

ENGAGE YOUNG LONDON

Making London a city of opportunity for all

2011



Things you can do

Join local youth action groups,
learn street cuisine and more



The Social Net Worx

Help others to get online –
and pick up skills yourself

Hey Peabody!

Peabody Hill
residents catch up
with Kat Boyce



Read the interview on page 2



PEABODY

The multi-talented Kat Boyce has worked as a comedian, dance instructor and DJ in his time. Peabody Hill residents Melissa Jones and Benedicte McKenzie caught up with him earlier this year at Peabody's Staying Safe event in Waterloo.

Hey Peabody!

How was your time at the Forest Gate youth club?

It was good. My work started as a dance project. It was only supposed to be three weeks long, then it went on for 10-12 years until I thought 'I want to do something else'. I was unemployed for three months because I wanted to be a presenter.

The third month, I got a call asking me to go to dance for MTV. I went off to Newcastle and got talking to the boss of MTV Base. Through that, they gave me a screen test and I've not looked back since. I've been travelling the world with them.

Have you been back to the youth club?

I went back the other day and it's a learning centre. My world is so different now to the world that they know.

Do you still teach? Not now, though, anybody I've taught can be blindfolded and they'll know their dance routine inside out.

What type of dance did you teach?

Everything – street, ballet. From nine in the morning to four, they'd be doing dance. They learnt self-defence too.

Why self-defence? So they could protect themselves. Girls and boys. I taught them to be quick so they could escape, not to stand head to head.

What do you think of young people today?

It's reach one, teach one. If one person listens out of the millions here, I've done my job.

I've got a dog and he's highly trained. Some people don't bring up their dog properly...

...Like children? Yes, same as children. You need boundaries. If you don't set boundaries, people think "I'll do what I want." So you say "this is what I expect from you," then it works.

Our group was pristine. High class. Everybody wanted to be in it. If you're not taking what you want to achieve seriously, you're not taking your life seriously.

What influenced you? I wasn't a bad child but it was easy for me not to do things. My cousin said one day "You can't be doing this nonsense. Take things to the next level."

What advice would you give to young people? There's no limit to what you can do – only the limits of your own imagination.

Sometimes, people will try and hold you back but leave that negative energy with them. You also need to say to people: if you got no direction in your life, you're not spending time with me because you'll hold me back.

If you've done something wrong, say "yes, I did it". Once you've owned it, say "That's it!". No one can say anything more.



Peabody Hill residents Melissa Jones (left), 20, and Benedicte McKenzie, 13, with Kat Boyce.

Has anything changed since you were growing up?

There's always change, it's where you focus your heart and brain. Believe in yourself! Be a leader, even if it means you are walking for years by yourself, don't worry, people will come around to your way of thinking.

Some people have no jobs but everything goes in a circle. Don't be ashamed to ask people for help because that's what people are there for. Let people earn your respect to be your friend. Know your worth.

Make your parents proud. Doesn't matter what you do, take pride in it and be careful who you choose to have around you.

Do you have a special message for young people from Peabody? Hey Peabody – and everyone who's young across London! Keep doing your thing! Keep climbing and keep aspiring. Remember that everyone has a sell-by date so don't make yours premature. Just like Samuel L. Jackson said, it's all about longevity. Katman signing out...

Staying Safe

Staying Safe is a youth-led initiative, funded by the Big Lottery, which operates in Lambeth, Southwark and Islington. Three separate steering groups, made up of young people aged between 11 and 19, will campaign on issues of safety, raise awareness and work with young people affected by knife, gun and gang crime. **For further information, please contact Jenavi Omoma on 020 7021 4126 (Jenavi.Omoma@peabody.org.uk)**



Our Say, Our Way

When you want to make your voice heard

Do you want to make a difference? The Our Say, Our Way project, funded by the Big Lottery, is led by young people who want to have a voice in their communities.

You can join local youth action groups, take part in paid or voluntary training or work placements, or learn how to develop and maintain the Our Say, Our Way website (www.oursay-ourway.co.uk, pictured).

You can also sit on the Our Say, Our Say Steering group and make a difference to the lives of other young people across the country.



If you want to get involved or find out more contact Richard Griffith on 020 7021 4079 (Richard.Griffith@peabody.org.uk)

Our Say Our Way was set up by Peabody and its partners CBHA, Home Group Limited and Chester and District Housing Trust.

TALK TALK



Sharon Karikari (above), 16, attends the Girls' Club at Pembury and works on a magazine project called MindRight. She enjoys art and drama and her long-term ambition is to be a forensic psychologist. She interviews Sandra Skeete, below right, Peabody's Executive Director of Customer Services.

How long have you been working at Peabody? I joined Peabody in September 2007.

Why did you choose to work in housing? I always knew I would be working in an area where I would be providing services to people. I became conscious of how important housing was. Bad housing affects people's health and without housing it's difficult to get a job, for example, or hold down a relationship.

If you weren't a director, what else would you have wanted to do? I didn't really set out to be a director, I set out to work in housing. Architecture also interested me and I was also into art – I'd like to go back to it one day.

The law interests me too. Working in housing often includes some aspect of the law. So, my interests in law and architecture are not a million miles away from what I'm doing now.

Who inspires you?

For me, it's about people with a strong sense of social justice who stand up for what they believe in. The first inspiration has to be my parents. I respect and admire what they have been through and sacrificed to come to this country.

I'm also inspired by women who achieve, especially those with children. I have two children myself, aged 15 and 16.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to completely chill out. I'm not into Twitter and Facebook because I prefer to go and see my friends and family. I like to go out at the weekend. I read a lot of newspapers and go on the internet. I'm interested in politics too and also like to travel.

What advice would you give to young people unemployed people in London?

I know how soul-destroying it can be. In the 1980s my dad lost his job and I saw how it affected his self-esteem.

I would say, try not to lose hope and confidence because, without those, it's really difficult to see an opportunity in front of you. Also, keep active but I know that's not always easy when you don't have money.

Maybe volunteer – it could potentially open doors. I've volunteered myself.

Also, think long and hard about turning down opportunities. You don't know who you're going to meet. Ask people to help you. Most people will try to help you on your way. The worst thing is losing confidence and feeling that there's nothing this life has to offer. So, do things you enjoy. If you're into sport, keep doing the sport. Just try and stay active.

What can Peabody do for young people?

There are a number of things. Peabody has youth clubs and volunteering opportunities. We also have training courses to help young people develop skills to help them access employment.

What do you do with work problems you can't fix? No one is an expert at everything. It's not necessarily a failure to need help. Go to someone and talk through things, that's normally the best way of coming up with solutions.

What music and designers do you like?

I like hip hop, R&B and soul but I've got a broad span of musical tastes. I love soca and calypso too – my family come from Barbados!

I like Phillippe Starck – he's an interior designer and I'm into interior design. But I don't own many designer clothes, I can name fashion designers but I'm not really into them. I like simple, elegant clothes. As long as it's 'me', I'm not into a particular look.

A longer version of this interview is available on the Peabody website

THINGS TO DO

In the hoop

Live in or near Islington and interested in basketball?

Call Brandon Bethel (07540 273843) or Junior Spence (07949 471217) to find out about free basketball sessions.



On your bike

If you and your friends want to learn how to fix your bikes, we can set up a project for you (we need eight of you to start). It's all free. Interested? Call our Activate hotline on 0800 587 8215.

Street cuisine

Something's cooking at the Barnsbury Youth Club in N1. If you're aged between 11-18, why not join the Street Cuisine cooking course on Thursday evenings, 7pm-9pm. Hungry for more information? Call Susan Morgan on 020 7021 4591.



Fashion

We're running courses for girls at the Pembury

Girls' club in Hackney where you can learn about design, jewellery-making and fashion makeovers (the project is funded by Children in Need). **Session times: Ages 10-14** – Tuesday evenings, 6pm-8pm and Saturday mornings, 11am-1pm. **Ages 14-18** – Saturday afternoons, 1pm-3pm. **Contact Natalie. Bell@peabody.org.uk or call 07713 083 995 if you'd like to join.**

Green fingers?



If everything you touch turns to green, you might want to get involved in Capital Growth, a campaign which supports food-growing spaces across London. **Contact Layla Conway on 020 7021 4228 (Layla.Conway@peabody.org.uk) to find out more.**



Summer schools

If you're aged between 8 and 18 and interested in law, politics or the sciences, a limited number of bursaries – covering up to 90% of course fees – are available for the Debate Chamber's 2011 summer schools at Birkbeck and the University of London Union. **Contact Patrice Eriata to find out about courses and for advice about how we can help (Patrice.Eriata@peabody.org.uk, tel: 020 7021 4502)**



The apprentice



Sabrina Campbell (right), 19, joined Peabody in March 2010. She works in Youth Services and tells us why she hopes to hear the words "you're hired".

"I had quite a good upbringing, and I've got some decent qualifications – not a lot because I was quite troubled in school.

"I always stuck with my interest in youth work which kept me motivated because I wasn't great at other subjects.

"I started volunteering at 14 years old, year 9, in my local youth club. I knew the leader there. He saw I had potential and thought I'd be a great youth worker one day so I guess I stuck with it because that was all I had. I definitely enjoyed it, though.

"I came to Peabody because a youth worker put my name down for an apprenticeship and I went through an interview process at Conel College.

"Hopefully, after my time at Peabody, I'll find employment in some kind of youth services. I'm continuing to build up my portfolio now, preparing myself for interviews.

"I've done so much in Peabody. As a youth worker, we are very involved with young people and the community. I've been involved in a fun day at Kings Cross, been responsible for a youth action group in Peabody Hill and I'm currently working

on a magazine project on Tuesday evenings at the Digital Learning Centre in Pembury.

"I like the fact that the work is front-line. I am involved with young people on a direct basis. Getting involved with them, doing activities – I keep an open mind about how people feel nowadays and how they are pressured into so many things around them and how they maintain themselves regardless of what the media says – the media puts down young people, talking about youth crime and lack of education etc.

"I think every day and every time Peabody Youth Services come into contact with a young person we try to make a difference. We try our best to engage them in positive activities and encourage them to participate.

"Youth work is a good career but I won't lie, it's challenging. Time and time again society fills young people with false hopes so I try to keep everything real and keep them motivated.

"When you come into youth work you need to know about boundaries, about being respectful to young people, trying to understand them. A lot of youth services have a lack of understanding about young people so you need to be on their level to see where they are coming from but I'm enjoying it – of course!"

Peabody has pledged that up to 5 per cent of all new employees will be apprentices

Hackney host



We're joining forces with Hackney Council to deliver an exciting new volunteering project in the heart of East London. If you're a Hackney resident, here's a chance to help out in the run-up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by getting involved in events and activities across the borough.

If you'd like to find out more about the project, please contact Karthiga Kulendran on 020 7021 4154 or email Karthiga.Kulendran@peabody.org.uk.

Other volunteering opportunities:

Would you like to volunteer your time to help others? There are lots of things you can do. **Email us to find out more at your.time@peabody.org.uk**

On track

Would you like to produce your own music?



If you're aged between 16 and 24*, you can find out about music creation in a fully equipped studio. You'll learn about:

- Pre-production and studio training
- Digital recording equipment
- Musical instruments and equipment
- Song-writing
- Producing a CD
- Web design and IT
- Event organising and showcasing

Joining the On track programme is free.

If you're interested, please contact our Bruce House Centre in WC2 on 020 7021 4160

**Some additional restrictions may apply.*

NET WORX



Robert McNeil, 20, works on our Net Worx programme, teaching older people computer skills. He talks below about his experiences and background.

"I was sent by the Job Centre to Groundwork, London. They do the Future Job Funded six-month contract with companies, which is good for work experience as I've not had previous employment but I've been to college. A lot of jobs I've applied for require experience so it's good just to get me started.

"I started working for Peabody on 6 January. I come to the Gateway centre three days a week and I help people get basic computer skills and show them how to log onto UK Online that they can then help themselves. I also go to Lillie Road in West Brompton on Wednesdays.

"I got involved mainly for work experience. I'd like to move into full-time work. I enjoy working on Net Worx and would recommend it to others".

Net Worx helps older residents to get online. If you're interested and want more information, or want to volunteer with us, **please contact Sabrina Jantuah on 07534 282 184 (Sabrina.Jantuah@peabody.org.uk)**

Contacts

Reconnect to work

If you're 16+ and unemployed, or working less than 16 hours a week, we can help. Our workshops are friendly and supportive and you'll get one-to-one help in finding a job, including advice about CVs, interviews and more. Call **020 7021 4160** for further information.

Employment & training

We've got local learning centres across London which offer free programmes and activities, including help with finding work through job clubs. Call our free hotline number on **0800 587 8215** to find out what's going on near you.

Youth services

Our youth services offer opportunities for children and young people to develop life skills, personal growth and self-esteem through a variety of activities. Contact Sharon Barbour at **Sharon.Barbour@peabody.org.uk (020 7021 4692)** to find out more.