

Media All Stars

David's Speech

Hello My Name is David and I would like to tell you about our experience of Media All Stars in Ealing and **WHY** we made our film.

Our film projects started with meetings and even a little bit of filming all the way back in January and ran through till the end of April... At the start of the project we talked about what it was we wanted to do and came up with ideas such as having our **OWN** version of Eastenders... and coming from Ealing came up with the name Westenders (I bet u will never guess which character I was going to be?).... We **ALSO** had the idea of doing something like Tracy beaker or a Big Brother style of show which are **ALL** popular programmes within the group (as well as I'm sure the audience here) but felt these shows depicted more how **THE MEDIA** looked at society and children in care rather than the reality of what it is **ACTUALLY** like to be a young person in care.

EVENTUALLY we decided to go with a more **DOCUMENTARY** style production where we involved some of the key characteristics and ideas from the shows we originally wanted to do... **WE** decided to show people how **WE** feel about being in care and help increase awareness of what it is **ACTUALLY** like to live in care and get away from the stereotypes society **AND** the media have **BRANDED** us young people with, such '**BANNERS**' as "they must be trouble makers/ criminals" or "we should feel sorry for them" which... I don't know how you feel but I find **PATRONISING** and quite insulting not **ONLY** when said about me but young people in care altogether... There is not enough support or guidance for the public to help change these dated and quite insensitive views and I for one feel projects like this are a step in the right direction... Giving such labels as the ones I mentioned before shows **COMPLETE** ignorance of the modern world and does not give **US** the chance to show who we **really** are or how we would **like** to be seen... I feel we would like to be seen as the **BRIGHT... INTELLIGENT... BRILLIANT** young individuals we are with a **fantastic** future ahead of us and a great enthusiasm for life. (I could go on about this for hours but back to the main point) ...

The production was a **GREAT** experience for everyone who took part to get a feel of what **is** to be involved in making a film (like the one you have just seen) and a chance for the people **outside** the house to see what a children's home is like and how it is run... **We** got a chance to take part in **every** aspect of the project such as **planning, storyboarding, learning** how to use a camera, **different** techniques, **production** and **directing**... as well as all the **legal** requirements of what you **CAN** and **CAN'T** show on films such as this... **which** for most of us are brand new experiences and great insight into the world of film and documentary...

As the project developed we found ourselves growing **more** and **more** fond of what we were making... **MUCH** more than we first anticipated and found that by the end we had a great sense of pride about what we had made which once again was unexpected... As a care leaver it was **FANTASTIC** to get involved in a production such as this and see how the young people at the house really got involved **ESPECIALLY** after the first meeting when we were all so reserved about getting in front of the camera... (Or doing any work at all to be honest) and as time went on we were all willing to get more involved with **everything** to do with the production and listened to **every** bit of advice given to get the best result from a film we now all care about and feel very proud of.

This project really helped me realise how I **ACTUALLY** felt about being in care and the issues I feel affect young people today... I now feel more confident about my views and am thankful for the opportunity to share them with you tonight

There is **SO** much more I want to say about this project and **SOOO** much more we could have put into the film but we must get on with the evening... I have been asked to conclude with **one** last Message... and that message is that we are **ALL** great and we have a **VERY** bright future ahead of us and no matter what **ANYONE** says we **have** achieved a great deal to get where we are **especially** seeing what we have all achieved tonight and if we carry on in this direction I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for us.

Thank you very much and have a good evening.



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