



Presents

Abstract Benna

with

Out Of Darkness

Friday February 25, 8pm

As part of

Shipbuilding Festival

Rich Mix, 35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

<https://richmix.org.uk/>



Created in response to the UK's societal climate, performance festival ***Shipbuilding*** from **Certain Blacks** takes place **February 18-27**. Named after Elvis Costello's symbolic anti-war song and reflecting upon the climate of C19, Brexit and Black Lives Matter, each show has been created from true stories, whether autobiographical or observed. Staged at **Rich Mix**, ***Shipbuilding*** features hip hop wordsmith **Abstract Benna's *Out of Darkness*** on **Friday February 25 at 8pm**.

Abstract Benna is a South London-based storyteller and spoken word artist who has been making a name for himself across the live circuit over recent years. His forthcoming show ***Out of Darkness***, which also serves as his debut EP launch, paints a picture of the choices that were available to his younger self while growing up in the light and darkness of South London social housing culture. The live performance will also feature new work on video as well as guest performers.

Nurtured by a culture of storytelling, rap cyphers and the lyricism of his peers, Benna's writing and performative skills evolved as he merged his love of authentic narratives with the rhythms and sounds of his environment. Honing his skills, he soon found himself sharing poems onstage, facilitating workshops and even receiving corporate commissions. As this continued, Benna rapidly found himself needing to adapt to a variety of spaces and audiences. *Out of Darkness* is a *reflective* summary of this journey; growing up in inner city London and finding the tools to take on the unexpected.

Says Benna *"I'm a modern-day griot. This project captures the essence of what I do. It sets the premise for the things I want to talk about going forward. My on-going themes are identity. What it means being raised in the diaspora and adapting to inner-city London life. **Out of Darkness** captures the essence of what it was like growing up in a pre-gentrified neighbourhood when crime,*

poverty, community love and a vibrant culture was all in a melting pot of what shaped us into the people we became”.

For press enquiries, images or interview requests, contact:
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Benna’s website: www.abstractbenna.com

Code Switching video:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VKcbbIz8hE&t=1s>

What does it mean to be famous:
[Benna - What does it mean to be Famous? \(Music Video\) - YouTube](#)

My Adolescent Theory
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CmZvqGEMISk>

Certain Blacks website: <https://certainblacks.com/>

Certain Blacks is an arts development organisation supporting diverse performing artists. The philosophy and curatorial vision is to provide opportunities for high-calibre new, emerging and established artists, also challenging what is seen as diverse. **Certain Blacks** presents art from the margins to mainstream with a wealth of experience producing work in venues and curating outdoor performance. **Certain Blacks** is supported by **Arts Council England** through its **Elevate Programme**.



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