

RADA

THE
MAGAZINE

Issue No 13

RADA's royal visit

*Student funding:
only a partial solution*

Why has theatre gone laddish?

PLUS:

- Stage managing in Norway
- A film for Stephen

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Work Opportunities? Accommodation?

In the past Friends of RADA have been wonderful, both in providing work opportunities for students during the holidays and by offering a room in their home for 3 to 4 weeks at the start of the Autumn Term for new students relocating to London.

Regrettably, the number of students who now need to undertake part time evening work throughout the term and full time work during the holidays is increasing rather than decreasing. We have many students, with a wide range of skills, who will be seeking employment once term finishes on July 10th.

If you are able to offer any casual work, which is suitable for students to undertake, please do get in touch.

The Induction Day for first year students is Friday September 17th. We will have 34 students joining the Acting course and 25 students joining the Technical Theatre and Stage Management Course. A large percentage of these students will be relocating to London for the first time. If you are able to offer a room for the first 3-4 weeks of term to enable them to look for suitable accommodation from a secure base, we would be most grateful.

If you can assist by offering either casual work or accommodation, please contact Patricia Myers on 020-7636-7076.

Graduates will be sorry to hear that **Clare Hope** is currently in hospital. She is likely to be there for several weeks but can be contacted at: **The National Hospital, The John Young Ward, Queen Square, WC1.**

RADA Professional Courses

Were you aware that RADA has an expanding portfolio of professional courses. This year alone we have run the following courses:

Voice for the Actor

Advances in Scriptwriting

Working in Television

Radio Commercials & Voice-Overs

Radio Drama

Successful Auditioning

Exploring Character

Advanced Drama in Television

Dialects & Accents

To be placed on our mailing list for information on future courses, please send a stamped addressed envelope to:

**Sally Power
Short Courses Administrator
RADA
18 Chenies Street
London WC1E 7EX**

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We are the magazine of the Friends of RADA. We aim to provide a forum for new writing about the performing arts, to reflect the opinions of artists, technicians and administrators, of students and critics. And we hope to demonstrate the excitement of RADA's own work. The Friends include both graduates and others who wish to support the work of the Academy. We hope we will help you keep in touch with RADA and with each other. Please renew your links – or make new ones – by visiting the Academy and seeing the work of the present students. Write to us with your comments and opinions, or if you would like to make contact again with your contemporaries. We look forward to hearing from you.

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COVER: Philip Sheppard & Vissey Safavi in *Under Milkwood*
COVER AND RADA PHOTOS COURTESY OF
Mick Hurdis

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High flying

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Paying for success

The government has unveiled its new funding scheme, but Pat Myers, RADA's registrar, says it has not solved the student funding problem.

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Jobs for the Boys

Polly Wiseman thinks the Globe theatre's impresario should take his frock off.

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A glimpse of RADA's students' public performances.

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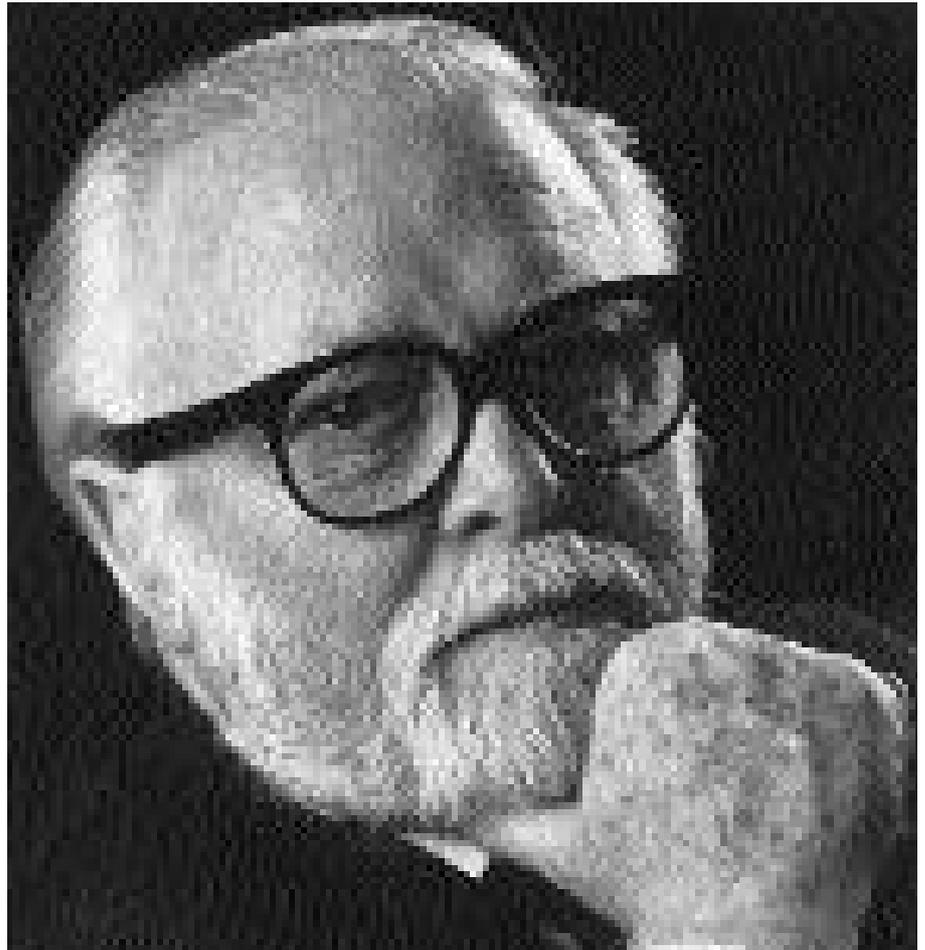
High flying

The undoubted highlight of the Spring term was the visit we received from our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, on 4 March, which was part of a whole day she devoted to theatre in London.

Escorted by Nicholas Barter, Richard Hurst, Chairman of the Centenary Project Committee, and myself, Her Majesty toured the Cheries Street buildings, gaining an insight into our work as she met a number of staff and students. We were also able to tell her about the new Gower/Malet Street building and to express the hope that she might be willing to conduct the opening ceremony next year.

This term, we have been more than usually concerned with funding. The operation of the government's new Dance and Drama Scholarships, due to start with the September 1999 intake, is unfortunately still in the formative stages. It is, however, already apparent that these scholarships will not cover the full cost of professional training to the high standard maintained by the Academy, leaving us with the continuing problem of bridging an operational shortfall during the years to come.

Although RADA has weathered such crises in the past, we are currently faced with the necessity to fundraise on two levels. We must find the £8 million required to match the Lottery award made by the Arts Council towards the capital costs of the new building. In addition, we are obliged to go on finding scholarship/bursary funding for students in genuine financial need. This stretches the resources of RADA staff, Council and committee members to the utmost.



Lord Attenborough

The Academy is facing a new and challenging era. However, despite the profound concerns outlined above, we will soon move back into our rebuilt and refurbished premises, containing three beautiful theatres, which will make RADA one of the best equipped drama schools in the world. Moreover, our reputation, both at home and abroad, has never been higher, our recent graduates are gratifyingly successful and the calibre of young people coming forward to be trained continues to rise, year on year.

In these circumstances, the support

provided by the Friends of RADA, together with that of so many individuals, charitable trusts and commercial entities, has never been more warmly welcomed nor of greater importance. Our gratitude to them is boundless.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to Bass PLC for renewing the annual donation which enables us to publish *RADA The Magazine* and, of course, to Peter Fiddick who donates so much of his valuable time to the Academy in his capacity as editor.