

## Press Statement

For immediate release 16.03.20

### LAMDA to move to digital teaching with immediate effect

In order to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19, LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) can confirm that they will be changing the format of full-time courses effective immediately, with an emphasis on online learning and assessment. LAMDA will deliver teaching programmes digitally for the foreseeable future with the hope we can recommence face-to-face learning from mid-June. In addition, all public performances at LAMDA have been cancelled.

In line with recent Government advice, all LAMDA public centre examinations scheduled until April have been postponed until further notice. LAMDA will be in contact with all customers who have entered learners for an examination at public centres.

All examinations at private centres will continue to go ahead, unless Government guidance means that LAMDA are unable to facilitate the session or are advised by the centre of the need to postpone the exams, due to closure of the venue.

**Sarah Frankcom, Director of LAMDA says** *“Ensemble is at the heart of everything we do at LAMDA and never has this concept been more important than it is now. While I know that many will be disappointed to see public shows cancelled, this decision has been taken in the interest of the health and wellbeing of the entire LAMDA community.*

*It’s important to emphasise that LAMDA remains open and we will take this opportunity to explore new ways of learning and creating work using the digital technology available to us today. Our students will be able to come together virtually to create new digital based work, engaging with teaching staff through online tutoring and continuing to participate in masterclasses with creative professionals.*

*Despite these unique and challenging circumstances, I know that we will be able to continue to deliver the high quality learning our students deserve and the wider industry has come to expect from LAMDA.”*

**The Rt Hon. Shaun Woodward, Chair of LAMDA Trustees, and the former Labour Secretary of State for Northern Ireland says** *“Together we took the very important decision today to ensure to prioritise best the health and well-being of all our students and staff and with immediate effect all of our teaching and classes will be taught online. LAMDA is also suspending its programme of public examinations.*

*This decision was very carefully considered by the Board. In these challenging times for everyone it would not be responsible to continue teaching in the classroom and studios. I am grateful to the staff, students and Trustees for their understanding and support for this decision.*

*We will continue to provide teaching and a great training for our students, including our many American students; however it is right that for the next few months this is achieved through innovative and creative solutions outside of traditional classroom and studio teaching.”*

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