenham Stadium); *Saracens Angels* (Wembley Stadium); Adidas Product Launch (London ExCeL Centre); *Alan Carr: The Singer Takes It All* (Channel 4); *This Morning*; *Good Morning America*; *Dance Dance Dance* (Crystal Waters - music video); *Renault Clio* (TV commercial); Adidas and Adidas Originals campaigns.



Dylan Howells

Graduating in 2017 in Theatre and Performance Design, Dylan has worked extensively as a designer and theatre maker across theatre, live events, and outdoor installation. His professional experience spans lighting design, scenography, and theatre-making: from co-creating and performing with Fringe First-winning Worklight Theatre (*Fanboy*, 2021-25; *It's the Economy, Stupid!*, 2024-26), to designing illuminated trails and installations for the National Trust, Blenheim Palace, and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth. A finalist for the Linbury Prize for Stage Design (2017) and recipient of the Royal Opera House Linbury Bursary (2018), Dylan is delighted to return to LIPA to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

► CREATIVE TEAM



Matthew Jones

Matt graduated from LIPA in 2014 and first started working on large-scale corporate events in Jersey. He then went on to work on the UK and European tour of *Dirty Dancing*. After that Matt became the Technical Stage Manager at Liverpool's Royal Court but did keep up the travelling lifestyle working as a DSM/Relighter on a UK Tour and as part of the lighting department for large-scale events across the UK. Matt has taken up the role as Production Technician at LIPA for a more balanced lifestyle and enjoys using his skills to assist future technicians to enter the industry.



Morgan Large

Morgan's recent designs include: *Maria Theresia* (Ronacher, Vienna), *Sunset Boulevard* (Sydney Opera House/Princess, Melbourne/Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, China, Taiwan & Tokyo), *Wicked* (International Tour), *Sister Act* (West End/UK Tour/Australia/Netherlands/Germany), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (London Palladium/UK Tour/Australia/Toronto), *Dear Evan Hansen* (Nottingham Playhouse/UK Tour/Manila/Singapore), *Disney's Newsies* (Troubadour Wembley), *The Invention of Love* (Hampstead), *Midnight* (Sadler's Wells), *Frank and Percy* (The Other Palace/Theatre Royal Windsor - starring Sir Ian McKellen), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Novello Theatre - starring James Earl Jones).



Matthew Loughran

Musical Director credits: West End: *Les Misérables*, *Les Misérables: The All Star Concert*, *Elf*. UK & International Tour: *Wicked*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Evita*, *The Commitments*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *The Concert They Never Gave*, *Dancing in the Streets*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Bradley Jaden Live* (Taipei & Tokyo). Musical Supervisor credits: *The Wizard of Oz* (Royal Caribbean), *The Commitments* (UK Tour), *Edges* (London), P&O World Cruises. Associate Musical Director credits: West End: *Evita*, *Old Friends: A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim*, *Les Misérables*. UK & International Tour: *Sister Act*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Whistle Down the Wind*, *Cabaret*.



Alex Smith

Since graduating from LIPA in 2010, Alex has worked extensively as a session musician throughout the UK. Alex's professional experiences span performance, direction, and composition. Working in theatres throughout the region, Alex regularly undertakes diverse roles from acting as Musical Supervisor to performing as a multi-instrumentalist in pit orchestras; including trumpet, bass and keyboards. Alex has over ten years' service as an army reservist musician for the Duke of Lancaster's regiment. Alex is now back at LIPA as a lecturer in music leading sessions in music creation and performance.

▶ GRADUATE PERFORMERS



Matthew Weeks

Matt graduated from LIPA in 2011 with a degree in Theatre & Performance Technology. He began his career at the Royal Court Liverpool as a multidisciplinary technician, specialising in sound and scenic construction, contributing to more than 50 productions. In 2014, Matt returned to LIPA as a Production Technician and progressed to the role of Lead Production Technician in 2018. Alongside his institutional work, he has continued to freelance across a wide range of live events, tours, installations, and site-specific productions. His experience includes stage management roles for major events such as the Liverpool International Music Festival, the Eurovision Euro Village Liverpool 2023, and Liverpool Celebrates.



Madeline Appiah

Theatre includes: *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (RSC); *Cymbeline* (The Globe); *Kerry Jackson*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Here We Go*, *Welcome to Thebes* (National Theatre); *TINA - The Tina Turner Musical* (Aldwych); *Hamlet* (Harold Pinter Theatre); *The Hotel Cerise* (Theatre Royal Stratford); *Iyalode of Eti* (Utopia Theatre/Rich Mix/Arcola); *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* (St James Theatre); *The Duchess of Malfi* (Old Vic); *Speechless* (Shared Experience); *Off the Endz* (Royal Court); *Mother Goose* (Greenwich Theatre); *It Felt Empty When the Heart Went at First...* (Arcola/Clean Break); *Arabian Nights* (New Vic); *Dionysus Unbound* (Bridewell Theatre); *Cinderella* (Watford Palace); *The Wedding Dance* (Birmingham Rep/Tour); *Restoration* (Oxford Stage Company); *I Have Before Me...* (Calyпсо); *Brezhnev's Children* (BAC).

Film and television includes: *Blood of My Blood* (Starz/Sony); *Black Mirror* (Netflix); *Jungle* (Amazon Prime); *In the Long Run* (Sky); *Elephant*, *King for a Term* (Sky); *Death in Paradise*, *Partners in Crime*, *Doctors*, *Gavin and Stacey*, *EastEnders*, *Holby City* (BBC); *The Bill* (ITV).



Lena Barth Aarstad

Lena is from Norway, and graduated from Acting in 1999, moved to London, where she stayed for eight years. She did *Newsrevue* in London/Edinburgh Fringe and hosted *London-Lena* for Norwegian TV. *The Threepenny Opera* for Riksteatret, and several productions with Teater Ibsen, Grenland Friteater and Hålogaland Theatre. Lena has written, produced, directed and played in over 50 of her own productions, often musical comedy satires. Several tv-series; among them, *Country Men*, which won Best Ensemble in Cannes. She recently had great success playing Shirley Valentine at Teater Ibsen, in Oslo and on tour, and will do another monologue performance there this autumn.



Leanne Best

Leanne is currently filming the new Beatles biopics, directed by Sam Mendes and can currently be seen in Channel 4's adaptation of *A Woman of Substance* for The Forge. She also reprised her role in the BBC's BAFTA-nominated *This City Is Ours*, along with ITV's *G'wed*. Leanne was also recently seen on stage in the Sam Mendes/Jez Butterworth play *The Hills of California*, which transferred to Broadway after a successful run in the West End. Other notable credits include: *The Walk-In* opposite Stephen Graham; *Bolan's Shoes* with Timothy Spall and *Raging Grace* with David Hayman; *Insomnia* with Vicky McClure; *A Town Called Malice* for Sky; *Young Wallander*; *Cold Feet*; *Line of Duty*; *Ripper Street*; *Tin Star*; *Undercover*; *Home Fires* and *Fortitude*. Other notable credits on stage include *Sweat* at the Donmar Warehouse directed by Lynette Linton, Daniel Raggett's *The Human Voice*; Bijan Sheibani's *Damned By Despair* at the National Theatre and both *Educating Rita* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Liverpool Everyman, where Leanne also performed the one-woman show *Matchbox* directed by Lia Williams, which transferred to The Tricycle Theatre in London.

▶ GRADUATE PERFORMERS



Emma Bispham

Emma is honoured to be co-hosting tonight's Gala. One of the first year of students at LIPA, she is grateful to still be working in a career she loves. From her first job in *Blood Brothers* (West End) to recent filming some highlights include:

Television: *Play for Today*, *Ridley*, *The Gathering*, *Doctors*, *Tin Star*, *Clink*, *The League of Gentlemen*, *Paranoid*, *Prey 2*, *The Mill*, *Good Cop*, *Emmerdale*, *Coronation Street*, *The Driver*, *Shameless*, *Heartbeat*, *The Royal*, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, *Strictly Confidential*, *The Bill*. Film: *Kelly + Victor* (BAFTA winner). Theatre: *Stayin' Alive*, *Nel's Place*, *Sisters of Mersey*, *A Thong for Europe*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Othello*, *The Big I Am*, *Blood Brothers*, *Taboo*, *Spend Spend Spend*, *Bad Girls: The Musical*.



Gabrielle Brooks

Gabrielle is an Olivier-nominated actor and writer. She originated the role of Rita Marley in *Get Up, Stand Up!*, earning an Olivier Award nomination. On screen, she is known for playing Nadia in Netflix's *Shadow and Bone*. Other screen credits include *Coming Down the Mountain*, *J'Ouvert*, and *Notes on a Scandal*. Her theatre work includes productions with Shakespeare's Globe, the Young Vic, Donmar Warehouse, and Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, as well as *Once on This Island*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Gabrielle has also performed extensively across the UK and in radio for the BBC.



Peter Caulfield

As an actor Peter has worked across the board in theatre, TV, film, radio, voice over and animation. Notable TV projects include *Dr Who* (BBC); *I Hate Suzie Too* (Sky); *Cucumber* (Channel 4); *Absentia* (Amazon); *Secret Invasion* (Marvel); *EastEnders* (BBC); *The Capture* (Paramount). Olivier Award winning theatre shows include *Enron*; *Tammy Faye*; *One Man, Two Guvnors*; *Our House*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Peter is also now a writer with his new show *BINGE* going into pre-production. He will also be appearing in Russell T Davies' new mini-series *Tip Toe* (Channel 4) this summer.



Laura Corradi

Following LIPA training Laura continued study completing a Musical Theatre Masters at LJMU and a PGCERT in Performance Teaching at Guildhall. She currently works as a performer, director and teacher as well as being the Artistic Director of A Handful of Keys Theatre Company and Chair of the Longwell Green and Kingswood Arts Festival.

Credits include: *The Show Must Go On* (UK Tour), *Dry Rot* (UK tour), *Photo Me* (Riverside Studios), *Sound of Silence* (Regents Park), *Handful of Songs* (Leicester Square Theatre), *Dracula* (Tour), *A Wife in Art* and *Waking Opportunity* (Brewhouse Theatre), *Olivier Awards* (Royal Opera House), *A Heart's Sake* (Bath Theatre Royal) and *Side by Side by Sondheim* (Bristol Hippodrome).

▶ GRADUATE PERFORMERS



Dan Croll

Dan has spent more than a decade quietly evolving as an artist, from the breakthrough of *Sweet Disarray* to the reflective songwriting of 2023's *Fools*. His latest album, *Winning Streak*, marks a new chapter, written after leaving Los Angeles and returning home to England, exploring resilience, reinvention, and redefining success on his own terms. Blending orchestral pop influences with intimate, confessional songwriting, the record captures both vulnerability and ambition. Known for the genre-blurring hit *From Nowhere*, Dan continues to reshape his sound while remaining rooted in honest, emotionally rich storytelling.



Stephen Fletcher

Stephen is a Liverpool-born director, writer, producer and performer. A First-Class Acting graduate of LIPA (2002), he has built a dynamic career with work presented in the West End, across the UK and internationally. Following Liverpool's Capital of Culture win in 2008, he turned away from London and rooted himself here in the city, creating opportunities for local artists and engaging audiences discovering the arts for the first time. His work has spanned musical theatre, Shakespeare, drama, TV, film, comedy and new writing, and he founded his own critically-acclaimed theatre production company, Life in Theatre. He is preparing to direct a new musical touring America, he is set to tour the UK with a classic comedy drama, and is creating more titles as a new co-producer with Initial Content Productions. It is Stephen's honour to co-host this event - to not just celebrate LIPA's 30th birthday but to mark its established role as a cultural asset for the city and a valued exporter of talent to the wider industry beyond. Here's to the next 30 years. stephenfletcheruk.com



Chris Grahamson

Chris graduated in 2003 and has built a diverse career across stage and screen as a musician, actor/musician, and actor.

His West End credits include *TINA: The Tina Turner Musical*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Buddy* and *Billy Elliot*, where he played Tony in a performance broadcast live to cinemas across the UK in September 2014 and later released on DVD. He has also performed at the Donmar Warehouse, Bolton Octagon, Hampstead Theatre, Liverpool Royal Court, and Oldham Coliseum. His work spans touring, international, and television productions, most recently appearing in the new Steps musical *Here and Now*.



Jak Malone

Jak is an Olivier and Tony Award winning actor and writer, best known for his work developing and starring in the smash-hit musical *Operation Mincemeat*, in which he originated the role of Hester Leggatt to widespread critical acclaim. Alongside his performance work, Jak is currently developing several new writing projects that he's very excited about.

▶ GRADUATE PERFORMERS



Richard Morse

After LIPA, Richard was lucky enough to be in numerous theatre productions and TV commercials around the world. A full circle moment was playing Dewey Finn to a sold-out Liverpool Empire in *School of Rock* in 2022. Theatre highlights: Gabe, Billy's Dad, Jeff and Cover *Dewey Finn*/ Ned in *School of Rock* (UK Tour and West End), Max Bialystock in *The Producers* (International Tour), Brian in *Avenue Q* (UK, Ireland and Hong Kong Tour) and *The Man Who Had All The Luck* (Highlands Tour via LIPA's own Selladoor). Richard is thrilled to be celebrating this amazing school tonight.



Hannah Peel and Beibei Wang

Graduate Hannah Peel is an Emmy-nominated, Ivor Novello Award-winning film composer and BBC broadcaster. Her 2021 album *Fir Wave* was shortlisted for the Mercury Music Prize, and this May she released a new collaborative album, *The Endless Dance*, with Chinese percussionist Beibei Wang on Real World records. Beibei is a uniquely vibrant, genre-defying percussion artist and composer. With her background in both classical and traditional Chinese percussion, she has performed around the world with leading orchestras such as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the New Japan Philharmonic.



Sally Rapier

Sally is a director and educator in Acting and Musical Theatre. Her work drives performers to take creative ownership, blending skill, emotional intelligence, and curiosity. She has taught internationally at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, LIPA, Ithaca College, LaSalle College of the Arts, and The Northern Academy of Performing Arts. Industry roles include Artistic Director for the Global Search for New Musicals, New Works Director for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre NY, and Assistant Resident Director at the King's Head Theatre. She has directed widely across regional venues including Mercury Theatre, Derby Playhouse, Goodspeed Musicals, Unity Theatre, Old Laundry Theatre, and the Pleasance.



Oliver Roll

West End theatre credits include: *Back to the Future*; *Viva Forever!*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Hair*; *Oliver!*; *Rent* and *We Will Rock You*. Touring theatre credits include: *Chicago*; *Cabaret*; *Starlight Express*; *The Bodyguard*; *Wonderful Town*; *Bright Lights*; *Big City*; *Chasing Fate*; *The Wedding Singer*; *The Wizard of Oz* (RSC version); *Imagine This*; *Peter Pan* and *Oriana* Theatre Company (P&O Oriana).

Film and television credits include: *Olivier Awards*; *Big Night at the Musicals*; *London Road*; *Children in Need*; *Sanex*: *Naked* advertisement; Sir Kenneth Branagh's *The Magic Flute*; *Blue Peter* and *Transient Touch*. Original cast recordings: *The Bodyguard*; *The Wizard of Oz* and *Oliver!*



Craig Ryder

Craig is currently playing Harold Zidler in the West End production of *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. Since graduating from LIPA in the year 2000, Craig has worked consistently in film, television and musical theatre and is forever grateful for his time at one of the world's best institutions, where he met some of his very best friends for life.

▶ GRADUATE PERFORMERS



Natasha Seale

British singer-songwriter and actor Natasha Seale has built an impressive body of work including leading roles in London's West End (*Les Misérables*, *Aspects of Love*, *Mamma Mia!*) and as Despina in Glyndebourne's *School4Lovers*. "A Jazz lady at heart" - Bebop Spoken, her recent project 'Ellington Seale'd' played sold-out shows at PizzaExpress Jazz Club, Crazy Coqs & the 606 Club. Her critically acclaimed album *A Bigger Sky* (33 Jazz Records) 'Timeless torch songs' showcases her distinctive blend of jazz-inflected storytelling. Seale gratefully acknowledges support from ACE and Help Musicians. *Two Pigeons And A Pizza Box* releases October with *Harvest* hailing 'featured track of the week' - Jazz FM.



John Smith

England's one and only John Smith has been at the pioneering forefront of British folk guitar music for 20 years. He has amassed over 125 million Spotify streams and played his songs all over the world. He cut his teeth opening for the late, great John Martyn, and has since worked with a host of artists including David Gray, Lisa Hannigan, the Milk Carton Kids and Jackson Browne.



Lauren Southwick

Lauren graduated from LIPA in 2003 with a degree in Dance. She went on to perform professionally in musicals and theatre across the UK, internationally, and on tour. Alongside her performance career, she has worked as a director, choreographer, and more recently as a teacher. Lauren is also a qualified person centred therapist and currently provides therapeutic support to students at The BRIT School as well as working with other clients.



Gavin Spokes

Graduated in 2000 and has worked extensively in theatre, film and television. Theatre work highlights have been an Olivier nomination for *Guys and Dolls*, working with Stephen Sondheim on *Company*, Francis in *One Man, Two Guvnors* for the National Theatre, *Hamilton*, Charles Ingram in James Graham's *Quiz*. On screen his most notable role is Lord Lyonel Strong in *House of the Dragon*. Other film and TV work includes *Slow Horses*, *Napoleon*, *Cold Storage*, *The Undeclared War*. He's recently finished filming on *The Blame* (ITV) and *Time* by Jimmy McGovern. Gavin is married to LIPA Dance graduate Emma Annetts (2001).



Hayley Sutton

Hayley made her West End debut playing Ali in *MAMMA MIA!* in 2005. She sidestepped into writing and presenting talk radio at various stations including LBC and Dubai Eye, and continues to work as a voiceover artist. She set up Hayley's Comet Theatre School in London, specialising in creative drama, musical theatre and playwriting. She has written two novels and one wellness book, all published by HarperCollins internationally, and the book to a major musical currently in development with Runaway Entertainment.

▶ GRADUATE PERFORMERS



Sandi Thom

Sandi Thom is a multi-platinum, chart-topping artist, often called the “first streaming artist.” Her breakthrough came in 2006 with *21 Nights from Tooting*, a series of live webcam shows from her London flat. Before platforms like Spotify or TikTok, they built a global audience, sparked a label bidding war, and helped pioneer direct-to-fan discovery. Her debut single *I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker (With Flowers in My Hair)* reached No.1 in the UK, Australia and Ireland, becoming Australia’s biggest-selling 2006 single. Across two decades, she has blended pop, folk, rock and acoustic styles, earning critical praise and over 90 million streams, while maintaining an independent creative voice based in Scotland, she continues evolving artistically.



Liz White

Liz trained at LIPA and graduated in 2001. For her final year project she adapted *The Woman Who Walked into Doors* by Roddy Doyle (directed by Brian Parsons and Leanne Best) and took it to the National Student Drama Festival where they won Best Performance award along with Best Collaboration and Adaptation. From this she was picked up by Independent Talent and began her professional career, working at The Royal Court Theatre, The National Theatre and The Old Vic and the Almeida. Her TV and film credits include *Vera Drake*, *Life on Mars*, *Ackley Bridge*, *The Long Shadow* and James Graham’s new film *Ink*. Liz has just finished performing in *Living*, by Leon Butler at the Sheffield Playhouse.

30 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

LIVE MUSIC

Live music is an integral part of the LIPA experience for all our students.

Whether it be enjoying live performances in our canteen and bar, including live music club nights, songwriter showcases and live band karaoke; organising and performing at venues across the city like LIPA Live at The Cavern, or being involved in flagship events including the music festival 2ube Xtra and our Christmas Concert.

2ube Xtra is a fully realised festival that represents the essence of LIPA. These days it features more than 50 showcase performances by Music students, the festival is a true celebration of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Every element is delivered by students and features contributions from the Dance, Filmmaking, Management, Sound Technology and Theatre Design and Production programmes.

We have had our own music festival for over 20 years and in its current form as 2ube Xtra it has established itself as a standout event for new music on the Liverpool festival calendar.

Over the years it, and its predecessor, The Third Degree, have featured headline performances by The Wombats, MT Jones

and Crawlers - as well as appearances by Jalen Ngonda and members of Hot City Horns.

The following pages offer a glimpse into this rich history through a selection of photos from our archive.

Meanwhile, the LIPA Christmas Concert is now in its 22nd year and continues to grow in scale and reputation.

In 2023 it moved to the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, a significant milestone in its development.

Like 2ube Xtra it is a great example of LIPA in action with students from all disciplines involved, not only behind the scenes but also on stage with the LIPA Big Band and choir both featuring students from across the Institute.

Scan below for our YouTube channel featuring over 200 videos of past performances.



3rd degree 2008 - 2011



2ube Xtra 2012 - 2016





30 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

RECORDED MUSIC

Our students and graduates have created an astonishing breadth of music over the past three decades. From our first No.1 artist, Sandi Thom, to performers who went on to form or join acclaimed bands, or contribute to recording sessions and co-writes with A-list artists - our community has shaped sounds and scenes far beyond our walls.

Many continue to collaborate with the sound technicians, designers, filmmakers, producers and managers they first met here, demonstrating creative partnerships that have lasted long after graduation.

Our musical history is far too rich and far reaching to ever be captured in one list. But the 30 tracks opposite span soulful songwriting, inventive electronica, contemporary classical works, bold indie, bright pop and more.

Each one reflects the craft, musicality and dedication that define our community. We also remember Her's, whose brilliance continues to inspire new generations following their tragic passing soon after they graduated.



You can discover more extensive playlists, including genre-specific focuses, on our Spotify.



LIPA
THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

30
YEARS OF MAKING
PERFORMANCE POSSIBLE

30 TRACKS

1. Sandi Thom - I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker (with Flowers In My Hair)
2. The Wombats - Let's Dance to Joy Division
3. Hannah Peel & Manchester Collective - Neon: I Shinjuku
4. Jalen Ngonda - If You Don't Want My Love
5. Her's - What Once Was
6. Crawlers - Come Over (Again)
7. Frances - What Is Love? - From "Fifty Shades Darker (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)"
8. Circa Waves - T-Shirt Weather
9. Astles - Remember Us?
10. Girl Group - Yay! Saturday
11. Something Sally & Joss Stone - Tip of My Tongue
12. Strawberry Guy - Mrs Magic
13. Youngr - Out of My System
14. Liam Lynch - United States Of Whatever
15. Holly Humberstone - Falling Asleep At The Wheel
16. Seun Kuti, Egypt 80 & Carlos Santana - Black Times (Radio Edit)
17. Dan Croll - From Nowhere
18. Stealing Sheep - Jokin' Me
19. Skinny Days - Voices in My Head
20. Tonia - Cut The Cloth, Didn't I
21. The Staves - I'm on Fire
22. SG Lewis (feat. London Grammar) - Feelings Gone
23. MARIAMARI - FIRST CLASS
24. Tom Ashbrook - Solitude I
25. Julia Church - Go Back
26. AI - Like a Rose
27. Brad Stank - Flirting in Space
28. Shefu - Do you want my number?
29. Douglas Dare - The Joy in Sarah's Eyes
30. John Smith - Far Too Good

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI

Since our inception LIPA alumni have established successful careers across the performing arts, creative industries and far beyond.

As of Spring 2026, our alumni community numbers 8,118 people, who between them have completed 8,676 programmes at LIPA.

The majority (6,249) graduated from our BA degrees, with others progressing through our MA programmes (258), Foundation Certificates and Diplomas (1,026) and CPD courses (575).

Today, our graduates form a global creative network, working in 77 countries across an extraordinary range of fields, from major cultural institutions to global entertainment leaders, to forging portfolio careers as performers, makers and practitioners.

Our alumni are shaping the performing arts and creative industries at every level.

Their achievements include Academy Award nominations, BAFTA and Emmy wins, Tony and Olivier Awards, Grammy and Latin Grammy recognition, major theatre design prizes, international music awards, and honours such as the MBE and the Queen's Young Leaders Award.

These accolades reflect the breadth of talent nurtured at LIPA and the impact our graduates continue to make worldwide.

You can explore a selection of these achievements on our Alumni Success webpage, where we celebrate the awards, nominations and industry recognition earned by our graduates: lipa.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-success.

But our story is not only about awards; it's also about community. Many of our alumni have adapted their training here to pursue careers in education, healthcare, policy, community practice, and entirely new fields.

Wherever their paths have taken them, their commitment to collaboration and their passion for creativity continue to shine.

As we celebrate 30 years, we invite all our graduates to reconnect with us.

You are part of a vibrant, supportive network of practitioners and professionals who continue to collaborate, create and champion one another.

Your journey with LIPA is lifelong, and we want to keep celebrating your successes, supporting your development, and strengthening the connections that began here.



Visit lipa.ac.uk/alumni to reconnect, share your story, and remain part of our growing global community.

AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORY

From the outset, LIPA has attracted students from around the world to study, collaborate and create here.

Today, our alumni live and work across nearly 80 countries, carrying LIPA's creative values into industries, communities and cultures worldwide.





LOOKING AHEAD

The creative and performing arts are constantly evolving, shaped by changing technologies, trends and tastes.

We aim to equip our graduates not just for today's industry, but for the future they will help define.

At the heart of our approach is a continuous dialogue with the creative sector. Working closely with industry - most recently with our new partners Google/YouTube - we continually ask: what's happening now, what skills are needed and what lies ahead?

These conversations started during our inception and continue today. They ensure our training remains relevant, responsive and forward-thinking.

The excellence of this training has been recognised by being authorised with New

degree awarding powers. This was a highly significant moment in LIPA's history, enabling us to be an autonomous institution that can be even more agile and responsive to industry needs.

As part of this approach we regularly review and refresh our course portfolio and invest in industry-standard facilities that reflect the professional world. In recent years, this has led to the introduction of Filmmaking, Actor Musicianship and Music Industry Management programmes.

We have also expanded our campus firstly with the purchase of the neighbouring Liverpool College of Art and, more recently, One Hope Place.

The latter will become a dynamic hub for performance, production and digital innovation complementing the exceptional facilities within our two historic buildings on Mount Street.

As we look ahead, one thing is constant, change. And we will remain at the forefront of that change, driving innovation aligned to the needs of an evolving industry.



Artist representation of a Mac lab in One Hope Place.

OUR PATRONS

We were privileged to attract world leading artists, practitioners, producers and entrepreneurs as patrons, who stood with us at the very beginning. Their expertise, guidance and belief in what LIPA could become helped shape the foundations of our institution.

Patronage from individuals of this calibre is never given lightly; their support was a powerful endorsement of our ethos, approach to training, and the potential of our students and graduates.

Sadly, some of these individuals are no longer with us, and we take this moment to honour their lasting contribution and legacy.

▶ Lead Patron:
Sir Paul McCartney

- ▶ Joan Armatrading
- ▶ The Late Dame Jocelyn Barrow
- ▶ The Late David Bedford
- ▶ Sir Richard Branson
- ▶ The Late Graham Collier
- ▶ The Late John Dankworth
- ▶ Dame Judi Dench
- ▶ The Late John Gunter
- ▶ Glyn Johns
- ▶ Mark Knopfler
- ▶ The Late Dame Gillian Lynne
- ▶ Sir Cameron Mackintosh
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- ▶ Robert North
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- ▶ The Late Monica Parker
- ▶ Lord David Puttnam
- ▶ Alpana Sengupta
- ▶ The Late Paul Scofield
- ▶ Carly Simon
- ▶ The Late Peter Sissons
- ▶ Wayne Sleep
- ▶ Toyah Willcox
- ▶ The Late Victoria Wood
- ▶ The Late Vangelis

OUR COMPANIONS AND HONOURED FRIENDS

Our Companions and Honoured Friends are individuals whose achievements, leadership and generosity have left a lasting mark on our community.

These awards, presented at graduation, recognise people who have excelled in their fields and who have shared their insight, encouragement and creative spirit with our students.

Whether through masterclasses, collaboration or advocacy, they have helped shape the learning environment that defines LIPA. Their contributions remind us that creative education thrives when it is supported by those who lead, innovate and inspire.

We also take this opportunity to remember with gratitude those Companions and Honoured Friends who are no longer with us, and to honour the generosity and spirit they shared with LIPA.

2000	Professor Anthony Field	2007	Anita Dobson Ben Elton Alan McGee The Late Ralph Koltai Steve Levine David Pugh
2001	Joan Armatrading Benny Gallagher The Late Malcolm McLaren	2008	Lea Anderson Cathy Dennis Ann Harrison Trevor Horn The Late Sir John Hurt Nitin Sawhney Luis Cobos (Honoured Friend)
2002	Stephen Bayley Thelma Holt The Late Anthony Wilson	2009	Pippa Ailion Natricea Bernard The Late John Fox Richard Hudson Joe McGann Tony Platt Will Young
2003	Barbara Dickson Anthony Everitt Nickolas Grace Andy McClusky	2010	Heather Knight Alan Moulder Christopher Oram Dave Pammenter Sir Jonathan Pryce LaVelle Smith Jr Midge Ure Mark Summers (Honoured Friend)
2004	The Late Ken Campbell The Bangles Tim Firth Terry Marshall Dame Arlene Phillips Willy Russell Jon Webster		
2005	Guy Chambers The Late Robin Gibb The Late Alec McCowen Tim Wheeler		
2006	The Late Lynda Bellingham The Late Sir Ken Robinson Dr Jorg Sennheiser The Late Terence Stamp David Stark		

2011	David Bell Paule Constable Caroline Elleray Chris Johnson Steve Nestar Billy Ocean Hannah Waddingham Spencer Leigh (Honoured Friend)	2014	Briony Albert Darcus Beese Don Black Adrian Jackson Giles Martin Colin Richmond Nick Starr Samuel West Patrick Woodroffe Suzahn Fiering (Honoured Friend) The Late Janice Long (Honoured Friend)	2017	Jon Burton John Caird Jo Collins Chris Difford Jon Driscoll Woody Harrelson Kay Hilton Mary Ward Tony Wood (Honoured Friend)	2022	Jonathan Clyde Paul Epworth Francesca Jaynes Katie Vine Yaw Owusu (Honoured Friend)
2012	Jason Barnes Sir Matthew Bourne Kevin Godley Michael Harrison Owen Lewis Gary Lloyd Pam Schweitzer Victor Greenberg (Honoured Friend)	2015	Gemma Bodinetz Fran Healy Noddy Holder Conor Murphy Hugh Padgham Scott Rodger James Thompson Sharon Watson John T Rago (Honoured Friend)	2018	Paul Burger Ali Campbell Dean Lee John Leonard Nile Rodgers Felice Ross Toyah Willcox Maria Walker (Honoured Friend) Professor Nigel Weatherill (Honoured Friend)	2023	Simon Armitage Jenny Beavan Anna-Jane Casey John Godber Ashley Herman Robert Plant Tim Routledge Sonia Jacqueline Stewart
2013	Andy Hayles The Late Keith Johnstone Stephen Mear Mark Ronson The Late Zenon Schoepe The Late Seymour Stein Rowena Morgan (Honoured Friend)	2016	David Babani Darren Henley Alan Lane Martin Levan Christopher Manoe Tim Prentki Tom Robinson Greta Scacchi Christopher Shutt Tetsuo Hamada (Honoured Friend) The Late Paul Whiting (Honoured Friend)	2019	Rowan Atkinson Mike Batt Lucy Carter Sir Stephen Fry Sue Gill Steve Lewis Tom Pye Kenrick Sandy Andrew Scheps Cliff Cooper (Honoured Friend)	2024	Vick Bain Kobna Holdbrook-Smith Jamie Lloyd Rae Smith Andreas Sennheiser (Honoured Friend) Daniel Sennheiser (Honoured Friend)
				2020 & 2021	Georgina Kakoudaki Leslie Travers	2025	Adrian Lester Gay Linvill Sita McIntosh Sir Sam Mendes James Nesbitt The Wombats and their Manager

OUR PEOPLE

LIPA COUNCIL DIRECTORS

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Michelle Emmerson (Vice Chair)
Juliet Johnson (Vice Chair)
Pete Fendall
Ashley Herman
Joe Johnson
David Owen
Zoe Radnor
Sean Sweeney
Maria Walker
Jad Zouein

LIPA MEMBERS

Arthur Bernstein
Flo Clucas
Jim Dimmock
Mark Featherstone-Witty
Rupert Grey
Jo Moriarty
Roger Morris
Steve Norris
John Rago
Nigel Weatherill

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal & CEO
Professor Sean McNamara

Chief Operating Officer
David Fletcher

Director of Marketing & Student Recruitment
Corinne Lewis

Director of School of Creative Technologies, Design & Enterprise
Jon Thornton

Director of School of Performance
Will Hammond

Director of School of Music (Interim)
Tim Pike

Director of Students
Michael Mercer

ADMISSIONS
Admissions Manager
Howard Ashton

Admissions Officers
Denise Harris
Shanna Koppmeier

Admissions Administrators
Sophie Illiaifar
Naomi Todd

BAR
Bar Manager
Rachael Collins

Bar Supervisor
Courtney James

CATERING
Catering Manager
Alison Jessop

Catering Assistants
Julie Fenlon
Tracy Melling
Lynn Woods

CEO ASSISTANCE
Executive Assistant & Governance Administrator

Natalie Cook (Maternity Leave)
Rosemary Millbank (Maternity Cover)

CLEANING
Cleaning Manager
Jill Salinas

Cleaning Supervisor
Josephine Marlow

Cleaners
Tracy Allen
Leah Balman
Joanne Binks
Jacqueline Boardman
Susan Cummins
Poppy Douglas
Hana Heltova
Lily Jalil
Sandra Lunt
Edward Murphy
Frances Patino
Janet Rich

ESTATES
Head of Estates & Facilities
Philip Marshall

Estates Project Manager
Dean Greenberg

Buildings Supervisor
John Hunt

General Assistants
Joseph Lydiata
Kamran Mahmudov

FINANCE
Head of Finance
Rachael Simms

Senior Finance Officer
Rebecca Palomba

Finance Officer
Chris Hardy

HUMAN RESOURCES
Head of HR, Culture & Transformation
Melaney Doyle

HR Manager
Stacy Baldwin

Payroll Officer
Dawn Byrne

Payroll & Pensions Administration Officer
Pattie Kilroy

HR Administrators
Eve Campbell-Jones
Jamee Catterall

ICT & BUSINESS SYSTEMS
Head of Business Systems
Ashley Fraser

ICT Manager
Ben Faulkner

ICT Systems Technical Officer
Paul Bambury

Web Developer
Alex Cousins

Project Manager
Claire Taylor

Learning Technologist
Arif Khan

ICT Systems Officer
Mark Pritchard

LRC
Learning Services Manager
Clare Holmes

Deputy Manager Learning Services
Juliet Rodway

Learning Services Advisors
Gillian Campbell
Joe Shooman

MARKETING & STUDENT RECRUITMENT
Director of Marketing & Student Recruitment
Corinne Lewis

Head of International Marketing & Recruitment
Ryan Duncan

International Manager
Darren Murphy

International Administrator
Katie Douglas

Head of Marketing & Communications
Rob Ellis

Digital Content & Engagement Officer
Cara Gaskell

Marketing, Campaigns & Communications Officers
Oliver Carter
Joe Norman

Head of Widening Participation & Schools/Colleges Liaison
Ben Leventhall

Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer
Stephanie Rohr (Maternity Leave)

Widening Participation Coordinator
Donna Nicholls (Maternity Leave)

Widening Participation Coordinator
Christina Waugh (Maternity Cover)

Widening Participation Assistant
Laura Lomax

PRODUCTION
Head of Production
Stella Okafor-Ross

Lead Production Technician
Matthew Weeks

Production Technicians
Jonathan Hamer
Matthew Jones
Jonathan Thornhill

Scenery Workshop Supervisor
Howard Cooke

Theatre Workshop Technician
Jonathan Defty

Productions Assistant
Madeline Cole

Wardrobe Manager
Hannah Newson

Deputy Wardrobe Manager
Marina Diamantidi

Costume Workroom Coordinator
Lyndsey McKay

Technician/Technical Demonstrator
Dennis Jensen

Costume Maker
Katie Jones

Costume Store Assistant
Amy Walsh

QUALITY

Quality Manager

Michelle Rushforth

Deputy Quality Officer

Frances Critchley

Quality Officer

Megan Burns

RECEPTION

Receptionist Team Leader

Jennifer Dodd

Receptionists

Kris Brown

Aline Costa

Wiktorja Maczka

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, DESIGN & ENTERPRISE

Director of School

Jon Thornton

Head of Filmmaking & Creative Technologies

Steven Davies

Lecturers

Daniel Pope

Ryan Taylor

Head of Management

Keith Mullin

Programme Leader MA Music Industry Management

Eva Petersen

Lecturers

Liz Carlisle

Pippa Lea

Gillian Walsh

Head of Sound Technology

James Thorne

Senior Lecturer

Christopher Layton

Lecturers

Mark Atherton

Peter Philipson

Paul Stakounis

Teaching Fellow

Anthony Draper

Head of Theatre & Performance Design/Technology

Sheryl-Lynne Valensky

Programme Leader MA Costume

Toni Bate

Programme Leader Theatre & Performance Design

Lois Maskell

Programme Leader Theatre & Production Technology

Paul Halgarth

Lecturers

Mark Doubleday

Jamie Fitzgerald

Emma Wright

Teaching Fellow

Olivia Du Monceau

SCHOOL OF PERFORMANCE

Director of School of Performance

Will Hammond

Head of Acting Stage & Screen

David Salter

Programme Leader Cert HE Foundation Acting (Stage & Screen)

Emma Bramley

Programme Leader BA Acting

Stuart Crowther

Programme Leader BA Acting (Contemporary Performance)

Yusuf Khamisa

Programme Leader BA Acting (Musical Theatre)

Shona Lanigan

Interim Programme Leader BA Acting (Musicianship) / Cert HE Foundation Acting (Musical Theatre)

Matthew Dudley

Programme Leader BA Acting (Screen & Digital Media)

Alan Pearce

Programme Leader MA Acting

Caroline Pearce (Martin)

Technical Skills Coordinator

Gary Horner

Lecturers

Gillian Knox

Sam McKay

Lisi Perry

Beth Vyse

Teaching Fellows

Lisa-Marie Albes

Rosemary Berkon

Paul Doyle

Sophie Elliott (Maternity Leave)

Arabella Gibbins

Head of Dance

Sarah Baker

Senior Lecturer

Andrew Hall

Lecturers

Kay Hilton

Carl Parris

Lisi Perry

Jacqueline Shi

Teaching Fellows

Rachel Griffiths

Darren Suarez

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Director of School of Music (Interim)

Tim Pike

Head of Music (Academic)

Helen Davies

Head of Music (Creative & Technical)

Dan Sanders

Head of Music (Performance)

Tim Pike

Senior Lecturer

Stephen Parker

Lecturers

Lauren Catherall

Dori Howard

Bob James

Paul Mitchell-Davidson

Veronica Skrimpsjo

Alex Smith

Teaching Fellows

Kate Blair

David Bowen

Carl Bowry

Leslie Chisnall

Oliver Collins

Jimmy Docherty

Joseph Duddell

Peter Fairclough

James Faulkner

Alex Germaines

Gethin Griffith

Rachael Griffiths

Huw Jacob

Richard Jupp

Hayli Kincade

Vidar Norheim

Prabjote Osahn

Martin Smith

Michael Smith

James Spencer

Joanne Watkin

James Young

Assistant Lecturers

Blas Barragan

Rebecca Morrell

Lauren Spink

Paul Taft

Music Performance & Masterclass Coordinator

Charlie Cowburn

SECURITY

Security Team Leader

Graeme Lloyd

Security Officers

Lewis Braithwaite

Warren Makin

Richard Wilkinson

STUDENT SERVICES

Director of Students

Michael Mercer

Head of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Cherise Weaver

Programme Administration Manager

Joanne Hawksworth

Programme Administration Team Leader

Megan Pierce (Maternity Leave)

Programme Administrators

Jennifer Baranick

Jenny Brown

Carla Cross

Lydia Noble

HE Student Records Officer

David Harrison

Student Caseworker & Safeguarding Officer

Kathryn Farmer

Student Voice President

Sally Britton (Maternity Leave)

Dan Ayache (SVP Elect)

Head of Student Wellbeing & Disability Support

Alison Ball

Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Danielle Clark

Disability Officer

Terri Roberts

Mental Health Advisor

Lauren Smith

Specialist Study Skills Tutor

Peter Bold

Counsellors

Debbie Butland

Theo Clews

Cathy Hilton

Elisabeth Hughes

Head of Timetabling

Aaron Brown

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical Services Manager

John Attewell

Sound Technician

Paul Adams

Live Sound Technician

Andrew O'Connor

Filmmaking Technician

Joseph Preston

Music Technician

George Yelding

VENUE SERVICES

Venue Manager

Siobhan Roxburgh

Deputy Venue Manager

Dawneey Warren

Thanks to the many Visiting Professionals and casual staff who also contribute so much to the student experience

LIPA 30: A Living History

Located within the Institute Building, A Living History is a deeply immersive installation that explores LIPA's origins, people and legacy.

Through a blend of sound, projection and performance, the work transforms the space into a living archive where past, present and future co-exist. Designed by Chris McCourt in collaboration with Mark, the installation is both celebratory and reflective, inviting you to experience 30 years of creativity and community.

LIPA Foundation

This new foundation will champion opportunity, creativity and innovation by supporting future generations of artists and creative practitioners.

Through philanthropy, partnerships and alumni engagement, the Foundation will expand access, strengthen industry connection, and invest in creative learning, entrepreneurial support and capital initiatives.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

- ▶ Our current and former students
- ▶ Our current and former staff across all teams
- ▶ Our industry partners and sponsors
- ▶ Our audiences and supporters who have championed the performing arts for 30 years

Photographer credits

Andrew AB Photography, Harry Armitage, Yuval Bilgorai, Jack Birkett, Peter Blaxill, Justina Bubulyte, George Chatburn, Pal Enstad, Mark Featherstone-Witty, Anthony Field, Tracey Gibbs, Alex Gidman, Sam Heath, Matthew Jones, Roger Morris, Alistair Nicholson, Joe Norman, Didrik Paulsen, Brian Roberts, Oliver Rowlands, Sam Sebbage, Brian Slater, Alan Smith, Richard Spilman, Joe Stathers-Tracey, Jodie Svagr, Josh Wakelam, Andrew Watts, Allegra Whitehouse and Joyee Wong.

Programme Design by Individual Graphic Design.