Headline: Empowering Through Art: Moses Baako, the Visionary who Transforms Communities through Visual Storytelling

What Does Inspiration Mean to Moses:

Moses Baako is inspired by "the flow of life". He recognises that "every person you meet has had a life and a set of experiences and that those experiences are part of their narrative". He tries to "look at life from a position of the interplay of stories and narrative of interactions".

Moses's Background:

Moses is "a black British visual artist working in mixed media" and the founder of Writers and Scribez. He grew up with a passion for photography and video editing but also struggled with his identity since he felt "socially awkward" for a good portion of his life. He tried changing to fit in but was never successful until he really took pride in who he was and started doing things he wanted to do rather than conforming to an uncreative society.

Moses worked in a supermarket for almost 10 years, but when he realised how long he had been there he knew he had to leave. Once he finally got the courage to be himself, he started working in a school for "kids with special educational needs." He trained to "be a counsellor with an emphasis on working with young people." After training, he worked as a youth worker, which is around the time he and his wife were working to create Writers and Scribez. Once he finished his master's he moved full-time into his company and has grown his business since. Moses's official title is "Artistic Director" of Writers and Scribez. He describes himself as a "visual storyteller within organisations". He oversees everything that goes on at Writers and Scribez including visual branding, videos, documentation, workshops, classes, and any creative visual assets. He also does leadership coaching.

Work at Writers and Scribez:

As an organisation Writers and Scribez works with young people and wants "to create social change through art". Their "work focuses on working with marginalised community groups, but also resourcing and developing artists". The company also wants to "work in a corporate space providing creative wellbeing sessions and leadership training". They aim to make these training courses free so that they are more accessible. Writers and Scribez aim to focus on three areas: developing new skills, fostering the community, and the mental and emotional well-being of young people. Being in touch with these areas as a person can be a key to success and working hard is never going to be worth it "at the expense of your well-being".

What Success Means to Moses:

One of the most important things Moses has learned is to "be present, enjoy the moment, and recognise that there is value in each moment regardless of how it plays out. That life isn't always fun, but that there is value in being alive no matter what."

Moses has worked hard for his success, and he wants to help create safe spaces for "young

people and people in general where they recognize the value in who they are". Moses thinks success is a struggle, and that it all starts by accepting who you are. Doing what you love, working hard, and "never underestimating the importance of your craft" are three great steps. To Moses success also isn't all about him, but it is about the impact he can make on other people's lives. To him, success is never ending and has to do with the "impact on the communities around us".

He is incredibly proud of the work he has done and has many more projects in the pipeline. Moses continues to strive for his success and impact the lives of others. To get involved visit the Writers and Scribez website at https://www.writerznscribez.org/donate.

By: Mikaela Haas, Creative Writer and Digital Media Intern