

# See me now



## Lisa takes on role fit for a princess

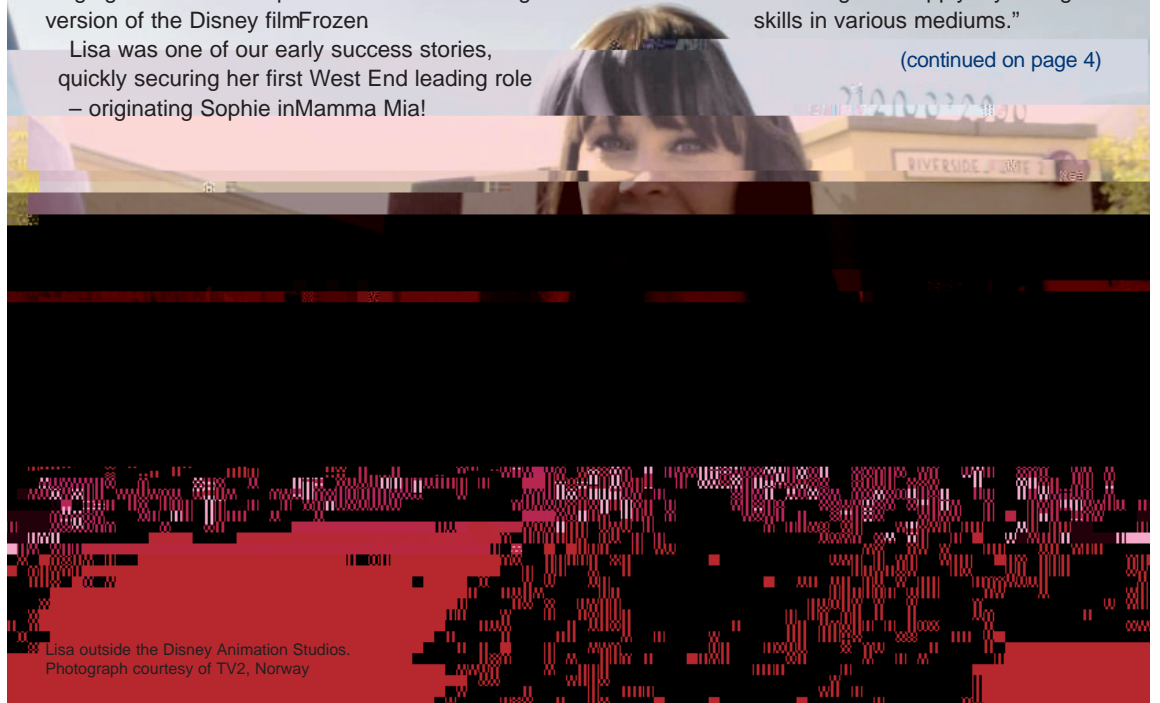
When Lisa Stokke (Acting, 1998) took on the role of Cinderella here for Into the Woods, little did she know that more than 15 years later she would be bringing Disney's newest princess to life.

Lisa, who is from Norway and part of our first graduate class, provides both the speaking and singing voice of snow queen Elsa in the Norwegian version of the Disney film Frozen.

Lisa was one of our early success stories, quickly securing her first West End leading role – originating Sophie in Mamma Mia!

"It was drummed into us from the very beginning at LIPA that acting is a business, and that you have to make yourself as employable as possible," says Lisa, 39. "Some people think that if you want to be an actor, you should specialise in one particular field, but I have always wanted to do a range of different things and apply my acting skills in various mediums."

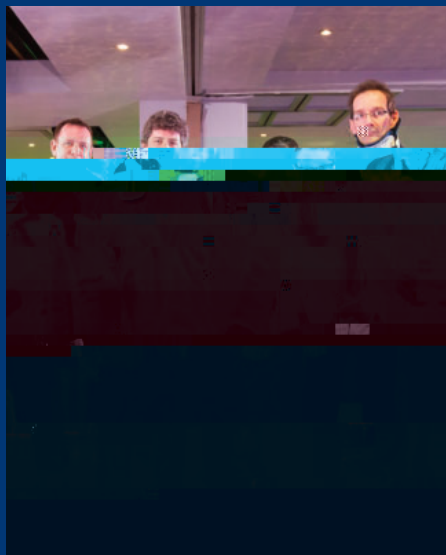
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Lisa outside the Disney Animation Studios.  
Photograph courtesy of TV2, Norway

Alex Le Roux was over the moon to be named as one of Music Week's 30 Under 30 in February, particularly as he only found out he was in the running when the publication came out. The list selects 30 young music professionals, who have already shown brilliance in their field and look set to achieve big things in the industry of the future. The 2010 Music graduate received the accolade after being nominated by industry heavyweights, including Sefton Woodhouse, ex Vice President of EMI, Lohan Presencer, CEO of the Ministry of Sound and Gary Landesberg, Chairman of The Arts Club.

And while Alex's talents



Leanne Best (Acting, 2002) is something of a time traveller. From the streets of Victorian England to 1960s London, she has worked across the decades on both stage and screen.

Her latest film sees her take on the role of a being that exists outside of time – The Woman in Black. Leanne is following in the footsteps of fellow LIPA Acting graduate Liz White in playing the ominous spectre in the sequel to the 2011 film. In the latest instalment, the ghost terrorises a group of World War II evacuees staying in the countryside.

Leanne, from Liverpool, filmed the Hammer production at Pinewood Studios. The role required her to spend hours in make-up and costume. She also had to get used to being suspended in a harness for scenes, where she is floating in the air.

The actress, who admits that she gets genuinely scared by horror films, assumed that knowing the script and seeing how the effects were done would mean that she wouldn't be scared when watching the film back – "How wrong was I! I jumped all the way through!" she laughs.

Leanne went straight from 1940s England to 1960s London (via LA) to star in Backbeat at the Ahmanson

# Proving all they are

A Norwegian, a Brazilian and an Irishman walk into LIPA. What do you get?

A band that NME has praised for “making waves with their melodic psych pop” and that the Guardian has labelled as one to watch.

All We Are, the self-proclaimed “Bee Gees on diazepam” have recently finished their first album, which includes the single *Feel Safe and Utmost Good*. They supported Warpaint on their UK and European tour, and are now striking out on their own, having played the Park Stage at this year’s

Emma West's training in western dance styles has seen her in high demand in Bollywood.

Emma (Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts - Dance, 2010; Dance, 2013) recently spent six months in India, dancing and choreographing

## Music on ice for Reece

Acting can be a real physical challenge – one that Peter Caulfield (*Acting*, 2002) relishes.

Thirty-two-year-old Peter transformed his physical appearance to play hard-of-hearing, arthritic octogenarian Alfie in *One Man, Two Guvnors*, both on tour and in the West End.

Peter explains: “It was a complete departure from myself - which is what many actors dream about. It’s the kind of work you do at drama school, but comes along very rarely in the commercial world.”

Peter says that he has LIPA to thank for his grounding in physical theatre, which was developed through his study of heightened comedy, Shakespeare, acting through song and extra dance and movement classes. While a student, he also took part in improvisation classes and a Commedia dell’arte workshop – providing him with the ideal preparation for *One Man, Two Guvnors*, which is itself adapted from the 1743 Italian Commedia dell’arte play

## Simply the best continued from page 1

Otto, from Tübingen in Germany, has worked with artists including Bob Dylan, Jennifer Lopez, David Guetta, Justin Timberlake and Adele.

He puts his success down to a great attention to detail and endless patience with artists. And it’s the relationships he builds with those artists that makes the job special for Otto.

He says: “The stand out moments for me are seeing a band, such as the Swedish metal band Sabaton, growing from an 800-people audience to their first arena show and then on to headline Woodstock Festival in Poland in front of 600,000. It is a great feeling to be able to tour with artists, such as Joe Bonamassa or Sabaton and have a family on tour and not just spend another day at the office.”

The 37-year-old has just returned from a two-month tour of the USA, Canada and Mexico. He is now heading off to spend the summer working on festivals across Europe from Spain to Russia and from Norway to Italy. After that, another world tour with Sabaton is on the cards.

At some point, Otto plans to slow down a little – he has an important date at home, with his first child on the way.

Richard III may have died at the battle of Bosworth Field, but director Richard Fitch\* is busy bringing him to Trafalgar.

Richard (Diploma in Performing Arts – Acting, 2007; Acting, 2010) is associate director of Shakespeare's Richard III, part of Jamie Lloyd's second Trafalgar Transformed

# Game on for Niall at Konami Digital

Ten years ago the gaming industry may not have seemed like a natural destination for Music, Theatre and Entertainment Management students but Niall McGuinness (2013) is leading the way.

Twenty-seven-year-old Niall, from Belfast, Ireland, is now National Account Manager (Northern European Division) at Konami Digital Entertainment. Konami is the fifth largest gaming company in the world by revenue and maker of classic titles including Metal Gear Solid Pro Evolution Soccer Silent Hill and Yu-Gi-Oh!

Niall assists in managing accounts in South Africa, Nigeria, Australia, New Zealand and the Nordics while taking responsibility for Konami's accounts in the UK. His role involves communicating with UK customers to generate orders, negotiate promotions and plan marketing. He is also involved in internal reporting and accounting. He liaises with Konami's brand, marketing, logistics, social, licensing, accounts, legal and events teams to offer a sales perspective and his own creative input.

Niall was part of the team that helped action-adventure/stealth game Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes reach number 2 on its debut week in the UK gaming charts.

Niall says: "Gaming is the fastest growing - and one of the largest grossing - entertainment industries. It is still in its infancy, so there are many creative and business opportunities on the horizon and arts management graduates can capitalise on this. There has also been a shift towards hiring more people from outside, to bring in people with different perspectives and experiences."

He continues: "Video games are blurring the lines in how they interact and penetrate other entertainment industries. It's been phenomenal to work with one of the most beloved and iconic brands in, not just video games, but entertainment in general."

Niall says that working for a Japanese brand has introduced him to a new business culture: "Here you have a very meticulous approach to planning, implementation and reporting. Coming up with ideas is great fun, but poor implementation and poor planning can wreck creativity."

Niall is preparing for the release of the next chapter of the Metal Gear Solid franchise in 2015, part of which includes preparing for expos in Los Angeles, Cologne, London and Tokyo. He is also set to work on the release of Pro Evolution Soccer 2015 which will be the franchise's debut using next-generation technology.

Niall's advice to other graduates is: "It is important not to pigeon-hole yourself to a job role or even a single industry. Explore and research areas and industries outside of your comfort zone. It is a childhood dream for me to be working in this industry, and I hope to bump into some other LIPA graduates soon."

# Lighting the world from Melton Mowbray



The Rolling Stones. Photograph by Ralph Larmann

From her home in a small, picturesque village near Melton Mowbray, Miriam Evans creates stunning lighting designs to be installed worldwide, for clients as diverse as the Rolling Stones, Vanity Fair and the Monty Python crew.

The 2006 Theatre and Performance Technology graduate is a member of the small team at Woodroffe Bassett Design, a leading lighting design studio working across music, dance, fashion, art and architecture.

So far this year, she has worked on the Asian leg of the Rolling Stones' tour, a tour of Tonight's the Night and events for Vanity Fair in the USA and Save the Children in the UK. The team are planning for Ant & Dec's Takeaway tour, Monty Python Live (mostly) shows at the O2 and a host of other projects.

Miriam explains: "My role as studio/design associate varies on each production, but primarily I undertake all of the pre-production for each job. This is no mean feat with the number of projects we turn around! I take the design brief from Patrick Woodroffe or Adam Bassett and work it into our trademark lighting packages. This follows onto a lighting plot and into installation.

"Woodroffe Bassett Design is a small studio that runs in a unique way for this industry. With only four full-time members of staff, we all play an integral role in each project we produce. We are always working on many projects simultaneously and it takes careful management of our time to ensure we can create work of the highest standard. Unusually for a design studio, we all work

The 27-year-old Londoner established his company, ALR Music, two years ago when he was asked to help with the music programme at The Arts Club in Mayfair. He takes up the story: "I formed a 10-piece soul and funk band, The Soul Jets (all ex LIPA musicians) which was a great success both at the club and at music events around the world. The club then asked me to put more bands together. We now have seven 10-piece bands of different musical genres. We also have a DJ agency, where we book on average, 25 DJs a month in different venues across London and the UK. On average we employ over 150-200 musicians every

month and 85% of these are ex-LIPA. I like to keep it in the family!"

ALR Music is continuing to grow. It has recently been appointed to head live music for the Ministry of Sound Group globally, a move which will see musicians on its books fly around the world with the MOS and Hed Kandi brands.

The company also has corporate clients, which book music for their events.

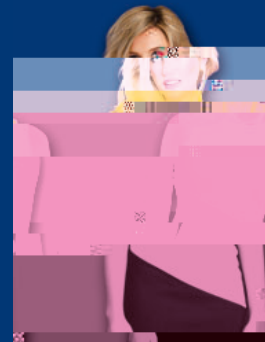
In order to manage his expanding empire, Alex knew exactly where to look for help – he has taken on fellow LIPA graduate Adam Beaney (Music, 2008) as his right-hand man. [www.alrmusic.co.uk](http://www.alrmusic.co.uk)





# Prime time for Fiona

Fiona Grace McDougal's (Music, 2010) love of sharing music with others has taken her into prime time television.



# Dan makes a splash in Hollywood

Hollywood is known as one of the toughest places to chase success but Dan Piscina (Diploma in Popular Music and Sound Technology, 2006) is really making a splash.

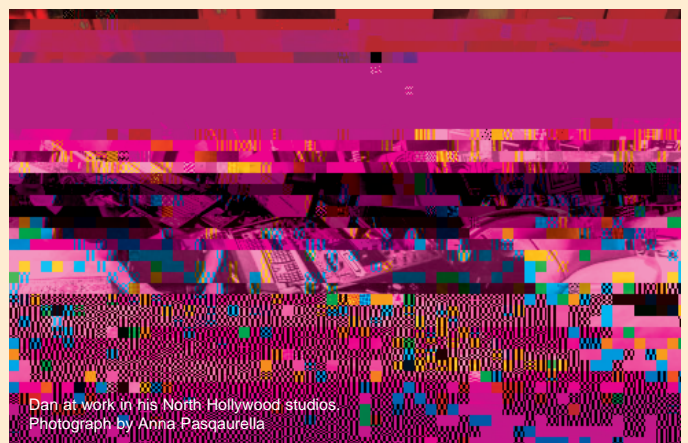
Dan is owner of The Pool in North Hollywood, a studio offering a full range of engineering, mixing and production with a strong emphasis on digital. The name comes from Dan's surname, which means 'pool' in Italian.

Dan, who is originally from Canada, says: "Being fully digital speeds up the workflow and allows me to spend more time mixing and less time recalling songs. It also sounds just as good as analogue. For me, it is very important to provide my clients with consistent results and this method really helps."

Being in Hollywood also means Dan gets the opportunity to link up directly with the movie industry – including mixing a track for the Oscar-winning American Hustle "I worked with producer John Alagia to mix a cover version of Jefferson Airplane's 'White Rabbit' he explains. "It was very challenging, because the director had used the original song throughout the filming of that particular scene and he wanted the music to sound as close to the original as possible. It was a real voyage to 1967!"

Dan has also mixed songs for the Dave Matthews Band (with John Alagia), recorded One Republic in Colorado, worked on the solo albums of Brian Ray (from Paul McCartney's band) and Andy Grammer and also recorded Melissa Etheridge's new album. He is currently in Toronto working with producer Jon Levine (Nelly Furtado, Serena Ryder) on Buffy Sainte-Marie's upcoming album.

The 27-year-old says of his time at LIPA: "The LIPA programme was of great help to me, because I learned a lot about the business side of



Dan at work in his North Hollywood studios.  
Photograph by Anna Pasgaurella

music-making. As a music guy, I tend to spend more time working on music and not enough time figuring out how to pay rent! It's important to try and get the money out of the way, so that you can focus on what you love. I would say do what is in your heart. If you want to be a music producer, then produce. Don't spend all your time working on movies, unless you actually want to go into post-production. Seek out opportunities as close to your ideal work as you can get and those will help you move more quickly toward a career you can be passionate about."

[www.danpiscina.com](http://www.danpiscina.com)

# Ben brought to book by Matilda

As assistant stage manager and book cover for

## A change of scene in the Lakes

Theatre by the Lake, in the heart of Cumbria, is known for its idyllic surroundings. Anna Pilcher Dunn has been working at the theatre since the beginning of October but she has had little time to admire the landscape. Instead, the 2013 Theatre and Performance Design graduate faces something of a scenic challenge.

Anna, making her professional debut as a stage designer, is busy creating sets and costumes for three different plays being performed over the summer season.

The first of the three, Jez Butterworth's *The Winterling* is set in a dilapidated farmhouse. Anna says: "The director and I wanted to recreate the feeling inspired by those photographs you see of old houses abandoned in time, with an almost painterly quality. The play is contemporary, but could be set in another age. We wanted to draw the audience into the mystery."

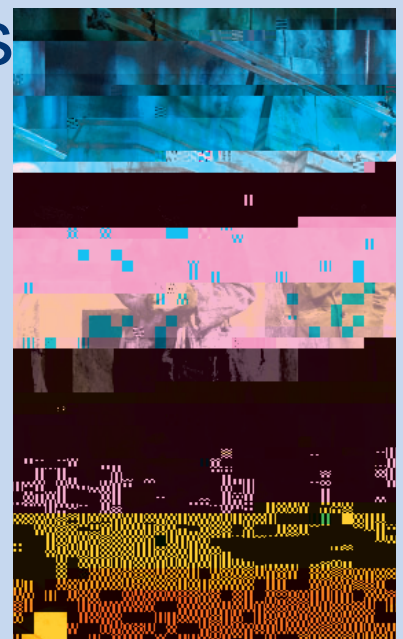
The second production is a piece of new writing commissioned by the theatre, *Seeing the Lights* a comedy about a family, set within the confines of a

traditional terraced house. Anna recreates the home of an elderly lady and her son Terry, with her bed brought downstairs amid the clutter accumulated over the years.

For the third piece *Old Times* an intriguing Harold Pinter play, Anna has created a surrealist set with 1970's inspired costumes.

She tells us: "I have designed for the same space, but worked with three different directors, all with their own vision. I had an overall budget for the season, which I have split fairly evenly between the three productions. As the three plays are in rep, one of the challenges of the design process has been how to store the sets off stage, as from the beginning of August the productions rotate on a daily basis. This has been a great introduction to professional theatre and I have learnt so much from resident designer, Martin Johns, and the team here."

In August, Anna, from Wirral, will bring her contract to a close by giving a talk to the Friends of The Theatre about her work, as part of an initiative where they get to meet the designer and see all three productions.



Dancing and flying have become one for Kathryn Cooley, as the 2009 Dance graduate has spent most of the last five years performing with Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre.

Kathryn joined the renowned Irish company soon after graduating, as an apprentice dancer. She is now a core member of the team and is learning rigging to enhance her practice.

In past productions, Kathryn has acted as a counterweight to a partner while dancing à deux on a ladder and tipped upside down on a suspended boat 10 metres up in the night sky. While performing with London-based aerial company Scarabeus she was one of four dancers performing vertically on the side of a skyscraper. While a captivated audience watched from below, the dancers slowly descended to join the crowd.

The project she is currently working on is White Gold, part of the Culture 2014 Commonwealth Games celebrations. Performed in the Sugar Sheds at Greenock in Scotland, the production presents the untold stories of the people of Inverclyde through dance, music and abG8G8Gia,sames celebrn a

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# Graduation 2014