



LEARNING WEEK 2021



Transcript for Anna Devitt Comedy & Confidence video presented as part of Children In Scotland's Learning Week 2021.

Hi, Anna Devitt Here from comedy and confidence. I am so thrilled to be part of the Children in Scotland Learning Week and thank you so much for joining us. Today I'm going to be talking about our journey and building the creative learning revolution. what is education?

Education to me is completely different to what most people would give the definition of education as, the given definition of education is "a systematic process usually delivered in schools or universities or an enlightening experience.

At Comedy and Confidence, we believe it should be both and that you can have fun while learning new things.

This year we have been invited to talk about how we developed built and deliver our own fully creative curriculum.

Using my own personal experience of not thriving in a mainstream education environment and being an actress and stand-up comedian I used the science of laughter and the impact that creativity can have on mental health and built a self-development programme that is specifically designed to boost confidence and resilience and combat mental health issues through comedy because we all know that we all love a good laugh and we all enjoy a bit of banter.

In 2016 comedy and confidence became a thing and was accredited under the scqf and the SQA. we've been really supported by both organizations. In 2018 we developed Level 3 and level 4 under the SQA. In 2019 we decided to extend our portfolio and we applied to present the Npa mental health will be in and the Npa creative industries, we gave these qualifications the unique Comedy and Confidence treatment, added in our original comedy and confidence qualification and built one big beautiful programme called Resilience through Creativity.

We took on board the feedback from our clients and young people about the need to be able to still access accredited qualifications at a time when mainstream schooling wasn't able to deliver. It was a challenge but we created our own virtual learning environment staying true to our values and

staying true to our teaching methodology. we made sure that we can still take submissions via tiktok , via poems and via video. we now have all of our courses online and this year we launching resilience through creativity with our whole "train the trainer" programme that allows people to come on and get access to all of our training materials that incorporates the Npa creative industries Npa mental health and wellbeing and comedy and confidence. these are all wrapped up and delivered as 1 big programme. At comedy and Confidence, we believe that everybody can learn but not everyone can be taught the same way, we have practical learners the practical learners are big on creativity and innovation and we want to nurture this and really bring that out of our young people. I have always argued that science is in fact one of the biggest creative industries because in science you need so much creativity in fact, I would argue that you do need a level of creativity for most jobs. so we want to have more creative qualifications , have more creative outcomes , at comedy and confidence we achieve all of our qualifications through creative outcomes and we are lucky enough that we've already had some really successful virtual groups, we just had a big a virtual programme with the princes trust, we also had our virtual programme with the DYW which is developing the young workforce.

All of our clients can see that the engagement and the passion and the fun and the creativity is still there, even although we've not had to adapt in deliver it online, the Npa, which is a national progression award in creative industries and the Npa in mental health and wellbeing we have taken and put creative outcomes because at times of stress and uncertainty , the brain needs creative outlets . We were supposed to take to the stage with a group of care experienced young people at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow, the group of young people were all working towards 4 qualifications, which they all achieved. they were also going to put on a bespoke pantomime show and that was going to be performed to a live sell-out audience but we all know what happened in 2020 so I'm going to show you some awesome footage today of these kids experiences and what they thought about creatively covering mental health and wellbeing comedy and confidence and the creative industries.

Videos of some young people saying who their favourite speakers were and what their favourite part of the project was

My whole life wanted to be an actress or a teacher. after leaving mainstream school at 14 I felt like I wouldn't be able to achieve that dream because I was never going to be somebody that would go on to do uni or college and things like because I knew I was more of a practical learner and more of a visual learner rather than somebody that likes to do lots of reading and writing. Many like me want to have a little bit more of a creative curricular so what we have on offer doesn't only help our young people but it also helps our teachers because they are people too.

We are launching our train the trainer programmes throughout Scotland because we want to make sure that every young person gets the opportunity to thrive and achieve qualifications while having fun, while being themselves and will be allowed to freely create and achieve. This was actually how I won the most creative entrepreneur in Scotland at the Scottish edge, which for those that don't know is a massive competition that invests in high risk entrepreneurs, it's quite a serious competition and takes six months. You've got 3 minutes to deliver a pitch that incorporates your business vision your margin share goals everything that you've done and the night before the live presentation I decided to change it up and decided to write a poem. Because I always come back to creativity in times of stress, when I was young I wrote loads of poems and I'm sure lots of you during the recent climate have been engaging and Storey writing drawing painting or baking. Creative stuff is always needed in times of trauma. I'm going to read the poem now, just now.

Comedy and Confidence qualifications started in my head when I was 14 years old after I got expelled from 3 high schools coz my dad died so I stopped doing what I was told, my mum creative in my talent she could see so she enrolled me in a local drama school and I embarked on a career in comedy in TV. I laughed off the children's panels the social workers and all the emotions that I could not place. I feel it took years for me to find my voice. You see I am not delinquent Nor a Ned nor a threat I was a young girl with passion and imagination who could not reach their level of expectation the way the school system is set.

I was confident not insolent - that is a skill that we own it in fact in recent research 54% of teachers and pupils in Scotland agreed.

So I embarked on a journey of changing education for those we considered disengage creating two bespoke qualifications that I piloted and implemented to young people who are caged. They are caged by society, mental health, learning barriers and their own fear higher qualification was on offer a different. They all achieved a higher qualification and now every single one of them is in what we call a positive destination.

We were awarded enterprise in education after 2 months of company operation. We've engaged with over 4000 young people from various walks of life of partnered with 125 organizations. Who see the vision the need the struggle and strife. How did they know about us? They've been told. Every contract we've ever won has been through word of mouth, we've been awarded funding that allowed us to invest in training offices, we got the course online and it helped us operate through our years but this isn't just for or about me, it is for every single person who wants a chance to succeed, everyone can learn but no agreement can be taught the same way, all that

education in the world but no one teaches us how to love ourselves use our imagination , to be ourselves and still be okay. There are currently thousands of young people in alternative education these people are me at 14 were people we are practical we are creative and we have the innovation.

We want to engage with the right people who will take these qualifications along to the highest level, to the right people and into the future generations, comedy and confidence impacts on young people and it changes their lives but we will change the way that we view and deliver worldwide education. trainers will receive their own qualification with an assessor award and all the materials to deliver all of the qualifications that we currently have in our centre. candidates, young people, anybody that wants to go up to an scqf level 6 will receive their qualifications in comedy and confidence , creative industries and mental health and wellbeing.

So if you do want to join the creative learning revolution get in touch at RTCEducation.com. because we want to spread more laughter more learning throughout the whole of Scotland.

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