



# Ben



## The Reel Life Education Project

In 2011 Bev Lawley and Tony Wright founded the Reel Life Education Project (RLEP), a scheme that aims to use short narrative drama to raise awareness of various social issues that affect young people. Bev has worked in the film industry for 9 years and Tony had worked in education for 24 years. They developed the project when Tony identified a deficit in the quality of educational films shown in schools.

Bev assembled a budget to shoot a pilot episode of the series. Amy dealt with issues surrounding staying safe on a night out. Once the film was completed it was heavily test screened with 6th form groups at the Island's secondary schools.

The second film in the series is called Ben, and charts the downfall of a promising young freerunner who has started using mephedrone, a "legal high" which hit the headlines in 2010 when it was made illegal in the UK.

Building on the success of the first two episodes, the RLEP aims to create a further 4 episodes of the series, each using the template of employing non-patronising short narrative fiction to raise awareness of various issues affecting young people and encourage safe and wise choices among under 18s. The goal is to set up a strategy for distribution which will see the series distributed throughout secondary schools across the UK and even further afield.

Sadly in October of 2013, shortly before principal photography on "Ben" began, Tony Wright passed away at the age of 68. Tony had dedicated his life to improving the lives of young people, often those from disadvantaged backgrounds who had been written off by the system. The RLEP aims to set up the Tony Wright Foundation which would not only continue the work that Tony began on the RLEP but to involve troubled youngsters, recovering young addicts and young offenders in the production of the short films, offering them skills that would make them employable, thus giving them a chance to change their lives. Tony is irreplaceable, but through the Tony Wright Foundation, there will be some sort of legacy that will allow his life changing work to go on.

We are still in the process of raising sponsorship for "Ben" and would welcome any contribution towards the outstanding costs.

If you or your business are interested in being involved with supporting the Tony Wright Foundation please contact Bev Lawley on Tel: **01624 835100** or **07624 415096** Email: **bev@ex-isle.com**