



## Learner profile: Delson and Vicki

Delson Weekes has been attending the AMICI dance class and the inclusive dance class with tutor Vicki Hawkins

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We met Delson and Vicki to listen to their incredible story of dance and communication.

Delson arrived to the Macbeth Centre following a referral from a course at another college where he was doing performing arts. Delson quickly progressed within his classes.

Delson loves dancing because he gets to express himself through creativity and, as a choreographer, direct people. It has been a great way to exercise and make friends.

Vicki saw the twinkle in Delson's eye when she first began working with him. They became good friends when Vicki noticed that Delson had a special skill

with dance and interacting with others through music.

Delson's ability to interpret music made Vicki and Katherine Gill (two of his tutors) collaborate with Delson and another learner Francis Majekodunmi, to set up the BLINK Dance Theatre group. It began small with rehearsals in community centres and they are now touring the country.

BLINK's first big tour was a lottery funded project which visited primary schools around the country to help young people understand differences through performance.

The students became the masters and it was officially the first director



Delson (left) loves dancing, and with tutor Vicki (right) he tours the country performing

credit for Delson and Francis, supported by Kat and Vicki.

The show was their idea and revolved around a central character who had a form of autism. The journey of the main character showed how subtle and severe hate and mate crime can be. During the workshop, Delson would show his unique ability to involve the shyest child in the class.

Delson has just returned from his tour with Blink and FaceFront where he focused on his acting skills.

Delson played a student with learning difficulties who wanted to be a mechanic by portraying the difficulties of the transitional journey. Delson visited Brighton, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford and Birmingham on tour.

Delson as part of BLINK is currently codirecting a show, funded by the Arts Council, at the Lyric centre where it all began. Delson also teaches drama class on a Friday in the Wink drama group

and supports other classes.

Delson shared how happy he is with his own journey and he gets to see direct, choreograph, perform, work, support and participate every day.

Tutors and carers believe Delson is the perfect hybrid between student, teacher and supporter. Delson was nicknamed 'Magic Man' for his techniques to promote inclusion, with an ability to empathise with every learner.

Vicki now calls on Delson to help when a child is feeling left out.

Most recently Delson has been developing his microphone skills that are unleashed when Delson raps his own lyrics, which will soon be used in a BLINK performance.

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**To find out more information about award winning group AMICI and Blink next performances please go to: [www.amicidance.org](http://www.amicidance.org) and [www.blinkdancetheatre.org](http://www.blinkdancetheatre.org)**