

## TELLING OUR STORIES, FINDING OUR ROOTS ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

<b>Date of interview</b>	24th September 2020
<b>Location of interview</b>	Sail Room, Pannier Pantry at the Custom House, Bideford
<b>Name of interviewee</b>	Jaz Rogers
<b>Name of interviewer</b>	Rose Young-French and Gail Hickman
<b>Length of interview</b>	00:24:05
<b>File format, storage format</b>	WAV, hosted on Soundcloud. Digital copy obtainable from DDE.

**Tags:**

Black British ; Art ; Education ; Community ; Identity ; Food ; West Indies ; Discrimination ; Westward Ho! ;

**Interviewee's wishes regarding use of interview**

None.

**Interviewer's notes / any issues on recording**

Timecodes on transcript relate to more than one original audio files, which have since been combined - so timecodes for the second half of the interview may not be accurate.

**Linked objects/photographs.**

**Key themes and topics covered in the interview**

Theme / topic	Timecode on recording
Family History	[00:00:00 - 00:01:19], [00:09:17 - 00:11:00]
Local Art Scene	[00:02:06 - 00:04:33]
Attitudes of others as Jaz Grew Up	[00:04:33 - 00:07:36]
Identity	[00:07:36 - 00:09:17]
Family	Audio 2 [00:00:02 - 00:02:18]
Community Work	Audio 2 [00:02:18 - 00:05:34]
School and Friends	Audio 3 [00:00:00 - 00:02:01]
Hopes for the Future	Audio 3 [00:00:00 - 00:03:30]
Challenges for Young People and for Jaz & Family	Audio 3 [00:03:30 - 00:05:59]
Message for Listeners	Audio 3 [00:05:59 - 00:07:15]

**Interview highlights**

"Only recently have I been able to make the area work for me, really. Before, I wanted to move to a bigger area, somewhere like London, where I have lots of family. But over the past 2 or 3 years, I have made the place fit me for the things I want." - [00:01:35]

"Now, I am a key factor, rather than just hating the area and forgetting about the area. I am helping the area." - [00:03:08]

"I am very Western and my cousins laugh at me for how Western I am. But I am free. I am not trying to be anything that I am not."

## Interview summary

Jaz Rogers is a 25-year-old graffiti and street artist, born in Westward Ho!

Jaz begins his interview by introducing briefly his family history. He was born in Westward Ho! after his parents moved there from Hertfordshire 20 years prior to his birth [00:00:00 - 00:01:19].

Jaz notes that “Only recently have I been able to make the area work for me, really. Before, I wanted to move to a bigger area, somewhere like London, where I have lots of family. But over the past 2 or 3 years, I have made the place fit me for the things I want.” He details some of the difficulties he faced as a street artist in a more rural area. [00:02:06 - 00:03:08].

Jaz then goes on to talk about the graffiti school that he has set up in the local community and is hoping to launch once COVID-19 restrictions are no longer necessary [00:03:08 - 00:03:44]. This leads to a more general consideration of artistic engagement in the area [00:03:44 - 00:04:33].

Next, Jaz considers some of the attitudes and assumptions he faced growing up black in a rural area. He says: “I had to put up a hard shell, really, and just stand up for myself”, which he notes led to multiple exclusions from school [00:04:33 - 00:06:39]. Reflecting on these experiences, Jaz relates that he has been able to use them to connect with young people in similar situations [00:06:39 - 00:07:36].

Jaz then begins to consider what identity means for him as a person of colour in a rural area [00:07:36 - 00:09:17]. This leads to a discussion of his family’s West Indian cultural roots, including the West Indian food that his mother cooks, and the differences between himself and his cousins [00:09:17 - 00:11:00].

In the second part of the audio, Jaz discusses what family means to him [00:00:02 - 00:02:18]. Jaz then goes on to describe his work within the community, particularly in volunteering with local young people, and how this was inspired by his own experience [00:02:18 - 00:05:34].

In the third and final part of the audio, Jaz begins by describing his friendship group at school, which he describes as “classed as ‘outcasts’. Different, like Emos and Goths, musicians, and people like that. People who would not be classed as the popular ones, I guess” [00:00:00 - 00:02:01]. Jaz then talks of his hopes to become a self-employed artist in the future, and his desire to “[Change] the way that people think, but through the arts” [00:02:01 - 00:03:30].

Jaz considers the challenges that he perceives for young people generally, as well as the personal challenges he faces [00:03:30 - 00:05:08], before talking about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on his family [00:05:08 - 00:05:59].

Jaz concludes his interview by leaving a message to listeners of his interview: “Be yourself. Don’t forget your past, but don’t forget your future either. Be yourself, be bright, be beautiful, be who you are!” [00:05:59 - 00:07:15].