

YOUR SCHOOL IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR NEXT *LET'S MAKE A MOVIE* PROJECT

A KICK IN THE GRASS – film project and red carpet premiere screening ALL STARS event in Norwich

Shoot dates APRIL 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2015

Screening event 2nd week of May tbd 2015

Dear Head Teacher,

In December 2014, based on the success of our pilot film project MY NAME IS ALLEN, GR8 AS U R was awarded £10,000 by the Ben Cohen Stand Up Foundation. The next film we are making is called A KICK IN THE GRASS about a young boy who is a Super Fan of The Canaries. (*please see attached synopsis*) Because of the football theme, we have been lucky enough to secure the support of **Norwich City Football Club** who have asked one of their players to feature in the film.

CASTING: We have a *limited number* of places for children to be cast members of the film. Do you know of children in your school who are being bullied who would benefit from being involved? We'd also like to include children whose confidence is not what it could be, who might also enjoy being part of the film. We have proven that being involved in the filmmaking process can be very empowering.

PROCESS: There will be an audition session at the end of March, two days filming and a third shoot day to participate in a short video talking about their experiences with GR8 AS U R. During all three days, GR8 AS U R will supervise *arts and crafts* for the children while they *hurry up and wait* to be filmed in the Green Room/holding area. The resulting artwork will be exhibited at the screening event.

SCREENING EVENT: The project will culminate in a premiere screening event of A KICK IN THE GRASS at a central location in Norwich. There will be a *Red Carpet* and a *Step and Repeat* where the children will have their photos taken like the film stars they are. We will screen both GR8 AS U R films for the children, their families and friends, press and local dignitaries. They will also be invited to learn the GR8 AS U R songs that have been specially written for us and participate in the evening's performances.

LAUNCH: We would like your school to be part of this evening as it will also be the soft launch of GR8 AS U R into the Norfolk community and will be the place we announce the support of our many generous sponsors which includes Norfolk County Council.

Here's a link to a film showing how we made the first movie with testimonials from The Bishop Of Norwich on Radio 4, the children and their parents who took part. It includes one of our GR8 AS U R songs the children will learn. <https://vimeo.com/117615296>

And here is the film we made: MY NAME IS ALLEN <https://vimeo.com/97034436>

Time is of the essence to secure our cast so if you would like you school to be involved, please call as soon as possible:

Jacqueline Hitchcock-Wyatt 07867 430 508 OR Alexandra Boyd 07824 701 412

Jacqueline@GR8ASUR.com and Alexandra@GR8ASUR.com

We can't wait to hear from you!

GR8 AS U R

31 Grove Walk, Norwich NR1 2QG

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Synopsis - A KICK IN THE GRASS a short film by ALEXANDRA BOYD.

Danny is a Super Fan of **Norwich City Football Club**. He wears his replica kit under his school uniform. His bedroom is a tsunami of green and yellow posters of his favourite players. However, he doesn't fit in at his new school. He's picked on and excluded by a group of kids who's ringleader makes sure he knows he's not wanted in their activities like the Wednesday Football Club. He makes a friend called Charlie. She has spotted his NCFC strip under his uniform and is a huge fan too. They have a chat about their favourite players, but she quickly leaves when she sees the bullies approaching. She's afraid of being seen with Danny incase she is bullied too.

After school Danny is playing keep-uppy on his own but the bullies steal his football. He doesn't fight back, he just walks home alone.

In his bedroom Danny lies on his bed staring at a poster of his favourite NCFC player looking for some help? Inspiration? Anything? None comes. His mum calls him to go down to tea, when he gets up, we see he is dressed from head to toe in the NCFC strip. He eats and sleeps in it.

At Wednesday Football Club the bullies are playing with Danny's ball. The P E Teacher asks him if he wants to join in. A look from the ringleader tells Danny he should decline so he does. He goes to the other end of the field and sits alone. The football club ends, the teacher goes home and the bullies walk over to Danny. Charlie sees them and tries to stand up for Danny and protect him, but the bullies chant at her to "Go home! Go home!!". She is frightened and leaves. The ringleader knocks Danny to the ground and smashes his face into the mud. The ringleader snaps a photo of Danny with his phone. His mates say they will post it on Facebook.

Then something weird and wonderful happens. Music starts to play and a pair of football boots step into frame. Danny looks up and sees a pair of yellow socks with green tops, yellow shorts and a shirt... they are worn by the **NCFC FOOTBALL PLAYER**, Danny's football hero from his poster in the bedroom.

The footballer helps Danny to his feet. Danny looks about the field but all the kids have gone. It is empty. Is this really happening? The footballer and Danny begin to knock the ball about. The player coaches Danny and gives him tips. He picks up the shiny new football and gives it to Danny as a souvenir.

The next day at school Charlie asks where he got the new football. In the break, Danny tells her all about the footballer. She warns him not to tell anyone about what happened. If they think you have one up on them, that's a sure way to get beaten up again.

On another day the bullies taunt and call out names to Danny. It makes him sad. Charlie tries to defend him but the bullies frighten her away. This has been going on a long time now and he begins to cry. The ringleader calls him a Cry Baby and the others join in.

On a train bridge Danny is about to throw himself under an approaching train. He climbs the wall and is about to jump off but is grabbed by a pair of strong hands which pull him to safety. He turns around to see it is the **NCFC FOOTBALL PLAYER** who has saved his life.

The **NCFC FOOTBALLER** and Danny play football again. Over the footballer's shoulder we see the bullies approaching. Danny can see them but says nothing. The footballer turns and the bullies are gobsmacked to see who it is. The footballer looks at Danny as if to say "Are these weird kids your friends?" Danny pauses for a second and then invites them to join in the game. They play with the footballer who coaches and shouts encouragement.

In the final scene the bullies' ringleader and Danny pass the ball to each other down the field. Danny receives the ball and shoots at the goal. He scores!!! Everyone cheers!!

The final tableaux is of the **NCFC FOOTBALLER** and Danny as they make the GR8 ASUR 'Thumbs Up' sign to each other.

THE END

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BULLIED CHILDREN TRANSFORMED BY MAKING A MOVIE AND THEN PREMIERED THEIR FILM AT THE GR8 AS U R ALL STARS SHOWCASE

On Easter Saturday 2014 **GR8 AS U R** took a professional film crew to a school in Norwich and shot a film called MY NAME IS ALLEN.

The goal of the day was to create a short film that shows the tragic outcome of severe bullying on one little boy. **GR8 AS U R** is presently showing the finished film to celebrities and high ranking dignitaries and adding their support to a growing number of people who recognise how vital it is that this important anti-bullying program be put into our schools.

See photos of the shoot and the short film that we made here.

<https://vimeo.com/98273715>

Many of the children cast in the film were victims of bullying so filming a story that outlined some of their experiences might have been painful. And indeed some were apprehensive about taking part. However the outcome for all of them was extraordinary. What **GR8 AS U R** did not expect was the way everyone involved in the day, both children and parents, were transformed by being there with the film crew and making a film.

The Bishop of Norwich was there early in the day to shoot a testimonial to camera. He eloquently underscored how important it is to stop bullying before it starts and pledged his support for the **GR8 AS U R** program going into schools. And after he saw a montage of the onset photographs of the shoot he was moved enough to make what he had observed the theme of his *Thought for Today* podcast on Radio 4 - <https://vimeo.com/96301322>

The Bishop said: "Many, if not all, of the children had been the target of bullies. They were brave to be there. Some were very apprehensive. But a professional film crew have a magnetic effect so there was excitement too. The story line required some of the children to act the role of a bully. That was a big challenge for them. Even being filmed acting as a victim of bullying was forbidding, despite their first-hand experience."

"Yesterday I saw the stills from the film shoot, including a lot of photos of the children after it was over. Their apprehension had gone. They were smiling broadly, injected with new life. The connection with Easter suddenly struck me. The filming had given them a new freedom. They were empowered."

Bishop of Norwich, Thought For The Day BBC Radio 4

Quotes from parents and children after their day with **GR8 AS U R** and their film crew:

- **Ellie Bea – Co-founder of Bullying Stinkz – age 16:** "What made the day for me was seeing the kids get so excited about filming. The film crew were so respectful of everyone; they let the kids hold their equipment, they weren't patronising and they were inclusive which made the kids feel special."
- **Mother, teacher and parent:** "I think your project is going to change children's lives - and their parents."
- **Child age 11** - "I helped the film crew. I loved it"
- **Child age 7** - "Everyone played with me and let me join in"
- **Parent of two:** "I've never seen them run around and have fun with other kids before. It made my day and it was great to talk to other parents who've been through the mill too."
- **Parent of 3:** "What a lovely film crew. Thank you so much for asking us to be part of this. What a privilege."



- **Boy of 8:** *"I didn't know I could be that good"*
- **Parent of boy playing lead role:** *"He was a different person at the end of the day. When he arrived he thought he couldn't act. Now look at him"*
- **Older boy age 16:** *"I was scared of playing a bully in case other people thought I was one, but I did it because I want to stop others being bullied like me"*
- **Parent and teacher:** *"What you are doing is fantastic. I want to help in anyway I can."*

A link to the slideshow The Bishop saw is here: <https://vimeo.com/98024825>

ALL STARS SHOWCASE and FILM SCREENING

On MAY 23RD the children who were involved in the film performed songs and poems at the **GR8 AS U R ALL STARS SHOWCASE** in Thorpe. They also got to see the film they made for the first time.

The evening was hosted by ALEXANDRA BOYD, www.alexandraboyn.co.uk Alexandra is a film and TV actress (*Mr Holland's Opus, Titanic and Coronation Street*) a screenwriter and film producer. She is a director of **GR8 AS U R** and was also the director and producer of the MY NAME IS ALLEN.

HARD OUTCOME:

SIX MONTHS LATER... The mother of two of the children posted this to Facebook
*"I am so proud of my little man. He is running for school council because he thinks everyone should believe how great they are & no-one should be bullied. His 1st 4 years of school he was bullied constantly He stopped speaking, eating & cried most of the time. Thanks to [GR8 As U R](#) & his new school he has so much confidence he wants to make sure no-one else goes threw the hell he did. well done Marley ur 1 in a million xxxx
Thank you GR8 As U R"*

ABOUT GR8 AS U R

GR8 AS U R was started by mother and daughter Jacqueline and Ellie Bea Hitchcock-Wyatt, as a direct result of the bullying Ellie Bea and her twin brother experienced for 8 years in 4 different schools in Norwich. **GR8 AS U R** introduces a fundamentally unique approach to bullying based on STOPPING IT BEFORE IT STARTS and teaching every child you are GR8 AS U R.

For more information about **GR8 AS U R** visit www.gr8asur.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/GR8-As-U-R/1474695829462928>

ENDS

Contact details: Jacqueline Hitchcock-Wyatt – GR8 AS U R Co-Founder and Director
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Alexandra Boyd – GR8 AS U R Director and Independent Filmmaker
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Cazanne: parent of two children who have both been severely bullied, one of whom stopped eating because of it, said, ***"I've never seen them run around and have such fun with other children before and it made my day".***

