

# NEWS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over eighteen months ago I was approached by two current students asking if they could help create an event to mark the closure of the campus and to promote the new vision of the School of Performance and Cultural Industries. Little did I realise at that stage how much work was going to be required by all involved and they did not realise that I would ask them to become the student co-ordinators.

I, therefore, would like to start off by thanking Anna and Tim for their tremendous efforts to date and for the work that they still have to do over the coming six months. I would also like to thank a huge number of students, too many to name, for their support and involvement in this outstanding project. On behalf of the School of Performance and Cultural Industries a special thank you to Jodie Marshall, Peter Gough and Graeme Thompson for their work on *32 Mystery Plays To Do Before You Die*, which will be premiered during the weekend and performed by students from the School. Exhibitions and entertainment have been provided from the Schools of Education, Design, Fine Art, Music and Performance and Cultural Industries. The Co-ordination of evening entertainment, photography and DVD production is being provided by former graduates Katherine Stephenson, Rebecca Erret, Adam Sheard, John Tudor and Rob Pashley.

I am delighted that Lady Clegg, her family, Professor Michael Arthur, Vice-Chancellor and former Principals, Dr Alyn Davies and Dr John Taylor, will be attending. I would like to thank the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Peter Jones (China) Ltd who have been integral to the project and hope many of you purchase a piece from the Bretton Hall Collection.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed and supported the event and in particular staff and students of the School of Performance and Cultural Industries, staff from all the Support Services across the Campus and Leeds University Union. I hope this will be a very special and memorable weekend.

**Anthony Lowe**  
Campus Manager

## GET INVOLVED

All parties involved in the planning process would like contributions from former staff and students.

There will be an opportunity for you to perform over the weekend with friends. If any of you would like to produce your own excerpt of a Mystery Play, or showcase a short piece whether musical, artistic or performance, contact Melanie Armitage at [brettonconf@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:brettonconf@leeds.ac.uk)

To forward photos, tapes etc for the exhibition contact Tim Griffiths at [pcu4tag.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pcu4tag.leeds.ac.uk)

To showcase evening entertainment or cinefilm for the evening events contact Hands on Theatre Company at [alumnicelebration@handsontheatre.com](mailto:alumnicelebration@handsontheatre.com)

Play football with the Bretton Tigers contact Glynn Robinson at [glynnrobinson1969@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:glynnrobinson1969@yahoo.co.uk)

To contribute to the staff/student event contact Adam Sheard at [adamsheard81@hotmail.com](mailto:adamsheard81@hotmail.com)

For further information regarding Leeds University Alumni go to <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/alumni>

Alternatively for any other enquiry regarding the weekend please get in touch with Melanie Armitage, contact details below.

## PURCHASE DETAILS

Buffet Lunch	£ 15.00
Gala Dinner	£ 50.00
Gala Dinner - table of 10	£450.00
Sunday Performance	£ 4.50
1947 - 2007 clothing	from £ 18.50

Commemorative Bowl*	£150.00
Commemorative Plate*	£ 40.00
Commemorative Mug*	£ 25.00
Student Mug Small*	£ 7.95
Student Mug Large*	£ 9.95

\*purchased from peter jones (china) ltd

## CONTACT DETAILS

For further information: Melanie Armitage

Tel: 0113 343 9143 email: [brettonconf@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:brettonconf@leeds.ac.uk)

Bretton Hall Campus, West Bretton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 4LG



BRETTON HALL

1947 - 2007

# Newsletter

## NOVEMBER 2006



## THE BRETTON HALL COLLECTION

Next year's event was launched during the first week of this academic year with Peter Jones (China) Ltd of Wakefield presenting to the University the first edition item of the Bretton Collection that will be housed in the new building on the Leeds Campus. This very special collection has been commissioned by the University of Leeds and the proceeds of the collection will contribute towards the fabulous weekend planned in May.

Pictured from left to right are Anna Lavery, 3rd year BA (Hons) Arts Management; Peter Jones, Peter Jones (China) Ltd; Professor Michael Arthur, Vice-Chancellor; Susan Daniels, Head of School and Emily O'Grady, Bretton Hall Officer, Leeds University Union



## BOOKINGS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS...

Interest in the forthcoming weekend has exceeded expectations and bookings are being received on a daily basis. The events promise to have something of interest to all Alumni, Staff and Students. It is anticipated that some of the events will be fully booked early in the New Year and we recommend that you contact your friends and complete a reservation form as soon as possible.

### FRIDAY 4 MAY

The Individualism Exhibition opens with various forms of art incorporating the history of Bretton Hall and work from former and current students and staff. *32 Mystery Plays To Do Before You Die* will be performed to invited guests by students of the School of Performance and Cultural Industries.

### SATURDAY 5 MAY

The Sir Alec Clegg Memorial Lecture will be given by Alyn Davies, Principal of Bretton Hall College 1968 - 1981, a fitting tribute to the architect of education at Bretton Hall. Lady Clegg and John Taylor, Principal 1981 - 1993, will also be in attendance. This will be followed by lunch and a chance to view the exhibition, wander through the grounds and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The day will conclude with a Gala Dinner for the 1949 - 1987 cohorts of students and staff.

### SUNDAY 6 MAY

A family day to enjoy 'everything about Bretton'. Starting at 10.00am to 4.00pm, an opportunity to play football or even watch the local cricket match. During the day there will be mini productions, an opportunity to view the exhibition and much ad-hoc entertainment from current and former students. Lunch will be served from midday and at 2.00pm there will be a production of *32 Mystery Plays To Do Before You Die*. The evening will conclude with a Gala Dinner and entertainment for the 1987 - 2007 cohorts of students and staff.

### MONDAY 7 MAY

In conjunction with Leeds University Union a spectacular evening is planned for current staff and students to mark the conclusion of this special weekend.

**This weekend has only been made possible with the tremendous support of staff and current students who are playing a major part in co-ordinating and producing all the events. Thank you.**

**Bretton Hall**  
1947 - 2007

Visit The Special Event Web site: [www.bretton-hall.co.uk](http://www.bretton-hall.co.uk)  
for up to date news and information

# WEEKEND PROGRAMME

## GALA DINNERS

The entertainment is expected to be a stunning part of the event which draws together people from across Bretton's past and present culminating in evenings of sophistication, variety, humour, but most of all celebration. The entertainment will be provided by some faces that you will recognise and some you will not, but all of which you will enjoy.

A montage of music, memories, drama, stand-up, dance and magic. Extracts from the hit production 'Bouncers' written by the critically acclaimed Bretton graduate, John Godber, will be performed on both nights of this prestigious event. The evening will be punctuated with fast moving, exhilarating explosions of stage combat and physical theatre. Table magic to astonish the most sceptical will be ongoing throughout the evening. It is hoped that an excerpt from an experimental production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed. We have the pleasure in revealing that the evening will see many musical presentations from jazz, musicals, samba drumming, along with a menu to reflect this special occasion. Rumour has it that the Bretton Big Band will reunite to entertain you.

Managing the entertainment for the evenings is Hands On Theatre Company, a company formed by graduates, Katherine Stephenson and Rebecca Erret. The evenings will begin at 6.30pm with a champagne reception in the Mansion, an opportunity for photographs with dinner and entertainment in the marquee. Carriages at 1.00am.

## GALA DINNER MENU

Duo of Melon and Watercress Salad served with Citrus and Mustard Grain Dressing.

Bakers Basket of Mixed Bread Rolls

Honey and Mustard Glazed Roast Rib of Pork served with Caramelised Apple and Cider Cream Sauce

Vegetarian Option: Balsamic Risotto with Wild Mushrooms, Sun Blush Tomato Chutney served in a Parmesan Basket.

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes

Chocolate Truffle Torte served with Caramelised Orange Compote and Dairy Cream

Cheese Platter

Ground Coffee with Mints

## EXHIBITION

**Friday 4 - Wednesday 9 May 2007**

The concept behind the exhibition is to display a variety of media that are fresh and interesting and convey the theme of individualism. There will also be a chance for collaborations with actors, musicians and dancers. The exhibition will be running alongside the celebrations of the Alumni event and will promote both past and current students and staff work, together with images of years gone by.

## MARQUEE DESIGN

John Pike, Year 3 BA (Hons) Performance Design, has designed the staging for the event to be an interactive and impressive centrepiece of the marquee allowing Nicci Cassidy, Year 2 BA (Hons) Performance Design, to provide a lighting design to complement the whole scenery. This remarkable structure in the middle of the grounds of the campus will be the main venue for the weekend activities and will include a bar area with sofas for you to reunite with your friends before and after your meal, as well as the black and white chequered dance floor, which will be a striking feature for everyone to end their evening on!

## THE 47 - 07 FRINGE

For the 1947- 2007 celebration alumni and ex-staff are being welcomed back to show their work in a fringe festival overseen by Arthur Pritchard.

To go along with *32 Mystery Plays to do Before You Die*, we are looking for people who wish to re-tell one of the original Mystery plays in a three-day cycle of events. Perhaps you trained as a teacher here and would like to showcase your students work or an ex-member of staff who remembers putting on these plays in the past. However, it's not simply the mystery plays we are looking for. The 47-07 Fringe is a celebration of all the talents and skills, from performance to fashion, music to sculpture - your contribution is essential, please contact [pcuagp@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:pcuagp@leeds.ac.uk).

## TIGERS VS STUDENTS

**SUNDAY 6 MAY** - It has been a long time since the Tigers have played or even set foot on the turf of Bretton Hall, but they have thrown down the gauntlet for one more game against the current students. The Tigers, who were the original Bretton Football Team of many years ago, want one last game. The game will take place on the biggest stage of all, Bretton's own football pitch and will divide the men from the boys. Are you man enough for the game of the century?

# MYSTERY PLAYS

## 32 MYSTERY PLAYS TO DO BEFORE YOU DIE

The Wakefield Mystery Cycle, a group of 32 medieval plays that chart the creation to the judgment of mankind, form not only a significant part of Yorkshire's regional heritage, but also the theatrical heritage of Bretton Hall as an arts institution.

First performed in 1958 under the direction of Martial Rose, the Wakefield Mystery Cycle is about to receive a new adaptation for the 1947 - 2007 celebrations.

Two alumni, Peter Gough and Graeme Thompson, have teamed up with Leeds based playwright, Jodie Marshall, to create *32 Mystery Plays To Do Before You Die*.

In this new adaptation Will, a young artist, is commissioned to paint a mural, paying homage to the original plays, on the side of a community centre. Although Wakefield is his home, and where the girl he loves still lives, Will is wary of being back because he is estranged from his father due to a past gambling habit.

As the Mystery Play celebration approaches and the community centre groups practice their presentations reconciliation seems a real possibility. An old rival of his father's uses the day to tighten his grip on the community and call in Will's debt two months early.

Featuring a multi-skilled large cast and blending comedy, tragedy, music, movement and theological reflection *32 Mystery Plays To Do Before You Die* tips its hat in equal measure to traditional medieval pageant plays and contemporary theatre.

## PLAYWRIGHT'S BIOGRAPHY

Jodie Marshall is the writer of 'Non Contact Time' (West Yorkshire Playhouse 2005). Her new play, 'Tender', will be performed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in May 2007. Her radio play 'A Redwood for Edward' was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 alongside work by Simon Armitage and Alan Plater.

Jodie has collaborated with various theatre companies including SlungLow, The Blahs, HiVeld and Alive and Kicking and she has extensive experience in teaching writing in schools. Currently, she is adapting a European Classic for the stage for Bradford Theatre in the Mill and working on a new play, 'Still.'

# THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for assisting with our practical project which has been for the last two years co-ordinating the 'Bretton Hall 1947-2007' celebrations. We have been working closely with the events team on the project since May 2005. Our aim is to ensure that all parties associated with Bretton Hall have the opportunity to enjoy the unique environment which is currently home to us, but home to many in years gone by.



This has been a bigger project than we imagined; every week has produced its challenges as well as interesting moments. We know we are very lucky to be given this opportunity. The weekend will be a celebration of work and an opportunity to attend two Gala marquee events with dinner and large scale entertainment. We have been overwhelmed with the number of people who have been in contact since our last newsletter.

An art exhibition is planned that involves sculpture, modern art, music, fashion and artistic collaborations with performers. Past and present students and staff have produced work which will be shown amongst other historic and present art pieces.

We have both been working closely with University staff to ensure this event will be a success. We have met a range of people, the University Vice-Chancellor, staff from the Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, current students and graduates.

Despite starting this project in our 2nd year, our enthusiasm for the weekend is still going strong and if you have not purchased your tickets yet, please fill in the form enclosed or go to the event web site [www.bretton-hall.co.uk](http://www.bretton-hall.co.uk). We're looking forward to meeting you during the weekend.

**Tim Griffiths and Anna Lavery**  
Year 3 BA (Hons Arts Management)