



TOPDOG
PROMOTIONS

ARE PROUD TO DELIVER THE AWARD WINNING CHARACTER
CREATIVE ACCREDITED MULTI ARTS PROJECTS.



CHARACTER
creative

CREATE, INSPIRE, CHALLENGE



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ABOUT US

Top Dog Promotions have been delivering creative workshops for young people since 2001 and are considered one of the UK's leading suppliers of workshops with a roster of over 200 tutors covering over 45 different interactive creative subjects.

Since 2007, Top Dog have delivered 'Character Creative' accredited projects which have been specifically developed to meet identified needs of prisoners and young offenders.

Character Creative is a bespoke multi arts project which uses creativity to allow participants to explore who they are and what they can achieve through experiencing and engaging in arts programmes.

Character Creative uses art forms both familiar and unfamiliar to a group, helping them to feel comfortable to take part whilst then allowing them to progress, develop new skills, and expand their artistic vocabulary.

It is a project that promotes cultural democracy, placing value and importance on all types of creative experience.

As an employment supporting project, Character Creative embeds skills for the workplace within the programmes and explores how art can be used within the job market today.

**"THE ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL
MERITS OF CHARACTER CREATIVE
PROJECTS WORK IN REDUCING
RECIDIVISM"**

PROJECT RESEARCH REPORT, EVALUATION TRUST



OUR WORK WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS

"I feel well more confident." *Participant: Werrington*

"When I first came down I didn't know how to write lyrics had no confidence and since I've been on the course I can work in a group and I have loads of confidence and write my own lyrics..." *Participant: Brinsford*

"I just want to say I appreciate and thanks for the time you brought in, cause it's built my confidence and made a better person today, thanks." *Participant: Werrington*

"Getting more confidence as a person." *Participant: Brinsford*

"Since I started this whole thing, even the music thing, I didn't have any confidence at all, I didn't want to do anything, I didn't want to spit my bars or anything like that, didn't want to perform, now I've found my confidence and I've found my feet." *Participant: Werrington*

"Today's activities have been challenging, kind of hard, but when you learn you get better at things, so it's been challenging but, you know, when you work for something, you achieve." *Participant: Brinsford*

"Future-wise I'll be doing it again." *Participant: Werrington*

"This is a great experience, something I can take away for the future." *Participant: Brinsford*

"Today's activities have made me think a lot more creatively because I know I'm going to fulfill my dreams with what I'm doing." *Participant: Brinsford*

"I ain't got long left, so when I get out I will definitely look into going into drama." *Participant: Werrington*

"Before this course I'd have never, ever, ever stepped out and done that by myself, ever, so I think my confidence has just shot through the roof, that's the main thing for me, I could never have done that before and now I've got the confidence I can just get one with it." *Participant: Werrington*



OUR REVIEWS AND AWARDS

"I believe it will give them an alternative to their life of crime; it built their self esteem, helped them to see that there's more to life than the previous life, and we're very excited and enthralled about what they were doing."

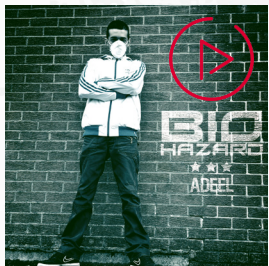
Phil Seadon: HMP & YOI Brinsford

"The quality of the art work produced by the young people involved was to a very high standard: participants were shortlisted and won prizes in the Summer Arts College competition. One of the images produced was entered for the prestigious Youth Justice Convention arts exhibition that is managed by the Koestler Trust."

Pip Labithiotis, Unitas

"A highly professional and responsive approach, whereby tutors tailor their working approach and activities to suit the learning styles of the participants, has clearly been embraced and fully utilised by the team to ensure that the objectives of the project were met, but never at the expense of the aims of the work."

Dr Ros Hall, Evaluation Trust



- Winner of 2 Unitas awards for artistic excellence
- Winner of 6 Summer arts college competitions
- In 2014 and 2015 our projects achieved a 100% pass rate on both bronze and silver awards
- Awarded the Community Justice Standard in 2015 in recognition of the quality of services provided to offenders and those at risk of offending.

A RESTORATIVE APPROACH

Character Creative embeds a 'restorative' framework throughout every course.

Restorative practices are about taking personal responsibility for our own actions. They demonstrate that by changing our actions, words and behaviour, we see change in the environment we live or work in.

Restorative Practices encourage people to follow steps of taking responsibility, valuing others, and repairing harm to support people to live restoratively.

Character Creative participants examine these steps and explore how restorative values can be implemented in their lives and the effect this would have on their own situations.

£8 in savings for every £1 spent on Restorative Justice

14% reduction in the frequency of reoffending after Restorative Justice

74% of offenders would recommend Restorative Justice to others

85% of crime victims who have been through Restorative Justice were satisfied with the process

78% of victims would recommend Restorative Justice to others

51% reduction in the frequency of suspensions in schools offering Restorative Justice



ART IS THE OVERFLOW OF EMOTION INTO ACTION

SAMPLE SESSION

EACH SESSION IS DESIGNED TO BE FUN AND FULL OF VARIETY WHILE ALSO ENSURING THAT LEARNING OUTCOMES ARE ACHIEVED .

- Warm up games and exercises
- Create ground rules and ensure a safe space
- Rate yourself - exploring where participants see their creative strengths and weaknesses
- Performance from artist and reviews from the crowd
- Movers and shakers - artists who make most, artists who fake most and artists who create work that inspires most
- Live lounge covers and songwriting skills
- My story lyrics - creating words to reflect participants' personal experiences
- Performance and celebration or work created in the day
- Re-rate yourself - evaluate the session and re-rate skills



SAMPLE TIMETABLE

BELOW IS A SAMPLE OF HOW A COURSE MIGHT BE STRUCTURED AND HOW WE EMBED THEMES ALONGSIDE THE ARTS PROVISION. CHARACTER CREATIVE PROJECTS ARE TAILORED TO EACH GROUP'S NEEDS AND CAN ADDRESS MULTIPLE ISSUES WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON ARTISTIC QUALITY.

TITLE	THEME	OUTPUTS	LEARNING OUTCOMES
<p>OUR HOUSE (SESSION 1)</p>	<p>VALUE OTHERS</p>	<p>ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES</p> <p>Life Map Writing Lyrics</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TEAMWORK SKILLS 2. THEME APPLICATION 3. CREATIVE WRITING 4. PART B AND C ARTS AWARD
<p>ME, MYSELF AND I (SESSION 2)</p>	<p>TAKE RESPONSIBILITY</p>	<p>CIRCLES OF SUPPORT</p> <p>Planning and rehearsing Record the track</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMMUNICATION SKILLS 2. UNDERSTANDING CONSEQUENCES 3. SELF ASSESSMENT 4. PART A ARTS AWARD
<p>STRONGER (SESSION 3)</p>	<p>REPAIR HARM</p>	<p>ACT OF RESTITUTION</p> <p>Filming Video production</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STORYBOARDING 2. PRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS 3. PART A ARTS AWARD
<p>UP AND UP (SESSION 4)</p>	<p>LIVE RESTORATIVELY</p>	<p>ACTION PLAN</p> <p>Premier & Press conference Celebration event</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SKILL SHARING 2. SETTING TARGETS 3. REVIEWING PROGRESS 4. GIVING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK 5. PART D ARTS AWARD



SAMPLE WORKSHEETS

OUR WORKSHEETS ARE DESIGNED TO BE ENGAGING AND GIVE CLEAR STRUCTURE FOR PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLORE THEMES SO THAT ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

Arts Leadership Teamwork Action Plan

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Names of people on the team: _____

What is the main aim of my/our project? _____

Notes on the plan...

Review: When and who will we review the planning process as we go along.

Safety: Health and safety issue may we need to consider.

Planning: How and when will we plan the content of the event or workshops and who can support this if we need it.

Timescale: When do we want the project to start and finish, and how many sessions or event do we plan to do

Resources: Equipment needed to run the project and where we can get it.

Promote: Advertise and spread word about what we are doing, what's the most effective way to reach the group we want to attract.

Feedback: How will we collect feedback about how the project went.

Recruit: How will we make sure we have enough recruits to run the project with or for?

Arts Leadership Teamwork Action Plan © Character Creative

Show Me

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Artist the group likes: I rate: ▲▼

RICH LIST

1	Earns: £.....	No.1 earns per day: (365 days in a year)	FULFILLMENT MONITOR
2	Earns: £.....	Top five are worth in total:	
3	Earns: £.....	Are they fulfilled or not?	
4	Earns: £.....	They made their money from?	
5	Earns: £.....		

No.1 Levels of Happiness

If I had that money... What reasons would you become an artist?

Celebrity quote about money: _____

Show Me © Character Creative

Sound Clouds Positive Lyrics

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Titles: _____

Artists: _____

Words and Phrases that stand out to you

What moods the tracks makes me feel

What themes did the Artist have in mind?

Make a T Shirt Slogan for the main message that you think sums up each song.

Which one would you prefer to wear and why?

What messages do you think are important to explore through lyrics?

Sound Clouds Positive Lyrics. © Character Creative

Rate Yourself

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Speaking clearly and projecting my voice		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Confidence in front of people		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Laughing at myself		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Sharing ideas		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Overcoming nerves		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Writing lyrics		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Remembering lines/actions		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Being part of a team		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Accepting criticism		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Performance skills		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Seeing a project through		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant
Feeling proud of myself		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brilliant

GOAL: What is a skill I'd like to improve and why?

Rate Yourself © Character Creative





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