

Team Hackney Board
Wednesday, 20 November 2013

Theatrical characters Bios

Joseph Ayodeji – known as AJ - 20 years old.

He comes from a mixed heritage – father is African, mother Caribbean, he has a younger brother (a good boy). Both parents work, his father is a barrister, AJ used to look up to his Dad and wanted to go into law but things have changed now.

AJ used to get into trouble at school, even in Primary and was frequently send out of class. In year 7 he was excluded from school. In year 8 he was involved in a violent, knife related crime and has a record. He got a few GCSE's but became very disengaged with school. He hates the police, he considers the system to be racist he feels that young people are used/treated “tokenistically” by the system - he can be very articulate about this.

He has a very difficult relationship with his father and they do not seem to communicate at all, though he still lives at home. He feels that his father makes a lot of compromises to fit in with the “system”. His father sometimes drinks heavily and can get aggressive and physically violent. His father favours his younger brother who has not got into trouble. Both his parents go to church but AJ now questions his own faith.

AJ feels pretty lost – needs to “find himself”. He can be very reflective and thinks about things deeply and finds peace in listening to music. He has always been really into bikes and music. He is learning to drive. He uses recreational “party” drugs.

AJ has sex with quite a few women but does not have girlfriends; he finds sex a “comfort”. He has a little girl as a result of a short fling with a girl he is no longer with i.e. an unexpected or unplanned child. He tries to support the child financially and sees her regularly.

He seems to have money to give to child and he owns a car – it is inferred that he is getting an income from the sale of drugs. AJ does not have any clear goals in life he does not seem ambitious – as it would mean being part of the “system” he despises.

Lucas 20 years old

Lives with mother and 2 siblings. He has a “regular” low paid job and contributes to the family. He never sees his Dad. Family is very important to him and he likes to help out. He also has a wide network of friends. Lucas used to get into a lot of trouble at Junior school, along with AJ but he realised that if he was clever he could avoid punishment and finished Primary as a star pupil. At secondary school he learnt how to avoid getting into trouble. He was around for the incident following which AJ was arrested, but he ran away and was not caught. His mum always told him. “Don’t get caught.” He did enough to get by work wise at secondary school and got enough GCSE's to get a job. He seems to know how to use the system.

Lucas has a plan, its OK to do a regular job but he knows that what he really wants to do is work with young people and he is doing some volunteering. One day he plans to buy his mum a house.

Lucas tends to be quite quiet and keep his head down but he always seizes opportunities that are offered to him. He attended a youth club as a young person and still drops in to help out, he plays football every Saturday. He also takes recreational drugs. He has a wide circle of friends many of whom he considers “family”. He really likes a particular young woman, who is Turkish, but she doesn't like him.