



JOE LOWE

An image from *In Other People's Skins* by Terry Flaxton, Creative Research Fellow. Find out more at www.flaxton.btinternet.co.uk.

Transforming drama

Plans for the department's new Research Centre and Postgraduate School for Performance and Screen Studies are well under way.

This will include a new 100-seat cinema and a large presentation studio, both licensed for the public, to add to the Wickham Theatre and its adjacent studio Theatre 2. The teaching rooms will be reconfigured over three floors to provide nine laboratory spaces that will support both performance and screen media work, as well as seminar- and workshop-based classes. There will be enlarged design workshops and a new computer-based suite which will enhance the teaching of video post-production.

The main entrance will be relocated to Park Row and directly lead on to a series

of social spaces overlooking the street at levels two and three, topped off on level four by a roof terrace, offering the department a public face to the city. Finally, occupying the whole of level one will be new facilities for the Theatre Collection including expanded stack room space with superior environmental control to protect the archives, and a larger library and reading room.

In the autumn the department intends to seek approval from the city planners for this ambitious development.

The University has decided to invest £13.4 million into this project. In addition it needs to raise £1.5 million from friends and supporters. Find out more at www.bristol.ac.uk/centenarycampaign.

Welcome

I am very happy to report that the department's plans for growth are gathering pace as we approach the centenary celebrations.

We are welcoming three new lecturers in screen studies – Drs Alex Clayton, Richard Misek and Kristian Moen. They reflect the University's commitment and belief in our ambitions. In addition, the project for our new building now moves into its second stage: seeking planning permission.

Finally, following a generous donation by drama alumnus Raymond Duignan (BA 1984), we are running a series of theatre trips to prestigious productions for all our undergraduates. We will also be inviting Jonathan Munby (BA 1998), acclaimed theatre director and Drama alumnus, back to lead a summer school that will culminate during the Centenary Alumni Weekend in early July.

Professor Simon Jones
Head of the Department of Drama:
Theatre, Film, Television

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New staff

KATJA KREBS, LECTURER IN PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE STUDIES

Katja joined the department in January. Her teaching and research focus on early 20th-century European theatre history. She is primarily interested in the way in which translation and adaptation activities and processes relate to domestic drama and theatre.



ALEX CLAYTON, LECTURER IN SCREEN STUDIES

Alex comes to Bristol from the University of Kent, where he lectured in Film Studies. He obtained his PhD from Kent in 2006 on 'The body in Hollywood slapstick'. He has also researched music in the films of Jean Renoir.

RICHARD MISEK, LECTURER IN SCREEN STUDIES

Richard studied at the Universities of Oxford, Warwick and Melbourne. His PhD thesis was on 'Chromatic cinema: a history of screen colour'. Richard has professional experience in film writing, direction and editing. Production credits include *B-Road Movie* (2001), a short drama for BBC Films and British Screen which was screened at Cannes, BAFTA, on BBC2 and at numerous festivals.

KRISTIAN MOEN, LECTURER IN SCREEN STUDIES

Kristian studied at Concordia and McGill Universities in Canada before coming to the University of East Anglia where he completed his PhD on 'Transformation scenes: fairy tales and film in modernity' in 2006. His main research areas are the history and aesthetics of fantasy, modernity, and French, Canadian and American cinema.



Celebrating Brandt

On Sunday 8 June some 180 of George Brandt's (PhD 1994) friends, former colleagues and students gathered with George's family at the Wickham Theatre to celebrate George's achievements.

A slideshow presentation of photographs from George's film and theatre work going back some 40 years was followed by a series of recollections, starting with readings by Tony Richards, Stephanie Cole and Tim Pigott-Smith (BA Hons 1967, Hon DL 2008).

John Adams, Günter Berghaus and Martin White shared memories of

George as colleague and contributor to the development of film and television studies. Joost Hunninger, Colin Rose (BA 1965), Hugh Thomson (Cert in Radio, Film and TV 1984) and Zanna Beswick (Drama 1988-) added their memories as former students, as did David Borthwick (Cert in Radio, Film and TV 1978) and David Riddett (Cert in Radio, Film and TV 1978) through an improvised double act. David Puttnam talked of George's influence via a video interview produced by current students. The afternoon was rounded off by an extract from the video of the 'This is Your Life' event, hosted by Geoff Posner.

Bristol students make their mark at the Fringe

Five student companies from the department went to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer, with two of them doing particularly well. *The Darkling Plain* was well reviewed and after seeing *Jet Set Go*, Theatre 503 invited the show to London to do a one week run, where it completely sold out before it opened. *Jet Set Go* was directed by Luke Sheppard (BA 2008).





Settler Country

Documentary photography and cultural history of South Africa

Peter Metelerkamp, programme director of the MA in Film and TV Production and the MA in Documentary Practice, is currently working on the second of two research projects involving photography in South Africa.

The first, *Settler Country*, explored the visible traces of the 1820 settlers in South Africa. Peter made three visits to South Africa in 2007 to take photographs. The work was centred on an enquiry into how 'Britishness' looks after nearly 200 years in Africa, but used this as a starting point for a more general meditation on cultural and geographical passage. The project also looked at the ways settler culture has been changed under current post-colonial conditions. A selection of photographs from the completed project was exhibited in the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol in November 2007 and at Knysna Fine Art in South Africa in March/April 2008.

For his current project, *A Local Habitation*, Peter is taking photographs of settler buildings in the small towns of the Eastern Cape.

in brief

PASSING ON WISDOM

The department's student-run production company, Studiospace, plans to provide new opportunities for students this year. High on their list is linking the department with the arts industry. They are keen to invite Drama alumni to the department to give a talk. If you would like to help in this way, please email Andrew Hughes (Drama 2007-) at ah7016@bristol.ac.uk.

LITTLE BRITAIN

Matt Lucas (Drama 1993-95) and David Williams (BA 1992) are working on a Hollywood film in which they play several characters.

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES

Bristol graduate David Nicholls' (BA 1988) adaptation of Thomas Hardy's tragic novel, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, launched the BBC's autumn drama season this year.

FRANKO B ARCHIVE DONATION

The live art artist Franko B has donated his personal archive to the Theatre Collection Live Art Archives. Franko has created work across video, photography, performance, painting, installation, sculpture and mixed media since 1990.

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Making an exhibition



Final-year students launched the Wickham Theatre's 2008 spring season with *The Exhibitionists: A Theatrical Revue of the Archive*. Working with award-winning director Anna Farthing (BA 1987), they brought to life artefacts from the University's Theatre Collection from the interwar period. Anna fills us in on the experience.

'A revue reviews and comments upon a period of time. Ours was the decade 1918 to 1928, one characterised by escapist theatre provided by London showmen such as Cochrane, and by Pierrot troupes in the provinces. Over ten Fridays, I introduced the students to the research theories and interpretational

practices of Performing Heritage and we applied them to the Theatre Collection. In the private papers and personal ephemera of Arnold Ridley, Ernest Thesiger and Joyce Grenfell, among others, we caught glimpses of experiences, the senses of loss and the realities of disablement that were missing on the stage. Working within traditional processes of writing, composition, choreography and rehearsing, the students successfully produced 20 interlinked pieces.

I have been fortunate to enjoy a career in which I have put my degree, the inspiration and the opportunities it provided, to profitable use. I wish the same blessing upon this year's leavers.'

The right experience

Industrial placements give students vital hands-on work experience, as Luke Sheppard (BA 2008) and Helen Robinson (BA 2008) found out.

'Getting work in the theatre industry is a challenge, whether you are hoping to perform on the stage or to work behind it,' Luke explains. 'So when I was offered the chance to work alongside Jonathan Miller on his recent production of *Hamlet* at the Tobacco Factory, I leapt at it. I took the role of his assistant director and it was an awe-inspiring experience to see how the the master of the stage delved into the text and brought it to life. It was challenging but wonderful, and offered a unique insight into the professional world so early in my career.'

Helen's placement offered her the opportunity to 'run a project that epitomised' what she believes drama can offer young people. She worked with 14- to 16-year-olds from Kingfield School, planning and making films for the *Bristol Stories* archive at the Watershed Media Centre. 'These students became historians, writers, producers, directors, designers, camera operators and performers in making films about their families, their school and where they live.' The films were screened at the Watershed and can be viewed at www.bristolstories.com.