

WATCH – We Are The Culture Happening

About WATCH:

WATCH – We Are The Culture Happening – is a youth-led organisation that works with schools, community groups, youth organisations and prisons to empower disadvantaged 13-26 year-olds. We do this through creative writing, performance, Spoken Word, and storytelling.

We are on a mission to ensure young people embrace their own unique personalities and address any anti-social characteristics in a non-judgmental, creative and inclusive way.

WATCH programmes:

WATCH programmes are individually tailored towards different age groups and varying abilities. We work with organisations to bring the WATCH 'magic' to disengaged young people. We are experts in our field; with us, there is no 'hard to reach'.

We understand that organisations have different budgets to work with and outcomes to meet.

WATCH are happy to adapt our programmes to meet specific needs, ensuring that outcomes are met and finance is not a barrier to inclusion.



Creative Masterclass:

The WATCH Masterclass offers a choice of interactive, up-beat 2-hour sessions; the sessions start with us getting to know the young people, igniting relatable conversations and encouraging debate on current issues from within their own communities. We eliminate any 'them and us' culture by communicating in a language they understand and relate to. Rooted in urban culture, our content acts as stimuli to get to the core of what they want, and need, to talk about. These conversations and debates inform their Spoken Word poems, which they then, with confidence, perform to their peers.



Ideas Journey:

The WATCH Ideas Journey is just that! Young people take part in weekly 2-hour sessions over the course of 6 weeks. We cover everything from debating to performing; the Ideas Journey involves us getting to know the young people on a deeper level. We find that as the project develops, the young people become more confident and trusting peer relationships begin to unfold. At the end of every WATCH Ideas Journey, we have a celebration event where they proudly perform their creative pieces for parents and carers, teachers and peers. This programme is especially effective for young people who have been identified as needing extra support.

Outcomes:

By taking part in WATCH programmes and 'owning their story', young people will:

- Develop greater confidence and enhanced self-esteem
- Demonstrate improved attitudes to learning
- Be less isolated and more able to talk openly about concerns
- Develop friendships and better relationships with their peers

Young people will be awarded the Official WATCH Certificate of Participation and be invited to be part of our inspirational social media platform where positivity is respected and championed.

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About the Founder:

Reuben Braithwaite (Abstract Benna) is a Spoken Word artist, author and storyteller. He has worked with various companies and grassroots organisations such as: BBC 5 Live, Roundhouse, Safer London, Evening Standard, Poetic Unity, National Lottery, and the National Gallery – just to name a few! His inspiration has been drawn from personal experience of growing up in South London, where crime was seen as a natural progression. He was impacted by his surroundings, where you were either in a gang, respected by gang members, or an outsider and a victim. Cultural pressures caused Reuben to coast through the education system as an introvert with low self-esteem and identity issues. Through urban music, Reuben followed his passion and discovered a natural talent for creative writing, storytelling and performance. The WATCH programme draws on these experiences and has created a relatable and inclusive space for young people from similar backgrounds to explore opportunities and realise their true potential.

Testimonies:

"The students enjoyed attending the sessions. Some really came out of their shells under Reuben's guidance – a highlight would be a student who refused to speak for quite a few sessions eventually reading her poem out." – Alice Tribe, teacher, Harris Academy

"I really liked taking part in the WATCH session. I thought I wasn't good at writing, but now I'm writing poems all the time and I know I can get my English GCSE." – Darren, 15, student

To find out more about costs and programmes, please contact Reuben Braithwaite at info@abstractbenna.com

WATCH facilitators are fully insured, hold enhanced DBS checks and have received NSPCC safeguarding training.