

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUNDRAISING L.A.D. GIRL BACK IN SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTRY!

STRATFORD, Warwickshire. - June 2008 - After her first year of training at the London Academy of Drama, local girl Bryony Weir has returned to Stratford to work with the Stratford Youth Theatre on their new Shakespeare project.

"It's good to be home for the holidays and to be working with the Youth Theatre again. My six years as a member were the reason I got into LAD, now I want to share my experiences with them. It's been an amazing first year: 'I'm stunned by how much I've learned and how much I still have to learn'.

The principal of LAD, Barry Nicholas said: "Bryony is an excellent student and is highly regarded by both students and staff. She is making excellent progress in all aspects of the course and has wonderful potential."

Faced with disaster twelve months ago when she couldn't afford the £40,000 it costs to train at drama school, Bryony rose to the challenge and has raised a staggering £23,000 to date from a combination of fundraising events, sponsorship and donations.

"Really it was through necessity – I knew I had to find the money or turn down my place. It's been hard, but my friends, family and local people have been incredible and I couldn't have done it without their support. I'm so glad I had to fundraise – it has taught me a great deal about dealing with the media and promoting myself – all skills I'll need as an actor."

LAD is one of the top drama schools in the country and over 1,500 people audition for one of thirty precious places. Past students include Fred Fiennes, Jerry Hopkins and Amelia Redgrave.

"We are being trained for theatre, radio, TV and film to the highest standards, so I think I'll be spoilt for choice when I leave. London is a very exciting place but I love Stratford and one of my ambitions is to work here after LAD."

But it's a race against the clock – Bryony must raise another £4,000 before September 21st if she is to continue into her second year:

"I know I'll do it. When I finish my training I know I will go on to do great things. That's why I'm seeking sponsorship from a local company who would benefit from being linked to LAD and the next generation of exciting young acting talent."

The Youth Theatre's Shakespeare project "Arrant Knaves and Bawdy Wenches" will be performed in Hamlet's Restaurant at the Stratford Theatre on the 13th September. Tickets are £5 and £3 and are available from the Box Office on Stratford 566055.

Interview Contact: Bryony Weir on Stratford 890211.

Bryony Weir
7 Lakeside Row
Stratford
CV32 5HH