

Reality Boots - Impact Case study



In 2013 Skimstone Arts' band Reality Boots, made up of a diverse and at risk group of young musicians, was formed. Made up of passionate voices each with unique experiences, the band have composed and released two albums *Louder Than Words* and *Void/Evolve*, and toured their music around the region, visiting schools and colleges to inspire the next generation of young musicians.

In June 2022 Reality Boots toured the North East of England on a six-date tour. Working with other like-minded young musicians and artists across the region Reality Boots will create a number of powerful new songs, each inspired by the world that matters e.g. humanity, peace and our environment, that will be showcased as part of the tour. Partners include Standing Upright (North Tyneside), Jack Drum Arts (County Durham) and Band Jam at Musinc (Middlesbrough) as well as musician, rapper and actor Kema Kay who will each join Reality Boots to support a gig on their home turf.

Reality Boots new album *Breaking Barriers* will be launched in September 2022

Outputs/outcomes

- Since launching Reality Boots, 26 diverse young people have gained experience with and performed together as a band
- 14 Associate Artists and musicians have been employed to mentor and nurture the vast talent of band members
- Young people have learned skills across songwriting, performance, collaborative working and music tuition across a range of musical instruments
- As part of the 2022 tour, Skimstone Arts will support Reality Boots to deliver 10 songwriting workshops with partner music groups to co-create 4 new songs on themes of social action and environment

Impact

- The project has supported young people to have opportunities for paid artistic development and also leadership skills. They have gained experience and understanding of different roles involved in managing a tour and planning an album launch including marketing, event management and stage management.

Feedback

'My favourite part was being with Reality Boots and working together to write a new song which we debuted on 24 June (2022) ...I would like to do more workshops with them in the future because it was pretty fun, and everything was good, well good' **Musician, Jack Drum Arts**

Audience feedback

"It gave performers (the chance) to express their feelings through music and a chance to do what they enjoy "

"Great to hear some great personal lyrics - fighting stereotypes and hearing a range of people."

"Showing young talent. Giving people opportunities to perform."

"Great performance." "Lovely music and singing."