JAMES JACKSON

PROJECT DIRECTOR

"DO MORE. GET INVOLVED IN MORE PROJECTS. BE PUNK ABOUT IT."

EDUCATION: BA UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN FILM MAKING AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES / PGCERT DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT / PTLLS TEACHING CERTIFICATE
LOCATION: ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY/ BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY/ HAVERING COLLEGE
CURRENT POSITION: PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
LOCATION: HAVERING CHANGING

Q Did your creative education help towards your current career?
A Absolutely. My creative education helped me to learn in general. It was only through creative subjects and projects that I realised that I have my own style of learning. We all do, but I always thought I was doing something wrong in more traditional subjects and couldn't learn them. But through creative subjects like Drama and Design I realised I have a creative learning style. I need to talk through problems with a teacher/mentor/coach, have to find inspiration through creative research from soundtracks to mood boards and I need some quiet space to figure it out. I now use this whenever I have any project at work in my career. Without a creative education I would have never have been able to get to where I am now.

Q Do you feel at an advantage for studying a creative subject?
A I think that Creative Subjects teach you about craft.

That it is only by developing everyday habits and sitting down to do the work that you improve at something. Lots of other subjects it feel like your studying to get a certificate, but with Creative Subjects you get real, proper skills. The type that will actually help you in life and at work.

Q How did you find out about opportunities in your interested field?
A It's all about networks and relationships for me. I hate networking, never know what to say, but I love people and talking about what I'm passionate about. So I guess what I am trying to say, is find and create informal communities of like minded people who share your passions. Then your mates will tell you about opportunities. The other thing is to stay up-to-date use LinkedIn, check Arts Jobs, find organisations you like and check their vacancies once a week. Also be cheeky, when you know you want to work somewhere pluck up the courage to tell them, in a friendly way. They might have opportunities that they need to fill and you'll be at the front of the queue.

Compose

The Appleby Gallery

NO Collective

JAMES JACKSON

PROJECT DIRECTOR

"DO MORE. GET INVOLVED IN MORE PROJECTS. BE PUNK ABOUT IT."

EDUCATION: BA UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN FILM MAKING AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES / PGCERT DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT / PTLLS TEACHING CERTIFICATE
LOCATION: ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY/ BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY/ HAVERING COLLEGE
CURRENT POSITION: PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
LOCATION: HAVERING CHANGING

Q Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give to your younger self?
A Do MORE. Get involved in more projects. Be punk about it. I always worried that I didn't know enough to get started. But you only learn through doing. I'd just tell my younger self to go for it.

Q All career paths require self determination and hard work, how did you navigate this?
A I came out of Uni straight into a recession. There were no jobs in the industries I wanted to work in for graduates without experience. So I had to do other things, work in a bookshop, teach creative media, work in a youth centre before I got a break in the arts and culture industry. But I learned so much about myself and work by doing this. I would never change that now. I met and worked with wonderful people. Sometimes it doesn't work out how you want, but it doesn't stop you being creative in other jobs.

Q Why do you think creatives are important in society?
A Everyone is creative. I think it is what makes us human. Life is constantly changing and we have to adapt. To do this we use our creativity. It is absolutely essential to who we are, individually and in society. And with some of the problems we are facing as a community now, creativity has never been more important.

Q What is the best thing about being a creative?
A That it's a craft and there is something new to learn and practise everyday.

Compose

The Appleby Gallery

NO Collective