



Summary of Youth Mentoring Programme Pilot 2008-2009

In June 2008, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) partnered with Media Trust to pilot a mentoring programme for young people. 34 BAFTA mentors volunteered their time to young people at 10 different youth organisations across London.

Young people involved in the programme identified both personal and careers-based positive outcomes. They included increased confidence, new transferable and media-related skills, and a new willingness to engage in media-related training and education.

Feedback from the Pilot Programme

"I liked getting to work with someone that could offer something different to the usual stuff we do. She encouraged me to get up and act in front of the group... at the start I didn't want to do anything. I learnt that I had it in me to get up and perform in front of people. I didn't think I could do it. She believed in me." - Young person

"My mentor was very helpful and friendly. She guided us in the right direction and allowed us to learn in a more hands-on way." - Young person

"It was really, really powerful to meet young people and the leaders who live just down the road but are living very different lives from me and to get a window into a different world. The experience was one of the best things I've done all year." - Basi Akpabio, BAFTA mentor

"We cannot believe that we are so lucky to have someone of Pippa's experience supporting our project. Pippa is just absolutely fabulous. Our documentary is near completion. We very much appreciate how Pippa encourages each person to develop through this process. Her hands off approach nurtures the young peoples own creativity and talent without influence and her direction and support is immeasurable to the young people involved but also to me as the project manager. I still cannot believe that we have her on board. Thank you all so very very much." - Charlotte Curran, CHC

Participating Youth Organisations

The British Youth Council (BYC) aims to empower all young people across the UK to have a say and be heard. BYC ran a Heritage-Lottery funded filmmaking project engaging ten young people to make a documentary film exploring the positive impact that young people have had on society over the last 60 years. A BAFTA mentor worked with the young people throughout the process to give professional guidance and an industry viewpoint, helping them put across their ideas effectively. The documentary was a huge success and has been screened in various outlets across the UK.

BAFTA Mentor: Jemma Jupp

CHC is a voluntary sector charity working with single vulnerable people within the Borough of Brent. The Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) is a user led project within CHC where eight young people - trainee youth leaders - set up activities such as sports and other events as a first point of engagement for disadvantaged street active young people between the ages of 16 and 25. YES members felt that their identity is always being compromised when faced with family, religious, tradition and educational requirements which is in conflict with their own lives. Using their own life stories to represent this, it was agreed a documentary was a good starting point for discussion. They felt that all too often young people are given negative publicity which is not balanced with adequate reasons

as to why. Their ambition is to use this documentary to create an open dialogue within schools and other forums. As CHC has limited experience in documentary making the organisation requested a mentor to offer support and direction to ensure the documentary produced presents these issues. The documentary was showcased at the Tricycle Theatre in March 2010.

BAFTA Mentor: Pippa Harris

DNA Mix Young Fathers Project gives young dads the opportunity get their voice heard through music, radio and film, as well as offering them the opportunity to gain new skills in media. Developed and run by the Ideas Foundation, the project supported a number of young people to produce a promo film to encourage other young fathers to get involved. DNA Mix requested mentors to support the young dads through the creative process in everything from shooting, to sound and editing. A very effective promo film was created as a result.

BAFTA Mentor: Basi Akpabio

Equal People supports people with learning disabilities. Its transitions service provides support to young people aged 16-25 to find out about the choices they have for their future. A weekly group, on Monday afternoons, enables the young people to meet to explore issues and ideas important to them. The members of this group asked for a mentor experienced in production to support them in developing and producing a film. Since February, a BAFTA mentor supported the young people there in their filmmaking.

BAFTA Mentor: Maddy Elles-Hill

Headliners is a charity providing innovative multi-media programmes for young people. Young reporters produce stories on issues that concern them for publication in local and national newspapers and broadcast on radio and TV and online. The London Bureau is keen to widen its media offering to young people and create new learning and development opportunities. BAFTA mentors volunteered their time to run workshops with the young people ranging from acting to comedy writing.

BAFTA Mentors: Ivor Baddiel, Gillian Hawser

Lambeth College, based in various centres around the borough, requested a mentor to support and guide a group of young people to film the open day/launch of its new sixth form college. The young people planned to create a promo film for the new centre from this. A BAFTA mentor arranged to meet with the young people in the run up to the big day and supported them in developing the film. The team worked with their mentor on the key elements of the process including securing interviews, the filming itself through to developing an editing schedule.

BAFTA Mentor: Linda Shire

LIVE Futures is a not-for-profit social enterprise that works with young people to help them create their own media. LIVE produces a magazine, a website, and to a lesser degree, digital films and radio content. Following some recent filmmaking workshops, LIVE were keen that the young people who took part had the opportunity to continue their filmmaking and go on to produce more films. A number of BAFTA mentors worked with young people at LIVE and supported them to develop ideas, scripts and films.

BAFTA Mentors: Anna Benson Gyles, Stewart Harcourt, Damian Jones, Ellin Stein

Mediabox is a fund that offers 13-19 year olds the chance to create their own media projects and get their voices heard. One of the funding strands, My Mediabox, offers individual young people funding for a one-off media project, along with specialist production training and support from industry mentors. BAFTA mentors supported young people on two My Mediabox projects in 2009 including the 'YourFilm09' competition in partnership with The Mirror and Bebo and a filmmaking project held at the Ocean Somali Community Association in East London.

BAFTA Mentors: Bassem Abdallah, Luigi Chiappini, Stewart Harcourt, Gillian Hawser, James Mellor, Lisa Neeley, Caroline Van Den Brul

The Prince's Trust runs a number of 'Get into' courses aimed at young people that are not in education, employment or training. One of these courses is a 'Get into Media' course that looks at the TV and film industry. Following this course the Prince's Trust offer support and guidance to all young people involved to help them secure work experience and placements in the industry. The Trust had a number of young people who were particularly keen on scriptwriting so requested a BAFTA mentor with scriptwriting skills to run some workshops with the young people and offer support as they develop their own scripts.
BAFTA Mentor: Ellin Stein

You're Hired 2.0 was a 12-week 'Apprentice'-style media challenge developed and delivered by Acland Burghley School, Channel 4 and Media Trust. Mirroring the real life commissioning process, the young people were set a 'live brief' to create a new youth show for C4's online platform. The young people created the show's concept and format and shot and edited clips of pilot material. In the second phase of the project, the students created a new media marketing strategy for the show and produced materials for their campaign. The young people were supported by industry mentors.
BAFTA Mentor: David Rolfe