

UK Talents Perform in Budapest

ABi Talents Collaborate with Youths and Professionals Across Europe

On 26th February 2010, five British youngsters showcased their creative talents by performing at the closing party of the Tuning into Diversity 2010 Conference in the Hungarian Capital of Budapest. Over 200 media professionals from across Europe saw an exciting and innovative show, designed and performed by thirty young talents from the ROOTS & ROUTES project and supported by professional coaches and experts from the music, media and dance sectors

The Budapest show is the latest showcasing opportunity from ROOTS & ROUTES (www.rootsnroutes.eu) initiative, a pan European network for the promotion of cultural and social diversity in contemporary performing arts and media

The UK participants, photographer Saira Awan, singers Ava B and Justine Francis, dancer Georgia Copeland-Angus and MC/Rapper/ Poet Aaron Roach Bridgeman all gained from this week long experience. Aaron Bridgeman, who was asked to open the show and recited a poem he had specifically written for Budapest said, "Budapest was great and I feel emotional even after arriving back to London about this experience. We made so many friends from across Europe and learned so much from these highly young talents."

Saira Awan, a senior ROOTS & ROUTES talent adds "Having selected the new talents from the UK to participate in this project, I was not disappointed in their commitment, professionalism and drive throughout the whole process. All the youths worked very hard to ensure that the show was a success and an enjoyable experience".

In the UK, ABi is hosting the ROOTS & ROUTES Academy, a two year international training programme (running simultaneously in France, Germany, Hungary and The Netherlands) for a select group of young talents who have the ambition to become coaches and trainers in the music, media and dance sectors. "We teach our young talents the principles and techniques of selling, developing portfolios and making money out of their given talent, explains Vijay Amin, ABi's Managing Director. "We will show them opportunities available to them both within their chosen sector and outside their artistic sectors.

Brief profile of the UK participants in Budapest

Justine Francis (aka Ms.Darks, www.msdarks.wordpress.com) is a music artist - Rapper, Producer, Song writer & Engineer. She began making music from the tender age of 8, for fun. Ms Darks is now 18 and is making a steady career out of it with 4 Street Albums/Mixtapes, 3 promo CDs and 2 official music videos. Ms.Darks feels she still has so much more to prove!

Aaron Roach Bridgeman (www.rootsnroutes.eu/video-id837) is a talented and confident Journalist, Actor, Poet, MC/Rapper and Host. With such an extensive array of skills within Media embellished with an extremely humble personality, Aaron conveys himself as an amazing candidate for this programme, not to mention a talent to definitely look out for in the future.

Ava B (www.myspace.com/avabmusicworld) is by far one of the most talented actress and singer/songwriters to have come out of the funky house scene. Her versatile style, originality and consciousness in her work, combined with her strong passion for music, performing and acting, makes her an all round entertainer.

Georgia Copeland-Angus (www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5J0Aq-JHWQ) has been dancing for 5 years and is Creative Director/Choreographer of Dance collective 'Fusion' (formed 2008). Fusion have performed throughout the Midlands/UK, won competitions and featured in UK Music Videos. Georgia taught at Nottingham organisations 'Take 1 Studios' and 'QMX Dance School' and taught/trained at Brant Lake Dance Camp, New York State, US (Summer 2009).

Saira Awan (www.saiphotography.com) is a professional female freelance photographer, based in London and operating all over the world. Her passion for the visual arts is what pulled her into the photography world and is what has kept her there. Clients include: BBC, BAFTA, Barclays, Club Asia, Eddie Kadi (1xtra), Flavour magazine, Media Moguls, Royal Opera House, Steve Smart (Kiss 100 DJ). Sai has exhibited her work in numerous venues across Europe including: BAFTA head office in London (UK), No Label festival in Utrecht (Netherlands) and Roots and Routes in Lille (France).