



Lucy Martin, aged 17

Musical Theatre Student

I feel like I have been dancing all of my life. I first started going to ballet when I was about three years old, and I can't remember a time when dance and performance wasn't a massive part of my life. Now I can't imagine not dancing, acting or singing.

I have been at Tring Park now for two years, having gained a scholarship onto the Musical Theatre course. Previously to that I was in a mainstream school but realised that if I was to make a career out of my dancing and singing then I needed to train as hard as I could, with the best tutors and within the best environment.

My family and friends were really excited for me when I learnt that I had won the scholarship. Obviously I don't get to see them as much now that I'm at Tring Park, but they are very supportive and often come to see me in productions.

I have starred in '*Copacabana*', '*Crazy for You*' and a '*Kander & Ebb*' medley, however before I started Tring Park I had been part of the British Champion Latin American Formation Dance Team (Junior and Amateur level) of 2006-2008 which meant I performed both in the UK and worldwide.

I think I first realised that I had a talent when I was in secondary school and won a leading part in a production of *Grease*, as Patty Simcox. So many people came up to me after the show and complimented me – even people I didn't know – which made my family and myself think that maybe I could make a career out of my passion.

Tring Park nurtures that passion. Winning the scholarship gave me so much confidence and the tutors and other students are fantastic at providing encouragement and enthusiasm. Although I might often be competing with other students from Tring Park, there is an understanding that we all support each other and there is never any bad feeling or resentment.

As I am studying for my A levels as well as my B/Tec Diploma in Performing Arts, I am normally up early to undertake academic lessons in the morning. The afternoon is more vocational with dancing, singing and acting classes up to around 6.30pm.

It's not anything like X Factor or Fame at Tring Park, apart from the fact that we are often dancing and singing! Training for a career in the performing arts is far harder work than any of the talent programmes lead you to believe. Although I love watching Fame Academy, Britain's Got Talent and X Factor, people don't seem to realise that to have longevity in the world of entertainment means a lot of practice, determination and a little luck.

After the last show I was in at Tring Park, *Crazy for You*, I was approached by an agent who took me on their books. They are putting me forward for a number of auditions as well as working with the staff at the school to plan out my career. I would love to follow in the footsteps of artists like Denise van Outen, Kate Winslet or Julie Walters, who is amazing. However to be working in a profession I love and being able to pay the bills for doing something I enjoy is my first ambition!

10 years down the line, I hope to be a successful actress, dancer and singer. My motto is 'Never Give Up'. If I don't get a job that I auditioned for I try to take it on the chin like a professional and keep working and remembering that another part is around the corner. Being at Tring Park gives me the confidence to keep practicing and looking forward to what is ahead. I feel very lucky – to be doing something I really enjoy, with fantastic friends and teachers around me and to be in such a great a school as Tring Park.

- Ends -

NOTES TO EDITORS:-

- **Tring Park School for the Performing Arts** offers a unique opportunity for gifted young people to specialise in Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre or Music, whilst gaining an excellent academic education to GCSE, BTEC and 'A' level.
- **Tring Park School for the Performing Arts** is an independent, co-educational boarding and day school, attended by a maximum of 300 pupils between the ages of 8-19.
- Housed in a former Rothschild mansion and set in beautiful grounds, the School is located in Tring.
- Figures from the Department for Schools, Children and Families for the summer exams 2008 demonstrate that the school provides an "added value" for pupils' performance that is in the top 25% in the country.
- Tring Park's aim is to create dancers who have versatility and longevity and offer students training for a lifetime career in Dance. Students are encouraged to be 'thinking' dancers,

understanding and taking responsibility for their own physique in the translation of required techniques.

- Tring Park provides passionate and safe teaching, believing that the wellbeing of the pupils in their care is paramount.
- The course covers not only a strong Classical training, but dancers are also prepared for work in Contemporary, Jazz and Commercial Dance.
- Whilst pupils may take formal examinations, they are also offered a wide range of performance opportunities, and can take workshops with visiting guest artists. Annual performances also take place at School and at a London West End theatre, attended by leading choreographers and artistic directors.
- Many of Tring's graduates have also achieved secondary careers in areas such as Choreography and Artistic Direction.

- Ends -

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