

7: Inmate JA*

01

02

03 E- What did you think about the Makeright project?

04 J- Found it very interesting, very helpful. Found out I can be very creative very helpful so I found out I can make a lot of things from just scratch. Opened a lot of options for me so that good. Teachers as well, volunteers, good experience .

 FIRST sentence

05 E- What options?

06 J- I can go out and make more stuff than just obviously sewing my shirts and well I said to Pras that I probably buy some machines and practice at home when I got spare time if I have spare time but yeah... was really good. Found a lot of people, spoke to a lot of people spoke to a lot of people yesterday from a lot of areas.

07 E- How was yesterday?

08 J- Was good, it was good. I lost my voice so that's a good thing, being pooled to the centre but yeah it was really good, really good and I like the way the stalls were made up. It was really well done.

09 E- Have you experienced anything like that before?

10 J- What, with a loads of people coming?

11 E- Well that, as well but...

12 J- Well when I was obviously when I was in the Raisin in the Sun a lot of media came but...

13 E- Theatre...

14 J-Yes.

15 E- What about design - any courses like this?

16 J- Only images and software but is completely different because is all computer based. I think the only other thing is when I was in school doing **cdt** so that was...

17 E- How was school for you?

18 J- Well what I can remember of it because it was like what we are talking over 20 years now so so it was really good as I said is funny when you do it now here oh yes I used to do that but you just used to

mess around with your grandma's machines and when you were at school you used to do small stuff and is interesting that I can still remember stuff like that and be more creative.

19 E- How was... learning when you went to school... was there anything in particular that you didn't like or you did like, your type of learning?

20 J- I don't know, it is a weird one, I mainly liked everything really I mean I was more of a sports athlete so obviously I was taking I was in the RAF as well am... and I was doing a lot of extra activities as well so running for the .. and stuff but it didn't interfere with my workload obviously I went to college I went to university so you know.

21 E- What did you study?

22 J- Accounts, bussiness studies and accounts and obviously I got into that field and thats what I am going back to so... I mean initially I wanted to be a pilot but what happened was we had black and white boards so is obviously you know chalk, it used to be chalk then it turned into obviously the colours the board they were telling me you can't be colour blind, back then we didn't know if we were or we weren't. Well we can test you if you are colour blind and that so that went out the window but I made up for it being in the RAF so I was flying planes and stuff so that was the next level for me and then I just...

23 E- Were you flying planes?

24 J- Yes in the RAF yes. Went out the weekends fly like a ... bulldog...

25 E-Forgive my ignorance, but I really don't know what you are talking about - you have to explain a bit.

26 J- Ok so you know smaller planes the ones you see on the films the old films so I was flying that I got my wings as well so I could actually go and say i can be a pilot now give me some more training and I could do it.

27 E- Is that what you want to do?

28 J- No I just want to go to IT I always been messing around with it but never finished , go back to accounts and IT. The Raisin in the Sun they want me to come and mentor young kids and play new instruments so it can be very busy when I am outside.

29 E- What are your skills that you bring into the Makeright project?

30 J- Me? I don't know. My imagination I think. Without that I don't think I would have make a bag, obviously someone to look up to that inspired me to push through and finish the bag unlike certain people but overall I think I learned a lot of skills obviously working with each other, team work, patience, and yes, perseverance as well. So I have picked up quite a lot.

31 E- Why patience? How do you learn patience?

32 J- As I said, making a bag obviously I changed the bag quite a lot. Obviously my sketchbook is full of designs I was thinking of the bag and then just guided through. You get the stitch wrong, then you have to unpick it... then you have to do it again so obviously that takes a lot of patience because you know if I didn't probably would say - oh forget it - but I persevered. And then I thought, right I am going to do this, and I thought right if I am going to do it this way. Even the case with the zip when I do the zip and I accidentally sew it. Oh, I just sewn it, unpicked it oh hold on I can put another top on that so you can't see the zip and then put a top on top of it which a lot of people enjoyed so, yes so is really good.

33 E- What would you say you were comfortable with or uncomfortable with?

34 J- I don't know. I think I was uncomfortable obviously when you told us that we needed to make a bag but I think when I got into it obviously doing the designs and then getting into it I felt comfortable. I mean people here is good to work with. Obviously you have loud people, quiet people but I get on with it got on with people we were helping each other so yes, that's about it I think.

35 E- What would you say were the most memorable moments?

36 J- Finishing a bag, and then getting so much praise for it. My videos all over the web and everything I didn't expect that.. just being here, having the opportunity to do it you know. I think that was the biggest achievement for me obviously I stuck it out I had the opportunity to do it because when I first heard it out I thought oh.. I just want to work nothing else. But when I got to do the bag I thought oh yeah, and helping other people who just started up because I know certain things about the machine... is rewarding so.

37 E- Did you tell anyone about this project?

38 J- Well (...) put in a course and there is a few others that I put in the

course that are waiting so I think what it was I think it was S that first kind of it wasn't S - it was K, K was telling me and obviously I spoke to Pras and I was like - yes, I definitely give it a go because I thought yes something more to add to my resume to say yes I have done this and yes I really enjoyed it but yes I said quite a few people but obviously there is a waiting list for textiles should be.

39 E- What about outside - did you tell anyone outside?



40 J- Yes, obviously I told my other half that I made that I made a bag for her so is quite happy. Obviously she came when I was in the play as well so she is obviously happy that I am keeping positive and doing stuff positively. So yes... a lot of people know about it and as I said is worldwide now so can't keep...

41 E- Did you tell her that it's online - this video?

42 J- I haven't told her yet I think I will tell her tonight but I think she kind of knew it was going to be online from the first one I was doing so I told her that I kind of mentioned yes there is Stretch video that is going to be online as well so she is kind of .. and everyone is... so hopefully...

43 E- What did they say?

44 J- Out innit out, not getting into trouble and ready to come out so and obviously as I said getting skills and knowledge, certain different aspects, different courses I have done so when I come out I can say I got this and this and this... so not only going back to accounts at least I have options more options than just going back to what I know. I can go to other stuff that I know now so ...

 E- emplo/Entrepreneurship
 H-hope

45 E- Do you think it changed you in any ways, participating in this project?

46 J- To be honest, because I have done a lot before this, I mean I was doing textiles for a while so I was here and obviously they knew that I was good person to do it so I gain a lot of confidence before I done the course but as I said doing a bag as well while I was doing it I was getting more self confidence because I thought yes this is looking good and then just move one and doing other parts of it rather than oh just get can't be bothered. As I said I had to change the design a few times also I had to unpick quite a lot as you know I keep asking you for an unpicker so obviously the confidence of me going right I am gonna do this - unpick and make sure it stitches so yes that's about it.

 self confidence

47 E- What do you think you would take with you?

48 J- A bag.

49 E- (laughs) Everyone here is saying the same, a bag, an antitheft bag.

50 J- I have got this one...

51 E- You can take it... yes that's good. What about wellbeing? What about the general feeling of being in prison - did that change since coming in here?

52 J- As I said I think when I done the play - that was in July - that changed my whole persona. I think what is good is that I never on the wing I am always busy because I have seen the difference between me being on the wing and like this saviour that just started he was always in his cell, literally I had to keep knocking on the door what's going on come out... stuff like that. While I come back for lunch and that and that's why I got him on the course. So I know the difference between someone that they are bored out their head, don't know what they are doing and staying in their room and not interacting and closed off from someone like me that is active always off the wing that is active doing things positively. I like to help people.

 W-wellbeing

53 E- Last question - hopes and fears?

54 J- Hopes, fears... I don't know... fears is obviously for the future but not in a bad way obviously come out getting my flat sorted then getting a job and then moving forward. I think that's the fear but I kind of got over that kind of the actual time kind of counteract that what was the other one.

55 E- Hopes and fears?

56 J- That's what I said it counteracts I will do it.

57 E- Anything else to add?

58 J- I said yesterday - thanks for everything - giving the opportunity in the first place I said to Pras as well you didn't have to do (this) but you did, you stuck it up even though it was hectic and stuff and yeah I really enjoy it is shame I won't be here for the next one but really happy that I managed that.

59 E- Hopefully you will be out.

60 J- Yes, I will lets ... I will be out unless you put me on hold or something.

61