



Storytellers

Fun and professional
lessons in the dramatic arts

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Imagine if you could have a professional actress come into your school to deliver drama workshops for your students on a play you are currently or about to be working on.

With Storytellers you get precisely that, we will come to your school for one or more sessions to trouble shoot, rehearse and get your production up and running. Work through dialogue and characters to get the best performance and understanding from your pupils to create a memorable performance.

Storytellers can also provide a private performance of Identity Crisis to your drama class. The play explores common struggles with a range of characters all struggling with their identity, something that the youth of today can relate to.

Identity Crisis was nominated for an Alfred Fagon award for writing 2017.



Storytellers is run by Phina Oruche, perhaps best known as supermodel Liberty Baker in the 2006 final series of ITV's *Footballers' Wives*. She was named Favourite Female TV Star for the role in the Screen Nations Awards. She is a committed Christian and very open about her faith. Her credits include *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; *NYPD Blue*, *Nip/Tuck*, *Charmed*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *The Unit*, *Doctors* and *The Bill*.

In 2010, Phina joined the cast of *Hollyoaks* as Gabby Sharpe, the head of a new family. Her film credits include *The Forsaken* (2001) and *Happy Ever After's* (2009).

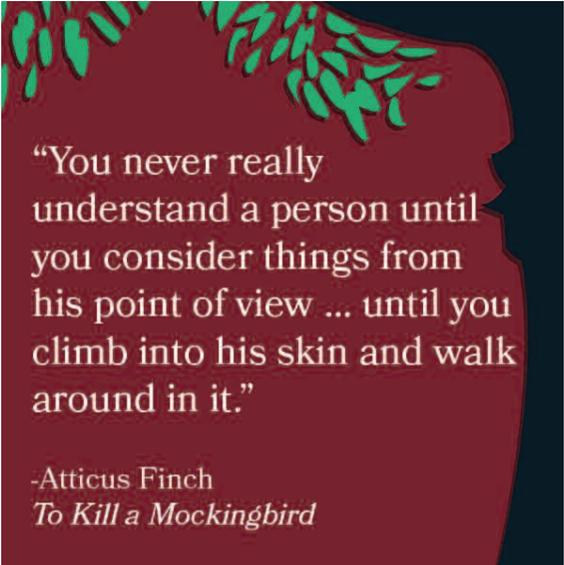
Phina is also an experienced columnist (*Liverpool Echo*) and broadcaster, presenting BBC Radio Merseyside's. She has also made regular appearances on *The Wright Stuff*.

Before her acting career took off, Phina worked in New York as a model, for brands including Gap, Avon, Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdales, *Essence* magazine and Old Navy. Phina worked alongside Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista, Kate Moss, Christy Turlington, Cindy Crawford, Nadia Auberman and Helena Christensen and was shot by the leading photographers of the time, including Ruven Afanador, Steven Klein, Patrick Demarchlier, Juergen Teller, Nick Knight, Walter Chin, Marc Baptiste, Mark Contratto and Dah Len.

Phina also wrote and performed *Identity Crisis* which is a nine character piece of solo theatre, exploring identity struggles common to us all but felt most acutely by the young, when they have to deal with forging an identity whilst the pressure from peers and the internet generation has grown exponentially.

Identity Crisis was conceived in Liverpool after a time of personal tragedy became an empowering and cathartic piece of theatre, it has been well received in Liverpool's International Slavery Museum, Bristol's Wardrobe Theatre, London's Ovalhouse, Edinburgh's International festival and NYC Soho Playhouse.

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“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”

-Atticus Finch
To Kill a Mockingbird

Storytellers Teach



“Phina Oruche is an inspirational Drama teacher who took a wonderful workshop for the cast of our production of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ at Merchant Taylors’ Boys’ School in Crosby . Her sensitive knowledge of the play and her close focus on the inner feelings and motivation of the characters made the session an extremely effective one in improving the quality of the students’ performance .Her rapport with the students and her sense of humour created an excellent atmosphere in which her intelligent teaching flourished.

I recommend Phina Oruche as a gifted Drama teacher and would not hesitate to invite her back to our school!”

Dr John S. Gill, Director of Performing Arts, Merchant Taylors’ School

"I had the privilege of going to see 'Identity Crisis' in 2016, however it was much more of an experience than just a show. I knew instantly that the play had a strong and powerful message for young people. Currently as a school Chaplain and having worked with young people for many years, I know the difficulties and pressures young people and adults are encountering with regards to image and self-belief. The media plays a huge part in placing unrealistic and false expectations on us and we are encouraged to celebrate a shallow version of beauty. Good character and virtues such as: kindness, respect and humility are rarely promoted which impacts greatly on personal identity and creates issues around self-worth.

Identity Crisis highlights the significance of self-belief as Phina reflects on her own fight to survive in the modelling and acting world. Battling the pressure to conform and remaining true to herself during great success and also when the world piles the pressure on. The underlying message of 'Identity Crisis' for school and college students is: Where should your identity come from? This interactive play gives students the opportunity to ask and think about: Who and what is influencing them? This is a valuable resource and an affirming experience in our diverse community."

Phil Johnson
Academy Chaplain
Academy School Francis of Assisi, Liverpool

"At ages 14 to 16, students are starting to think about who they are as a person and may be beginning to make important decisions about their futures and their roles in society. For this reason I felt it was important for pupils in this age group to see Phina's show as they approach this crucial time in their lives.

"The experiences featured in 'Identity Crisis' really resonated with the students and all of us at the Academy are thankful to Phina for bringing her performance to the school."

Tracey Greenough,
Head of school
Academy School Francis of Assisi, Liverpool

Storytellers Perform

Liverpool actress is star of the show at ASFA

Television actress Phina Oruche performed her one-woman show for pupils at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi October 27th 2016



Television actress Phina Oruche performed her one-woman show for pupils at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi (ASFA) in Kensington. Years 9 and 10 were invited to watch Phina perform her critically acclaimed show, 'Identity Crisis' which aims to tackle identity struggles faced by today's generation.

Phina, who has starred in *Footballers' Wives* and *Hollyoaks*, portrays nine different characters throughout the performance representing a variety of race, gender and age.

The Academy believes it is important for pupils in years 9 and 10 to understand that it is not unusual to have struggles with identity and that concerns they may have are shared by everyone.

Tracey Greenough, head of school at ASFA says: "At ages 14 to 16, students are starting to think about who they are as a person and may be beginning to make important decisions about their futures and their roles in society. For this reason I felt it was important for pupils in this age group to see Phina's show as they approach this crucial time in their lives.

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Phina says: "All of my characters are vulnerable, flawed and struggling with who they are. "Many are working class and are portraying voices and experiences that are often absent from stage and screen. Britain is experiencing an identity crisis post-Brexit and I believe that it is important for young people to know that it isn't about black or white, it is about getting to the reality of who you are and taking back your narrative and your power."

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