Greetings from the London Centre! Spring semester 2012 began with orientation earlier in January. Apart from the matters of routine and practical issues, those three days were broken up by walks led by Michael Winter. The first walk was around the historic area of Clerkenwell where LDA students stay, and the second around Kensington Square itself where they study. We also organised visits to the extraordinary house of the Victorian painter Frederic Leighton, where he lived in palatial splendour, and a full day visit to Hampton Court Palace, one of the homes of the English Sovereign from the time of Henry VIII until the middle of the 18th century. We were blessed by a beautiful day for this visit. Although it was mid-January it seemed like the middle of spring! These cultural excursions are central to LDA’s programme as it is not enough for students merely to be interested in theatre.

LDA’s first actual theatre visit was to the National Theatre’s adaptation of Goldoni’s Venetian comedy ‘The Servant of Two Masters’. This is now ‘One Man – Two Guv’nors’ and set in Brighton, London’s favourite seaside resort in the 1960’s. This will shortly be transferring to Broadway. It was an evening of inspired comedy, though whether New York will enjoy the British passion for smut may be questioned! It was a fun start to our theatre going.

The semester began officially on Monday January 16th, and since then students have completed two projects. One on Shakespeare’s Sonnets, and the Novel Project which was developed from a strange, macabre and yet comic novel ‘Uncle Silas’ by the mid 19th century Irish writer Sheridan Le Fanu.

LDA’s faculty of over twenty instructors continues to remain the same. Their contribution to the success of the programme is incalculable, and they provide a wonderful support for Richard Digby Day, LDA’s Director. LDA continues to commit itself to this wide ranging programme in classical theatre without ever being locked into individual theories. As we all know acting cannot be taught, what we can do is improve and develop the craft that occasionally rises to real art!

There are twelve weeks of classes prior to a final special project directed by Richard Digby Day with Rosalind Knight and Penelope Beaumont that at the moment is simply called ‘Welsh’. Await further information!

Wishing you a great semester!

London Dramatic Academy, Fordham University
MEET with Richard Digby Day in the US

Richard Digby Day will be giving masterclasses in the following universities and will be able to audit LDA applicants in person:

February 2 - Simon’s Rock College of the Bard
February 8 - Pomona College
February 10 - Occidental College

To arrange an audition with Richard Digby Day on the above dates, please contact us at lda@fordham.edu
If you have students interested in an intensive, practical, conservatory-type theatre training program, please encourage them to apply! Applications can be emailed to LDA@fordham.edu.

Students can audition either in person or by submitting a recording. Students who cannot audition in person should send a recording together with their application.

To arrange an audition or meeting with Richard Digby Day, please contact us at LDA@fordham.edu.