Winter Graduation | Liverpool Hope Playwriting Prize | ARION2 bike rider testing

Hope Life

Winter 2016 | Edition 5

Liverpool Hope University EST. 1844

New Health Sciences Building opens

Plus New Sports Complex update









If you have a story to share, get in touch at hopelife@hope.ac.uk

Hope **Life** Winter 2016 | Edition 5



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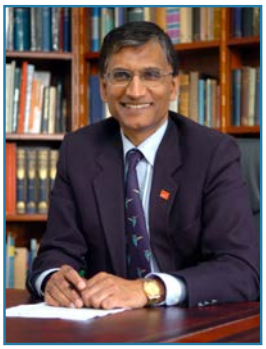
Welcome from Professor Pillay



In the first few months of 2016, the University has been a hive of activity. We have so much to celebrate at Liverpool Hope. We join together as a university community to celebrate each other's successes and share our good news.

Graduation is always a highlight of our academic calendar and this year's Winter Graduation was no exception. We had a very special day this January in the Metropolitan Cathedral celebrating with our recent graduates and their family and friends.

Foundation Day is another key date in the University calendar year. At Hope we are very proud of our long history, and our mission and values spring from this proud heritage going back to our first founding college in 1844. That is why it is so important that we mark the day of our Foundation each year with a ceremony in our Chapel. At this year's celebration, we were delighted to admit Margaret Aspinall and Trevor Hicks of the Hillsborough Family Support Group as Senior Fellows of our University.

We were delighted to receive an affirming and positive report from the Quality Assurance Agency, which highlights many areas of good practice at Hope. You can read all about this on page 13.

We are dedicated to working continually to enhance the University's facilities. The Health Sciences Building was officially opened on Foundation Day. This is another example of the investment we are making in our students and their educational experience. This new development provides up-to-date laboratories for our talented staff and students in the Faculty of Science. It will greatly enhance teaching and research in the important Health Science disciplines. The new building is the perfect home for our very talented academics and students, who I hope will flourish in their state-of-the-art surroundings. With the next phase of the sport and exercise building already under way, we look forward to October and the next exciting extension of the science facilities at Hope.

News around campus

A round-up of news and events from Liverpool Hope.

History and Politics Professor dedicates new book to Liverpool Hope students



Former Professor of Politics Bill Jones has dedicated his new book to the undergraduates he taught during his time at Liverpool Hope University.

British Politics: The Basics (Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group) analyses the transformation of British politics over the last two decades. The book considers each of the major components of British politics, such as the Monarchy and the House of Lords, the Commons, voting behaviour, parties and pressure groups, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, devolution, local government, and foreign policy.

Professor Jones said: "I wanted to dedicate the book to my former Liverpool Hope University Students as the book represents, in essence, the course I developed when teaching successive years of attentive, intelligent young people."

Students discuss refugee crisis with Hungarian Ambassador



Hungarian Ambassador Péter Szabadhegy discussed Hungary's response to the current refugee crisis with students during a public lecture at Hope Park.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities invited the Ambassador to give a lecture on *Hungary's Place in the Heart of Europe and the World from an Economic and Geopolitical Perspective*. Along with an overview of Hungary's post 1990 Euro-Atlantic integration, the Ambassador reflected on Hungary's role as part of NATO and the EU, its economy, and its energy and immigration policies.

The talk was followed by an insightful Q&A, where students asked thought-provoking questions about Hungary's response to the refugee crisis.

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Cover image: Health Sciences Building



News in Brief

Global Hope World Cup

Everton legend Ian Snoddin visited Liverpool Hope to present the trophy to the winners of the first Global Hope World Cup.

Everton in the Community also came along to help run the student and staff football tournament, which raised funds for Global Hope, Liverpool Hope University's international education charity. The event raised £600.

Each year, staff and students spend up to three weeks in countries such as Malawi, India, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Brazil, where they help with community projects and work in schools.

The tournament saw teams made up of University staff, students and members of the public, each of which represented a Global Hope country. It was organised by Dr Bryce Evans, Senior Lecturer in History and Michael McGlynn, Assistant Chaplain and Student Events Coordinator.

The tournament was won by the team representing India, and led by David Phillips from the Varsity Store.

Bryce Evans said: "I had the idea that a Global Hope World Cup would bring people together in the right spirit: competitive, but with the aim of raising money and awareness about the university's overseas projects. I'm so pleased that this was the case. I'm now hoping that the Global Hope World Cup will become an annual fundraiser."

Design student's creation displayed in Metropolitan Cathedral





A banner crafted by one of Hope's Design students is on display in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Karen Scott, a third year student specialising in textiles, produced the art work during a work placement at the Metropolitan Cathedral Art Studio.

She said: "The Art Studio is a working textile studio, set up to create vestments, banners and textiles for churches of all denominations.

"It was a wonderful place to work, alongside such experienced ladies. The guidance and support helped me with my studio practice."

During her placement, Karen was tasked with creating a banner using the logo unveiled by the Vatican in celebration of the Pope's Holy Year of Mercy.

Working under the guidance of the studio's Artistic Director David Peglar, Karen used silk and thread to recreate the image for a banner that will hang in the cathedral until November 2016.

Karen said: "I feel very proud and delighted to have completed a piece of work, which will be hung for almost a year in the cathedral in my home town, particularly as it will be there for my summer graduation."

Students impress at business challenge

Business Management students gained valuable experience by taking part in the UK's largest student business challenge.

Six Liverpool Hope students were pitted against 11 other universities at Lancaster University Management School's FLUX 500 competition.

Each team was tasked with solving a business scenario and presenting their proposal to a panel of judges, which included sponsors from BAE Systems, IBM, Deloitte, Milkround and local SMEs.

Third-year student Matt Grogan described the experience as an "invaluable" learning tool.

He said: "While we were disappointed not to win the competition, we enjoyed taking part and learned so much. It gave us a taste of what it can be like to work as a team in a real business and what can be expected of us in the future. The experience will prove invaluable, both in finding a graduate level role, but also in the workplace itself."

Enterprise Champion and Marketing Lecturer Ian McKenna added: "Our students worked really well together and more than held their own against teams from 11 UK universities.

"Mentors and judges expressed their appreciation for the way Hope's team performed, and the professional manner in which all of the conversations and interactions were conducted."







Hillsborough campaigners honoured at Foundation Day Service 2016

This year's Foundation Day ceremony welcomed Hillsborough campaigners Margaret Aspinall CBE and Trevor Hicks CBE, who were made Senior Fellows of the University.

Held in Hope Chapel, the service honoured the University's commitment to social justice and mission to educate the mind, body and spirit in the quest for truth, beauty and goodness.

Upon receiving the fellowship, Mrs Aspinall said: "I feel humbled to receive the award, but it is not just about me, or even the group, but the people of the city who have supported us throughout the years. Where we are today is a complete U-turn on 20 years ago and the families have a lot to be proud of. It has been a long, long road. It feels as though we're still climbing a mountain and have not yet quite reached the peak."

> *"This award is not just about me [...] but the people of the city who have supported us."*

Trevor Hicks added: "I am delighted to accept this honour, shared with Margaret Aspinall, in recognition of our part in the long fight for justice that all the Hillsborough families have endured for nearly 27 years. I was very surprised to get the letter back in July and I thank the University very much indeed for this great honour. I came through a Technical Apprenticeship and secondary education via the day release and night school route, and never thought that one day I would feature in a Senior Fellowship event at a great university. I dedicate my share of the award to my daughters and the other 94 victims of Hillsborough, and suspect that Sarah and Victoria would be very proud even though Sarah attended the other Liverpool University!"

> *"This honour [...] is in recognition of our part in the long fight for justice."*

Graphic Designers Ray Burns and Steve Pugh were awarded the Tony Grayson Scholarship in recognition of the significant contribution they have made to the life of the University.

The award recognises long-standing commitment and hard work, which marks the recipients as role models for others.

Gateway Administrative Assistant Liz Mitchum was also honoured at the ceremony, receiving the inaugural Sr Eileen Kelleher Award for her support of students.

Visiting Fellowship in Canada for Dr Sonja Tiernan



Senior Lecturer Dr Sonja Tiernan, from the University's History and Politics Department, spent the final few months of 2015 teaching at Canada's Concordia University. Now back teaching at Hope, we caught up with Sonja to find out about her experience as a Visiting Professor in Irish Studies.

Sonja said "I was delighted with the opportunity of experiencing a new lifestyle and a different way of teaching. I taught a course on twentieth-century Irish social history and another one examining the centenary commemoration of the founding of the Irish Free State in1922.

"The bilingual city of Montreal is steeped in history and culture and it was a fascinating place to live.

"This was my first time in Canada and I took the opportunity of travelling as much as possible at the weekends. It was wonderful to have so many new experiences; to go behind the Niagara Falls, to eat in a revolving restaurant at the top of the world's tallest building in Toronto, and to travel in an Amtrak train with glass-topped viewing deck to New York.

"It was inspirational on so many levels. I worked with vibrant and engaging academics and taught students who challenged me, while experiencing a new culture. I look forward to returning to Canada at some stage."

Star students win placements at Insight to Business Awards



Unique work experience opportunities were presented to six Hope students at the Insight to Business Awards.

Organised by the Business School and sponsored by local companies, the event sees students awarded work experience and shadowing opportunities following a series of interviews and presentations.

This year's winners were Abigail Lazenby, Sara Kamani, Jessica McCoombe, Owen Anderson, Ian Gough and John Haigh, who were given opportunities with Everton Football Club, Aimes, DSG, Little League Sports (LLS), Liverpool BID Company and Peel Ports.

Students Matthew Grogan, Edyta Ozarek and Polly Brian were also presented with tickets to the Accelerate Conference in July.

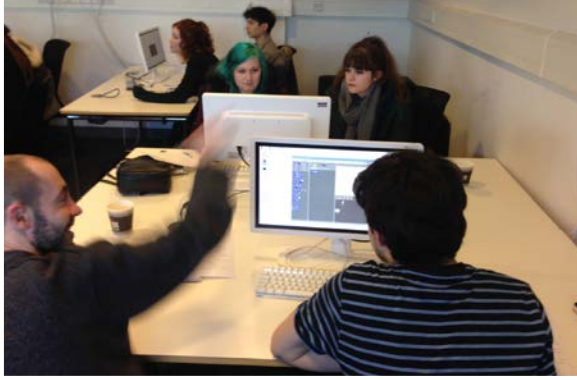
Business Management student Abigail Lazenby received a four-week work experience opportunity with Everton Football Club, presented by Dr Denise Barrett-Baxendale, CEO of Everton in the Community.

She said: "I felt shocked, excited and proud to win, particularly after the amount of work I put in to get the placement. I'm most excited about the opportunity to work on a number of different projects and in different areas of the business, helping to make a difference to the Everton FC community.

"This opportunity is important for students, as it allows us the chance to experience different types of interviews, which will help us in the future. The evening awards give students a chance to network and raise experience in networking, which is important for people in the business world."

Owen Anderson, a Business Management and Marketing student who was awarded a work experience opportunity with LLS, said: "I'm looking forward to working directly with people like Joe, Marc and Jordan, learning from them, and hopefully being able to positively contribute to their company during my time there. The trip to Helsinki is also a unique opportunity."







From paintbrushes to Raspberry Pi

Fine Art students are learning how to use code as part of a three-year agreement between Liverpool Hope and FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology).

While also embarking on a traditional Fine Art curriculum, first year students have been visiting FACT for training on Open Source tools, such as Raspberry Pi.

The first sessions took place in January and Fine Art student Jessica Rowlands spoke to Radio Merseyside about the new addition to the curriculum. She said: "Technology opens us up to new possibilities and to new ideas. I don't think [code] should be limited just to art students, but to all students, as it is so integrated into our lives nowadays."

The partnership also includes a series of master classes by leading international artists and the return of the FACT and Liverpool Hope production residency, which awards one final year student a three month stint with FACT after graduation, and the chance to produce work for an exhibition.

Lin Holland, Fine Art Course Leader, said: "Digital literacy forms a significant part of contemporary life, whether sending a tweet, creating a 3D-printed object or communicating on a global platform. We aim to provide Liverpool Hope students with relevant digital skills as a means of creative exploration and a way to critically engage more widely with culture, posing questions in the same way they would using any other medium."

Ana Botella, Programme Producer at FACT, added: "Moving between digital platforms is the same as choosing between a pencil or a paintbrush, and good digital skills can see artists gaining commissions or working with people on the other side of the world without having to leave their studio. Yet it is important to remember that an artwork is strong when the idea and the medium seamlessly come together. Our collaboration with Liverpool Hope really tries to give equal importance to the whole creative process, the conceptual and the technical. It's about what you have to say, as well as how you say it."

Boost for Ant's art career



Ant Hamlyn was awarded the first Liverpool Hope and FACT joint production residency in 2015. The artwork which resulted from it, The Boost Project, was exhibited as part of FACT's major international exhibition Follow, which also included work from art collective Luke Turner, Nastja Säde Rönkkö, and Shia LaBeouf.

The Boost Project is a floating sculpture that inflates in real time in response to social media interactions with the piece, and Ant worked with specialists at FACTLab to develop it.

Ant said: "It's been extremely exciting, yet very challenging developing a work of such scale. To get that intense three months of learning was incredibly rewarding. With so many complicated elements, I've had to learn on the job and concisely plan everything from the prototype stages to the installation. Having the support from the fantastic team at FACT and Liverpool Hope, allowed me to be very ambitious with the build!"



£10,000 Liverpool Hope Playwriting Prize returns

Theatre experts lead the search for next great comedy playwright.

Aspiring and established playwrights can now enter their comedy scripts for the second Liverpool Hope Playwriting Prize.

One comedy writer could walk away with £10,000 and the opportunity to have their play considered for production by Liverpool's Royal Court theatre, while up to two Highly Commended awards of £1,500 are also on offer.

Writers have until May 31st 2016 to submit their comedy stage play. The Liverpool Hope Playwriting Prize is open to anyone over the age of 18, and has this year been extended to include entries from the Republic of Ireland as well as all UK territories. All entries are read anonymously.

Last year's winner, comedian Katie Mulgrew, is currently working with Liverpool's Royal Court and Unity Theatre to develop her play *Omnibus*. The production is in the workshop phase with director Bob Farquhar and the Liverpool Royal Court team, and is due to be staged at Unity Theatre before a possible transfer to the Liverpool Royal Court in 2017.

Joining this year's final judging panel are comedian and *Coronation Street* actor Les Dennis, *Be My Baby* and *Ladies Day* playwright Amanda Whittington, *The Stage* editor Alistair Smith and Katie Mulgrew.

Returning to the panel are screenwriter and novelist Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Royal Court Chief Executive Kevin Fearon, the *Liverpool Echo's* Arts Editor Catherine Jones, playwright and critic Paul Allen and Liverpool Hope University theatre expert Dr John Bennett.

The *Liverpool Echo* and *The Stage* have been confirmed as media partners for 2016-2017.

A team of professional readers will have the task of whittling down all entries to a final shortlist. The judging panel will read all shortlisted scripts and reveal their winner in spring 2017.

Professor Gerald Pillay, Vice Chancellor and Rector of Liverpool Hope University, said: "The success of the first competition showed there is a real wish among playwrights and audiences to see more comedies on stage. We are very pleased to be working closely again with Liverpool's Royal Court and the *Liverpool Echo*, and to welcome *The Stage* as our new national media partner. Both established and new writers are encouraged to participate. The University is keen to encourage new playwriting."

Royal Court Chief Executive Kevin Fearon said: "Last time around we had a very difficult time choosing a winner from the scripts that came in. The standard was very high and we are enjoying working on the winning play with a view to producing it later this year. The Royal Court's success has been based on producing comedy theatre for our audience so we are delighted to be joining up with Liverpool Hope again to find another great comedy play."

Writers can visit the new website www.playwritingprize.com throughout the competition for the latest news, blogs and tips, and for full terms and conditions.

@hopepwprize playwritingprize

Sending Hope through Europe



Social Work students and staff took part in a convoy to Calais and led efforts to fill a container with nearly eight tonnes of aid for refugees in Samos.

After four weeks of fundraising and collecting, Carol Derbyshire was given the job of representing the students by closing the doors on the 40-foot container headed for Samos. The container was received by former University of Liverpool Social Work Professor Chris Jones, who has established a refugee support network on the island.

The Liverpool Hope team was joined in their efforts by fellow Social Work students from the Universities of Chester and Liverpool John Moores, and members of SWAN (Social Work Action Network). Some supplies even came from as far away as Glasgow.

Professor Jones said: "Thank you does not say enough about how we feel. To break the seal and open the doors to see all these faces of little teddy bears poking from behind the boxes and bags gave us a laugh. Just two days before it arrived, one of our group was saying that small teddy bears were the most treasured toys for the young children when they land on the beaches. They seem to give a lot of comfort, so we were delighted to find so many in the container.

"The container represents a huge effort and we really hope you can communicate to as many of those involved as possible our deepest gratitude. It really is going to make a difference to many refugees coming to Samos."

At the same time that the container left for Samos, more than 20 students and staff joined a larger Social Work Convoy and took part in a solidarity demonstration in Calais alongside refugees, aid agencies and social workers from around the country.

Professor Michael Lavalette told *Granada Reports*: "Our intention is to bring hope, materials and to show solidarity with those in Calais." He also revealed that funds raised - around £2,500 - would help to buy a minibus for use in the 'jungle' to help refugees access healthcare more quickly.

The efforts of our Social Work students do not end with the convoy or the container – this Easter they will spend a week in Samos working closely with refugees.

You can find a video made by social work students on the Liverpool Hope You Tube Channel.

Students share their experience

Zarah Zaman
BA Criminology

"I cannot describe what I saw. The state that people are living in is dire. You can't comprehend how bad it is until you see it first hand. The refugees are so genuine and kind-hearted even though they literally have nothing. Many of these people had degrees and were not a lot older than us, but the hardship they are going through is unreal.

"Now more than ever we need to come together and make a change."

"I've been to Gambia in Africa as part of The Gambian Schools Trust, and I honestly found the conditions in Calais harder to deal with than what I saw in a developing country. Maybe it's because this is modern day Europe, how can so many people be oblivious to the tragedies going on. I had a lot of people saying to me before I left on this trip to be careful and I can honestly say the only danger and hostility I felt was from the police. I urge you to do whatever you can, big or small. Trust me these people not only need it, but they deserve better. People are dying and basic human rights are not being met. Now more than ever we need to come together and make a change."

Danielle McLaughlin
BA Social Work

"The last thing to happen was the locking of the crate. It was then that it hit me - that burn that you get in your throat when you want to cry. All that effort, all those people who contributed in one way or another. It was working and it was now on its way to Samos. There would be people at the other end of that crate's journey that we had helped physically, but more importantly, I hoped they would know they were not alone – and they were most definitely not hated. That crate was filled with friendship and solidarity. It was quite an emotional moment."

Science Building Launch







New Health Sciences Building unveiled at celebratory launch

There was a celebratory atmosphere as staff, students and special guests gathered to witness the official unveiling of the new £8.5 million Health Sciences Building.

University Chancellor Lord Guthrie cut the ribbon and guests were invited to explore the laboratories to learn more about the new facilities available.

Drones and humanoid robots were on display in the Robotics Lab, while students demonstrated electrode sensors and monitoring equipment in the Sports Lab.

Dean of Science Professor Atulya Nagar said: "We are enormously proud of this superb new building. This is a significant development in our future as a research-informed community. The Faculty's research arm is well equipped with world class scientists and researchers who are producing internationally excellent research.

"These new facilities will help us accelerate the quality and quantity of our research and attract even more world-leading academics, researchers, and students, allowing us to make an even greater impact on businesses, technology, public services and communities across the region and beyond.

"We have indeed set ourselves ambitious goals, but I am convinced that we have the opportunity to achieve them. Our vision builds on what is best about Liverpool Hope: an uncompromising pursuit of academic excellence; a broad, humanistic view of education; and a tradition of leadership and service."




HEALTH SCIENCES




HEALTH SCIENCES
HEALTH SCIENCES

















Artists' impressions of the facilities in the new Sports Complex.







Hope Sports Complex regeneration launches

Phase two of development works at Hope Park Campus began in January 2016, with construction starting on the new Sports Complex.

Upon completion, the Complex will feature squash courts, gyms and fitness rooms, a strength and conditioning suite, a six-court main sports hall, retractable tiered spectator seating and a café.

A raised walkway will link the Sports Complex with the new Health Sciences Building, which was unveiled in January.

Hope Park Sports will be closed for approximately nine months to allow for the ongoing development of the University's sport and science facilities.

Regeneration of the Sports Hall is part of the £14.2 million development, which began in January 2015 with the demolition of the former science block.

Opening
OCTOBER 2016

6 court main sports hall

£5.5m Invested

Retractable spectator seating

ARION2 speed bike rider testing

Rider testing for the World Human Power Speed Challenge took place at Liverpool Hope's new Sports Science labs.



Liverpool Hope University's Sports Science Department is working with The University of Liverpool Velocipede (ULV) Team to find a female rider for the ARION2 speed bike which will compete in the World Human Power Speed Challenge this September.

In 2015, the ULV Team broke the British human powered land speed record on ARION1 with a staggering 75 mph. This year, the team aims to challenge for both the male and female world records.

Liverpool Hope is providing both the facilities and sports scientists to ensure the ULV Team has the best chance at breaking the records this time around.

Six female applicants were put through a battery of physiological tests to help determine which of them can be the new rider of the ARION2.

The gruelling physical tests were designed by Dr Simon Marwood, Dr Pete Angell and the ARION 2 team to push the athletes to their limits, and allow the team to gather the data needed to make a decision.

Once the final female and male riders are selected, Dr Marwood will use a mathematical model to determine the power outputs required to break the record, and Dr Angell will help to devise the training programme that will enable them to meet the demands of a record-breaking run.

Dr Marwood said: "We're looking forward to working with the ARION team again, and building on what we all learned last year. We're excited by the challenge of combining the ARION team's cutting-edge engineering with our sports science expertise to take on the 2016 World Human Power Speed Challenge. It is exciting that the first major sports science project to take place in our new Health Sciences Building is one that could lead to a world record."

Rory Curtis from ULV Team said: "The ARION2 will be a lean mean racing machine and thanks to the state-of-the-art sport science facilities at Liverpool Hope University, we will be able to find a rider capable of taming it!"

Liverpool Hope commended by Quality Assurance Agency

QAA
UK Quality Assured

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) has commended Liverpool Hope for the way it enhances student learning opportunities, and identified a number of areas of good practice at the University following the University's Higher Education Review visit.

The QAA report also highlighted a number of areas where Liverpool Hope is an example of good practice. These include early engagement with internal and external stakeholders during the design and approval of programmes; the integration of student support services with the academic provision to enhance students' engagement with their studies and the University's strategic approach to supporting staff development to enhance learning and teaching practices.

The QAA is responsible for safeguarding the quality and standards of higher education in the UK. They carry out reviews of all universities and colleges once every five years, assessing against the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Professor Gerald Pillay, Vice Chancellor and Rector of Liverpool Hope University, said: "The report recognises our robust approach to quality assurance and to enhancement, as is evidenced by the several points of good practice highlighted in the Report. We are especially encouraged by the commendations the University has received for our work to enhance students' learning opportunities and for various initiatives in learning and teaching and support for students."

A successful review means that the University can display the QAA Quality Mark, indicating to UK and international students that the University meets national requirements for academic standards and quality.

Winter Graduation

















Graduates and families gathered to celebrate at Winter Graduation 2016



The University colours were flying in Liverpool City centre, as the Hope community gathered to celebrate Winter Graduation.

Students receiving Masters, PhDs, Postgraduate Certificates, and Bachelor degrees joined proud family and friends at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

Professor Simon Lee, former Rector and Chief Executive of Liverpool Hope University College, received a Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa at the ceremony.

During his leadership, Liverpool Hope was awarded the Freedom of the City of Liverpool and a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the work of Hope One World, before becoming the first institution to secure degree-awarding powers and the 'university college' title under the stringent new process. Bishop David Sheppard wrote in his 2002 autobiography *Steps Along Hope Street* that Simon Lee 'brought flair, imagination and a higher profile' to Hope.

Professor Lee said of his honorary degree from Liverpool Hope: "We used to quote Cardinal Suenens, 'To hope is not to dream but to turn dreams into reality'. I am so grateful for those who have been turning our dreams into reality from before, during and after my time here at Hope."

Read success stories from the day, as we celebrate with our graduates on page 16.

Our Graduates



"Hope's close links with Liverpool's museums really appealed to me when I was considering where to complete my MA. The exposure to the knowledge and practical opportunities meant the course was very diverse. Since completing my MA, I've secured a job at the National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port."

Hannah Holmes, MA in Museum and Heritage Studies



"I've always had a passion for music, and teach music technology and popular music at Gateacre Sixth Form. A friend told me about the Masters programme, and after meeting with the tutor, I was reassured the course would be challenging and encourage a deep investigation into the topic.

"I've enjoyed taking my love of music and turning it into an academic thought process. I particularly enjoyed the research aspects, and found the lectures engaging and accessible."

Ian McMillan, MA in The Beatles, Popular Music and Society



"I decided to do an MA at Hope as I completed my undergraduate here and really liked the course and modules on offer. I'm hoping the MA will help my career prospects and give me a foot in the door for jobs.

"Throughout the course, I've worked as a Senior Resident Tutor and the relationships I've formed while working with the students and studying with lecturers are the highlight of my five years at Hope."

Lauren Sharkey, MA History

Student Stories



Kelly Barrow had more on her mind than most students during her final year, as she juggled motherhood, pregnancy and academic pressures.

The BA English Language and English Literature graduate handed in her First-class research projects on the same day she gave birth to her second child.

I handed in my projects at 4.30pm on 29th April and gave birth at 10.54pm that same night. As a result, I deferred my exams until August as they were very close to the time of the birth. Juggling motherhood with university was definitely a challenge but I feel that I've gained even more out of my degree for that reason. I pushed myself to my absolute limits and it proved to me what I could do. I hope that Charlotte and Lilly-rose will be proud of me when they are older. My advice to any other mums at university would be to not feel guilty about time not spent with your children – you have to look to the bigger picture and just do what you can.

I chose Liverpool Hope because an English teacher who I had a lot of respect for said that whenever students came for interviews, Hope candidates were always the ones who really stood out. One of the highlights of my time at Hope was the Honours Conference. It was a great feeling to present something that I had really put my all into and conquer the fear of standing up there, especially heavily pregnant!

My degree has helped me to develop determination, and the support I received was fantastic. I knew I could always go to see tutors whenever I was struggling, and every time I went down the English corridor, everyone would ask how I was, which was lovely. Also, the tutors are so passionate about their subjects and are often at the forefront of research in their areas, so they're in the perfect position to support you.



Victoria Haines graduated with a Distinction in MSc Psychology after deciding she wanted a career change.

The MSc Psychology conversion is quite a specific course and I was really pleased to see Liverpool Hope offering it. I wanted to change careers to pursue a career in psychology and loved the course.

The most important thing I learned was how to confidently and competently put myself into my work in an honest, open, effective and appropriate way. I always felt able to raise anything with staff without fear of recrimination, and felt they were mindful of the students and how things were for us when announcing work and deadlines. My interest and eagerness was nurtured and fed. I also made good friends that I still see, which is a lovely bonus.

I have successfully changed career with the degree, getting a good, relevant job before graduation. I absolutely love my new career path, and I loved being able to have real conversations with other people who love it. I am going to see where my current job takes me, whether that's in becoming a clinical psychologist, researcher, psychotherapist, or any combination thereof! I am also keeping channels open for further research to do with my dissertation work.

Silver lining for Processional Cross

Liverpool Hope Fine Art Technician David Lewis took on the challenge of restoring and repairing the Processional Cross in time for this year's Graduation service.

The Processional Cross was originally commissioned in 1998. It is a contemporary design with a rosewood handle and gold cross. It was designed by Ray Semple, a silversmith specialist and former member of Liverpool Hope staff, who trained at the Liverpool College of Art and the Royal College of Art in London.

> *"It is such an important object to the University. It's quite something to think of how many people have seen it over the years."*

After the cross was accidentally damaged, Ray gave David his blessing to restore it. The two week process took place at the Creative Campus. David had to manufacture, by hand, two new silver components, and then carefully reassemble and re-polish the whole thing.

He forged the silver into bars, and drew and hammered them out until they became solid silver wire. He then used this to meticulously construct the two pieces that he needed before being able to put the cross back together.

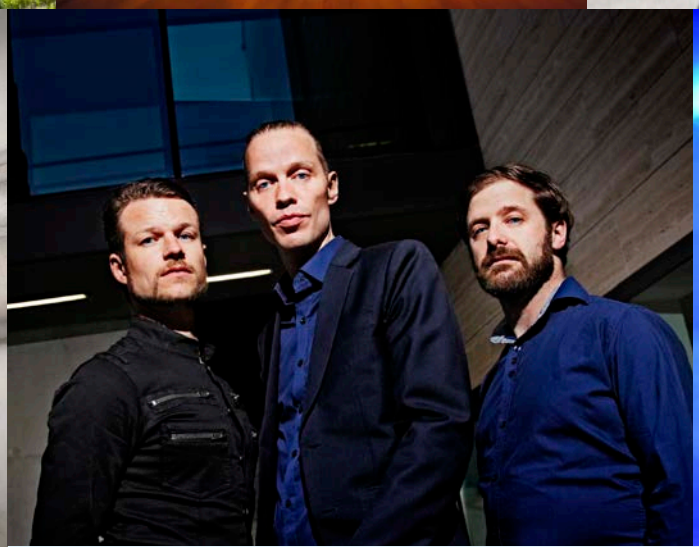


David said: "It is quite a tricky process. The new pieces had to be fixed onto an already existing fixture. There is also an extra difficulty when fixing something new to a silver object – fire staining, which can lead to a dull effect below the surface when silver becomes too hot. It all worked out well in the end and it was a privilege to work on the cross. It is such an important object to the University. It's quite something to think of how many people have seen it over the years. Ray is a friend of mine, and I was pleased to be able to restore a piece of his work to its former glory."

Capstone Spring Season






Mozart Orchestra, Indian dancers and MOBO award winners join Capstone's Spring Season

Audiences have plenty to look forward to during the Capstone Spring Season 2016, including Milapfest, Liverpool Mozart Orchestra, and a host of entertaining theatrical and dance pieces.

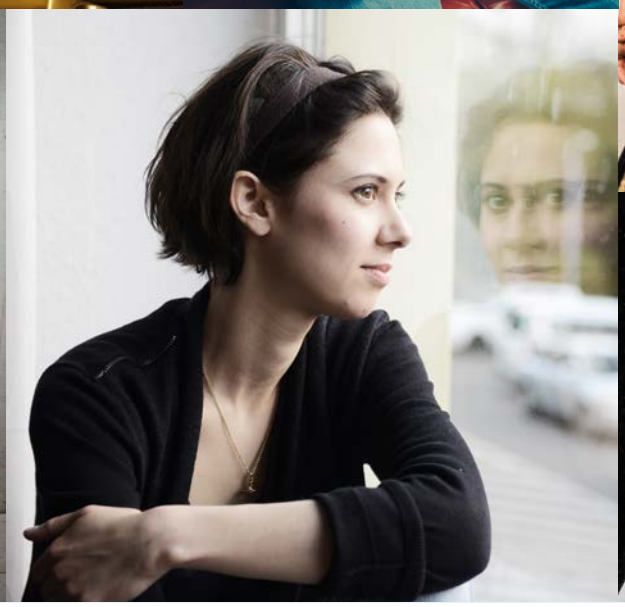
The contemporary and diverse programme at Liverpool Hope Universty's public arts venue is bursting with entertainment, and features live classical and jazz music, contemporary music, Indian music and dance performances, and other exciting theatre and dance showcases.

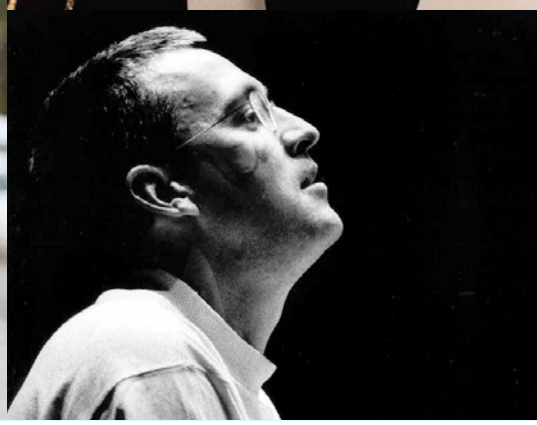
On Saturday 9th April, two exceptional dance performances of Indian classical dance are presented, with dazzling footwork, complex rhythms and graceful movements. The dances include the premiere of Panchan by the Swati Dance Company, which stars young dancers from the North West.

As part of the new Capstone Classics Series of Showcase Arts Performances, star Indian dancer Rukmimi will keep the dance moves flowing as she showcases her innovative and unique approach to classical Indian dance on Saturday 23rd April. Rukmimi tells stories of mythological events, emotions and poetry. Following a performance on Saturday 30th April by bansuri maestro Stephanie Bosch, the penultimate showcase for Milapfest falls on Saturday 28th May. It features sitarist Mita Nag, who carries on the legacy of her grandfather's unique style of playing, known as vishnupur gharana, as she follows the contemplative, meditative style of Dhrupad, a style of vocal music.









The Capstone will also host a variety of theatrical and dance performances. The People Show will perform Seagull Noir on Tuesday 8th March, with a special performance celebrating 50 years of theatre making in 2016 in which one can expect fast-paced action, conspiracy theories and a battle of good versus evil.

Joan Laage will showcase Earthtones on Wednesday 9th March, looking at how the body can be understood as an archiving device in relation to memory. The event is performed as part of the Department of Dance and Drama and Performance Studies Research Series. Classical music will also feature prominently in this Spring Season, with the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra returning to the city for two evenings of classical musical delights on Saturday 12th March and Saturday 14th May, with programmes that include favourites by Mozart and Beethoven.

On Wednesday 15th March, percussionist Joby Burgess provides a masterclass in contemporary percussion with his Pioneers of Percussion programme, which features three world premieres and classic pieces by Feldman, Xenakis, Takemitsu and Pärt.

German pianist Olivia Trummer's C2J (Classical to Jazz) concert for piano and vibraphone on Friday 18th March fuses classical music and jazz styles. Later in the season on Thursday 21st April, a concert of contemporary music for two pianos featuring pianists Richard Casey and Ian Buckle includes new pieces by Hope University composers Stephen Pratt and Ian Percy alongside music by Stravinsky and Debussy. A late series of Friday Jazz and World Music concerts begins with a quartet performance by pianist/composer John Law's New Congregation on Friday 8th April. The band is tipped to be one of the best musical discoveries of 2016.

Guitarist Ant Law performs for the first time in his stripped down trio format on Friday 15th April, and Cinematic Orchestra alumni project The Breath will perform on Friday 22nd April, with a World Music-inspired set in support of their new album on Real World Records.

On Friday 29th April, two-time MOBO award winners Phronesis, a Scandinavian/British jazz trio who have been described by Jazzwise as "the most exciting and imaginative piano trio since EST", return to the Capstone to conclude the series on an energetic note. Another full and varied programme in what promises to be the most ambitious, diverse and entertaining season to date for Liverpool's International Arts Venue.

See the full What's On Guide at
www.thecapstonetheatre.com

Alumni News

Alumni Mentoring Scheme – mentees and mentors wanted!

The Alumni Mentoring Scheme is a recently established project that will pair students or recent graduates with experienced professionals, who volunteer to provide one-to-one insight into their sector, careers, and support and guide their mentee.



The mentors will be a mix of alumni and other individuals (and is open to Hope staff) who support their mentee via email, phone, Skype, or in person. The mentees will be current second or third year students, or recent graduates who apply to the scheme. They will then be matched to a suitable mentor, based on criteria such as industry sector/course subject. The matching criteria is not limited to this and pairs may also be coupled due to a mentee wanting advice on such issues as personal beliefs, interests, career aspirations, working balance of family and a career, gap years etc.

The Alumni team will co-ordinate the mentoring process and provide mentor training, continued support for the mentor and mentee, and a handbook full of resources and activities. There will also be events held at Liverpool Hope University during the scheme, which participants are welcome to attend.

The scheme is a great opportunity to build new relationships with students, whilst assisting in their development and reflecting on your own professional practice. If you would like more information, or if you wish to apply, please visit www.hope.ac.uk/alumni/alumnimentoringscheme or call 0151 291 3219.

Notre Dame Candlemas Reunion 2016



The snowdrops in the grounds of Liverpool Hope University, once again, didn't let us down and were in bloom in time for our Candlemas Reunion on Tuesday 2nd February.

The Conference Centre was overflowing with former students of Notre Dame College renewing friendships and chatting. Tea, coffee and biscuits were available and then everyone made their way to Hope Chapel where they were welcomed by Clare Baker, the Alumni Relations Manager. The noon mass was con-celebrated by Monsignor Vincent Malone and Rev Brendan Alger, and we were fortunate to once again have Dr Ian Sharp to play the organ.

Lunch in the Arbour Room followed, and friends chatted and exchanged news before afternoon tea was served.

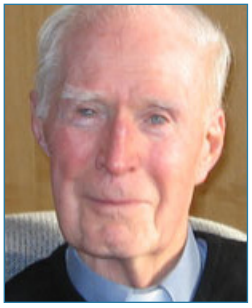
Each year, we gain more new contact details, but there are still people out there who are yet to make themselves known to us. If you know of any friends whose details are not on our database, please encourage them to get in touch with us on alumni@hope.ac.uk or 0151 291 3219.

Alumni Benefits

Your relationship with your University doesn't end when you graduate. You can continue to take advantage of benefits and services that we and fellow alumni offer to you – frequently at a discount.

We are looking to develop the benefits and services that we offer. We would be interested in hearing from alumni who have an offer that they would like to promote to the Hope Alumni community via our website. Please get in touch with us on alumni@hope.ac.uk or call 0151 291 3219.

Requiem Mass for Monsignor Bernard Doyle



The University held a Requiem Mass for Monsignor Bernard Doyle, the last Principal of Christ's College, on Friday 5th February in Hope Chapel.

Fr Doyle was Principal from 1965 until his retirement in 1985, by which time Christ's had become part of the ecumenical foundation Liverpool Institute of Higher Education - renamed Liverpool Hope in 1995.

Fr Doyle retained a keen interest in the development of Hope after his retirement, attending many events and participating in alumni relations.

At the University's Foundation Day Service celebrating the achievement of University title in 2006, Fr Doyle was conferred with an Honorary Senior Fellowship of the University for his hugely significant contributions to its growth and success.

Monsignor Bernard Doyle will be remembered as one of the 20th Century's most important figures in Catholic education.

Alumni, students and staff get competitive!

The third Hope Quiz night was held on Thursday 21st January 2016, with students, staff and alumni meeting in Our Place – the social space at Hope Park – all vying for the highest score and a £100 cash prize sponsored by the Alumni Office.

After a tightly fought battle, a team of Liverpool Hope staff claimed the £100 prize, with runners up receiving vouchers for Our Place.

Clare Baker, Alumni Relations Manager, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity to bring these three groups together and simply have fun. It was a great success and we would like to say a big thank you to all of the Liverpool Hope University alumni, staff and students who took part, Our Place, our bar staff and Adam Dumbleton, our superb quiz master! We hope everyone enjoyed the evening and can join us at our next event."

There will be another quiz on Thursday 21st April, check www.hope.ac.uk/alumni for details.

Become a Hope supporter

We hope our alumni graduate with the skills to achieve their goals and a store of great memories. Becoming a Hope supporter is a chance to give something back, strengthen your connection with the University and create new opportunities for future generations of students.

Today's students don't just need to excel at their studies, they need professional experience too. Our students not only have excellent academic credentials, they also have so much to offer the workplace – talent, ideas and ambition. If you're able to offer a student or graduate the chance to develop their professional skills through a work placement or internship, please contact martinl@hope.ac.uk.

If you are not in a position to offer work, but are able to help highlight the relevance of employability training – reflecting on how your degree supported your own professional practice, talking about what you wished you'd learned or did learn that was useful to your work – we would also like to hear from you. Please contact alumni@hope.ac.uk if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

Assist us in fighting poverty in Africa



Volunteer Missionary Movement is a faith-based charity founded in 1969. With over 40 years of experience, we have built strategic partnerships in over 25 countries, as well as providing opportunities for over 2,600 lay individuals. We currently have 40 volunteers working on projects in eight countries, changing the lives of thousands.

Our new short-term projects include teaching English language in primary schools, and environmental and construction projects based in Malawi and Uganda. No experience required. Apply online today!

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Our People



"It was intense, but great fun."

Taking to the airwaves

Music Lecturer Dr Alberto Sanna shares his experience of recording an original musical drama for BBC Radio 4.



Devised alongside Professor of Reading and Communication Frank Cottrell-Boyce, *How to Flee from Sorrow* is a witty and entertaining drama about the lives and works of two 17th-century musicians.

Starting life as a performance at Hope's annual Cornerstone Arts Festival, the drama centres on Alessandro Stradella and Arcangelo Corelli, who crossed paths in Rome in the 1670s.

The BBC commissioned the drama for Radio 4 and aired the hour-long adaptation in early January.

Dr Sanna said: "We recorded at the historic BBC Maida Vale Studios in London, home of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the place where the Beatles did their radio sessions - being a Liverpudlian, Frank especially liked that.

"We were locked in a bunker from 10am to 7pm for a whole weekend. It was intense, but great fun - especially coaching the actors to sing like nuns - in Latin - or like drunks - in a patchwork language."



Stradella (played by Trystan Gravelle, who stars in Mr Selfridge as Victor Coleano) enjoys enormous success under the patronage of Queen Christina in Rome, but has to flee to Venice after he and his sidekick, the hunchback violinist Lonati (Ralf Little), get a rich man drunk on a heady mixture of wine and song then con him into marrying a poor, old woman of ill repute.

> *"The project was about the relationship between extraordinary music and cultural context."*

Incapable of settling into a comfortable life at court, Stradella becomes one of the first truly freelance composers - juggling commissions, scrabbling after money, fleeing from scandal.



The number of midnight flits he has to make give the story a comic tempo, but one story gives the drama its heart, the love story between Stradella and Agnese, the 'niece' of the Doge of Venice.

Dr Sanna, who devised the original piece, is one of the leading interpreters of Stradella and Corelli and is the Director of Music on this production.

He said: "What was important for me was not so much the Stradella story - that had already been told by historians and critics - but to attempt to explain in artistic terms the relationship between, on the one hand, Stradella's extraordinary music and, on the other hand, the political, economic, social and cultural context out of which it was created."

All images credited to: Amanda Benson, BBC.

Our People



"I wanted to be fully committed to it – and you can't get more committed to acting than going all the way to New York!"

Amie reaches for the stars in New York

Liverpool Hope University Drama student Amie Du-Buisson-Spargo has been accepted to the same New York acting school where Grace Kelly, Anne Hathaway, Paul Rudd, Robert Redford and Kim Cattrall perfected their art.

While beating thousands of applicants for one of just 50 international places at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts is an achievement in itself, 24-year-old Amie has done it while living with Gastroparesis – a long-term condition in which the stomach is left completely paralysed and cannot empty itself in the normal way.

Amie hasn't been able to physically eat food since her illness began three years ago. She is now fed through a tube directly into her intestine, and which she has to be hooked up to for between 10 and 15 hours a day.

Amie went to Archbishop Blanch High School and studied Drama and Fashion at Liverpool Community College. "My heart was in drama and my head in fashion," said Amie. The heart won out and Amie chose to study for a BA in Drama at Liverpool Hope, which she will complete in June 2016.

> *"My heart was in drama and my head in fashion."*

Amie, whose acting hero is Sheridan Smith, said: "I applied to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts as the next step because I knew if I was going to follow my dream of being an actress, I wanted to be fully committed to it – and you can't get more committed to acting than going all the way to New York!"

The application process involved an online application, an audition, a performance of two monologues and an interview in London. Amie was told to expect a wait of three to four weeks - she found out within one.

She said: "I went into the interviews and auditions thinking that it wasn't the be all and end all, and I think that really helped me. I just did what I loved and talked honestly about how acting has helped me in so many ways. When I found out I had won a place, I was just speechless. And then I screamed with happiness! It was the happiest day of my life."

Amie has had more than 20 operations and procedures in the last three years, meaning that she missed time away from her drama course at Liverpool Hope. She has another operation coming up soon.

Amie said: "My tutors have been amazing. If I couldn't make a group performance, they looked at other ways that I could be assessed – they even let me film assessments at home while I was recovering from operations and send them in. At one point, I was considering leaving, but my tutor Simon Piasecki convinced me to come back, and said they would look at ways to help me catch up with my work and finish my degree. I'm so glad that I did. Looking back, an undergraduate degree in drama has been the perfect preparation. If I'd have applied for a conservatoire at the age of 18 I wouldn't have been ready."





Amie plans to begin her studies at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2017. She now needs to raise around $70,000 for the two-year course and accommodation in New York. Because her condition is so rare, Amie will also need to have her medical feed shipped over from Liverpool to the USA, and take her feeding machine with her.

She said: "From what I know of the American system, students are sponsored by companies throughout their studies. I'm going to try a similar route, so will be writing to big companies to see if they can help. If it is meant to be, it is meant to be. I've done the hard bit – I got in. Now I'm going to put all of my energies into getting there.

"I think God has a plan for us, and he doesn't give you anything that you can't deal with. I went out to Belarus a couple of years ago as part of Operation Christmas Child. My feeding tube had broken and I nearly didn't go, but I'd fundraised and knew I needed to go. We visited orphanages, old people's homes and care centres and I was shocked by what I saw. It really put it into perspective for me that I have nothing to moan about. I'm also hoping to go to Uganda to do some voluntary aid work there."

But for the next couple of years, Amie has her sights set on New York. "I love theatre. I'm not concerned about fame. If that comes with it, then that is great, but for me, my main aim is to work in theatre. And to do that in New York, or to get anywhere near the same acting experiences as Sheridan Smith, would be my wildest dream come true."

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK AT LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

14th - 18th MARCH 2016



British Science Week (BSW) is an annual ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. During the celebration there are a number of fascinating, entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages.

In celebration of British Science Week, Liverpool Hope University is having a week filled with fun and educational events. Held in our new Health Sciences building and beautiful University grounds, we will have a range of talks, demonstrations and workshops on bioscience, nutrition, psychology, sport science and robotics – ranging from radio telemetry and bat detections to motion capture and DNA analysis. There will also be external companies such as Cheshire Falconry and Animal Encounters providing workshops and other exhibits and talks that will interest people of all ages.

For more information, please visit: www.hope.ac.uk/britishscienceweek

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2016

Liverpool Hope University EST. 1844

The final word

Politics at Play – Childhood, Representation, and Identification

Following LEGO's plan to release its first figure in a wheelchair, Associate Professor Dr David Bolt, Director of the Centre for Culture and Disability Studies, discusses the influence toys can have on a child's sense of representation.



So important are the ways in which we recognise ourselves in the multitude of representations by which we are surrounded. In our teenage years it might be popular culture with which we most engage.

As the years pass us by, we might find ourselves increasingly moved by so-called high culture. The media is always with us, as are social attitudes and role models. No matter how or when we become aware of these and other representations, they form a backdrop for the ways in which we make sense of ourselves across our lifespan – they offer points of identification.

In the formative years of childhood it is often toys that most excite the imagination, that let us explore beyond the boundaries of what we are and what we are expected to become. We create a world in miniature that nonetheless seems limitless. Into a landscape of upturned furniture, scattered bedding, empty boxes, and many other imaginatively adapted items, we place ourselves in the form of the toy figures with which we identify. The scenario may have become less common now that many children take a virtual route to this world of daydreams and possibilities, but the toys of the past remain surprisingly popular. No matter how sophisticated computerised games have become, they are still set aside from time to time in favour of toy cars, dolls, building-bricks, and so on.

All this being so, there are important questions to raise about normative representation in the context of childhood. What if we don't identify with the toy figures that are available, let alone those that are popular? What if, for example, our wheelchairs seem beyond the imagination of the major toy manufacturers? What if, in another instance, our dolls remind us more of our slim blonde friends than of our heavier dark selves? Are we meant to somehow adjust our imaginations accordingly? Are we meant to excuse or perhaps exempt ourselves from our own play?

My questions could go on, but in these respects I am pleased to note that the past few days have spawned some signs of representational progress. On Wednesday 27th January, the news came that the first LEGO figure to use a wheelchair was on display at the Nuremberg and London toy fairs. Then, the news on Thursday was that Mattel was set to reflect a broader view of feminine beauty by making Barbie with a range of different body types, hair, and skin tones. Of course, these advances could and should have been made decades ago. What is more, they should now be far more extensive. After all, the wheelchair has become symbolic of disability, but it says nothing about the experience of most disabled people. As little and late as it is, however, progress is progress and surely must be commended.



That said, I must also sound a note of disappointment. Why didn't Mattel take a leaf out of LEGO's book and finally introduce a disabled Barbie? A couple of decades ago Mattel granted Barbie a disabled friend in the shape of Wheelchair Becky, progress that was shortlived insofar as the doll is now only available as an unattainably expensive collector's item. The point missed by the production of Wheelchair Becky though, is that children should be enabled if not encouraged to identify with the central protagonist of their play, as opposed to becoming effectively one of their own peripheral characters. Last week's introduction of Mattel's Barbie in a range of different body types was commendable, but the absence of disability from this range is indicative of the highly problematic ideals for which that most famous of dolls has become infamous.

THE CAPSTONE

LIVERPOOL'S INTERNATIONAL ARTS VENUE

WHAT'S ON

Spring Season 2016 Full listings www.thecapstonetheatre.com



Joan Laage: Earthtomes

9 | March
£10



Liverpool Mozart Orchestra: Mozart, Dvořák and Elgar

12 | March
£16.50



Powerplant: Pioneers of Percussion

15 | March
£11.50



Olivia Trummer

(Classical2Jazz)

18 | March
£11.50



John Law's New Congregation

8 | April
£11.50



Milapfest presents Dance Double-Bill

9 | April £7.50



Ant Law

15 | April
£11.50



Music for Two Pianos

21 | April
£11.50

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