



## Short Report on *Journeys of Destiny* and *Destinies*

**March 2021** *Journeys of Destiny* and *Destinies* – companion pieces – were awarded Children & Young People Now Arts and Culture Award.

*Destinies* started rehearsals in 2019 and was originally planned to be a rehearsed play reading for April 2020 with a subsequent tour of schools based on *Journeys of Destiny* model. The piece would explore themes of emotional resilience and the challenges/experience of making new friends in a host community. When Covid happened we had to change our plans.

*Destinies* was a co-created theatre piece with young people with care experience and unaccompanied asylum seekers in partnership with Derbyshire Virtual School, Sinfonia Viva and Orchestra Live. Young people developed characters, songs, musical composition, animation and performance skills. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVsErtZr060>

**November 2021** Two years later *Destinies* culminated in a filmed theatre production which was screened at Derby Theatre as part of Culture Cares conference – a national conference bringing together leading practitioners, artists and young people with care experience. Many of the young people had gained significant opportunities to develop new skills, grow in confidence but most importantly made new friendships and felt connection. The film has not been released to a wider public audience yet. All the work has been funded by the Arts Council and supported by Derbyshire Virtual School via their Creative Mentors scheme.

**May 2021** Amnesty International (Wirksworth) asked us to contribute to an on-line celebration of Amnesty's 60<sup>th</sup> year & Social Justice Festival. It was also the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Syrian war and we filmed an interview with Saad AlKassab – whose story was at the heart of JoD. This interview can be viewed from 30 minutes into the footage link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjYOQOLIfUw&t=9s>



Due to a lack of ongoing funding, there are currently no plans to re-tour ***Journeys of Destiny*** into schools. AHT continues to work with young people using drama as a pedagogy delivering workshops that explore values and citizenship in Adult Education centres across the county. We developed these workshops with Sally Siner (Prevent Officer for Derby City).

AHT remains open to discussion about how we might fund and continue to use live theatre/drama or our digital theatre resources (as detailed above) to work in schools and further support to the aims and objectives of SACRE.

Ava Hunt  
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