

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024

Black History Month honours the invaluable contributions and innovations black people have made in the UK and globally. At Morley College London we celebrate Black History Month through art, performance, talks and events.



Image: Travis Jay

Esme Henry - A lifelong Morley student

Esme Henry tells her fascinating story for this month's episode of the Morley Radio Student Stories Podcast. Esme came to South London in the 1960's from Jamaica and first worked as machinist in Soho creating women's coats for Burberry. Throughout her life she's designed her own stylish clothes.



Esme enrolled at Morley 30 years ago on a cookery course and loved the classes. Her passion for learning was recognised with a Morley Student of the Year Award and she was later hired by Morley to support the course. A few years later Esme proudly worked as a receptionist at the House of Commons, greeting visitors to the Palace of Westminster. In retirement Esme's has stayed busy, taking up Morley acting classes with course tutor Timothy Taylor. For the past decade she has attended Dance Stretch each week. Tim teaches the class which he describes as "an energetic dance class which combines fitness training with the pleasure of dance".

Esme says "I've always enjoyed coming to Morley I look forward to my dance classes as we do all different types of dance. Once we get to learn the steps, we have a big performance at the end of term." "I've got friends in the class. Tim chooses the music he puts on a laptop so we can practice from home during the week. The class can be hard at first, but you get used to the steps as the class goes on. The whole point in coming is to learn! I enjoy everything about the class and I'll carry on doing it for as long as I am able to!"

Morley Gallery 'Generations Future and Visions'

Generations Future and Visions
3rd - 24th October 2024
Morley Gallery

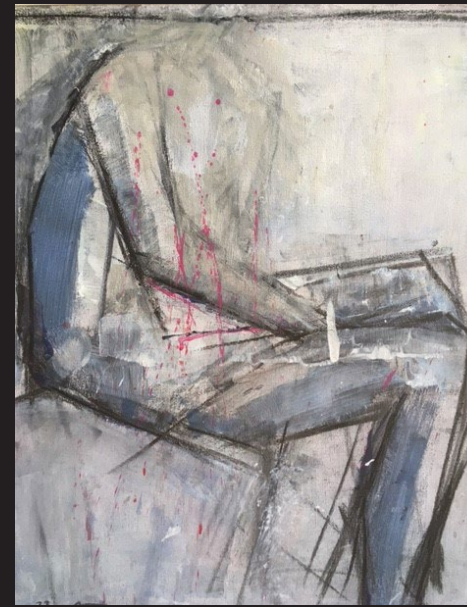
An intergenerational exhibition of six west London artists of the African Caribbean diaspora, connecting artists, artworks, and life journeys. The youngest in their mid-twenties, the eldest almost 80, they present paintings, prints, photography, video, collage and digital works. At the midpoint, the artists will inhabit two spaces at once, inviting their local community for a talk at the brand new sister gallery in North Kensington. Featuring Armet Francis, Colin Nichols, Junior Tomlin, Ron Best, Sion Sylvester and Tobias Laurent Belson.



FESTAC '77 by Armet Francis



Artist's Aunt by Colin Nichols



Seated Nude by Ron Best



Girl About Town by Junior Tomlin



Power by Sion Sylvester



Self Portrait by Tobias Laurent Belson

M MORLEY GALLERY

Penny Lecture: Becoming an author with Joseph Diwakar

Penny Lecture: One face, two face, blue face? In this lecture, author Joseph Diwakar will explore being mixed race and becoming an author.

Date: 10th October 2024

Time: 6 - 7pm

Location: Waterloo Centre,
Westminster Bridge Road
SE1 7HT

Joseph Diwakar is a young author and historian whose debut novel *I SHALL NOT WANT*, won the 2023 Morley Prize for Unpublished Authors of Colour. Alongside

writing, Joseph is the youngest ever member of the Archbishops Council, a governing body of the Church of England. He teaches history at Saint Mellitus College in central London, a specialist centre for training future priests.

His novel, *I SHALL NOT WANT*, tells the story of a queer young Christian, James, who seeks freedom from shame at his unwanted desires. He finds hope in Ian Callaghan, a famous pastor, who promises deliverance through a strict programme of spiritual disciplines. James recounts first hand his mental capture and eventual escape from Ian, as a forbidden love affair leads him to discover that true grace and freedom can be found elsewhere.



Interview with actor and comedian Travis Jay on his part in Netflix hit series Supacell

Morley College London is proud to celebrate alumnus Travis Jay, who has taken a major step in his acting career by landing a part in Netflix's hit show 'Supacell' set in south London.

Travis Jay, who attended Morley in 2019, features in the new hit TV series "Supacell". The sci-fi series follows a group of black individuals who suddenly gain superpowers, exploring the effects on their everyday lives and relationships. A breakout hit, season 1 reached the No. 1 spot in Netflix's global TV series list and remained in the top 10 for six weeks.



Jay studied the **Acting: Intermediate** and **Acting: Masterclass** courses which explore the understanding of acting, techniques and the skills to bring your character to life. Morley was lucky enough to sit down with Travis Jay to speak about his experience at Morley and on the show "Supacell".

How did you get the opportunity to be on the Netflix show "Supacell"?

"When the audition came through, I was filled with excitement. Reading the brief, I immediately envisioned myself in this type of show. I sent my self-tape through and thankfully got invited back for the recall. The recall was one of the most nerve-racking days of my life, because I just had the feeling that if this goes well my life could change. Fortunately, it went well! I've had some good auditions before that I didn't get, so I didn't allow myself to get excited but when I got the call, I held a one-man parade in my room!"

Images: Netflix

What was the most challenging part of being on the show?

"The most challenging part of being on the show, I think I was just super conscious of my acting experience. A lot of the cast members were incredibly experienced, Tosin Cole, Eric Kofi Abrefa and Calvin Demba to name a few. My first trade is stand-up comedy, I wanted to make sure I didn't stand out for any reason in that company. So, I remember making sure I was super prepared for every single day of shooting. In hindsight this was definitely an internal struggle, because Rapman, Sebastian Thiel and the production crew made me feel incredibly supported throughout. I just wanted to make sure I could hang with everybody else."



What acting courses did you take at Morley College London and what was your experience like being a student here?

"I took the Acting: Intermediate and Acting: Advanced - I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Morley, it really helped me with my understanding of acting. As a stand-up comic, I wasn't a stranger to the stage; so I felt it would be easier than it was to adapt. It was a very challenging experience, which required me to grow. I attribute a lot of this to Dominic [Grant], he was a brilliant teacher. Sometimes I hear a note from a director and I have a flashback to something Dominic had said to me. I'm not a kid who grew up attending Rada or Brit School, so I'm glad courses like this exist where you can really put the time in and work on your craft."

What skills or lessons did you learn from your time on the show?

"I learnt how valuable it is to spend time with the director so you can get a feel for how they work, try and see their vision to help you execute when you're on set. Rapman and Sebastian both have different directing styles, I was able to get a feel for both styles early on in the process, it helped make shoot days quite smooth."

Rapman is very straight to business 'Nah Trav I don't want that, I want this', no nonsense and Sebastian is a bit more experimental at times 'Trav let's try a take like this and then we see which one we like after.'



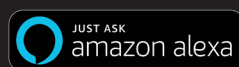
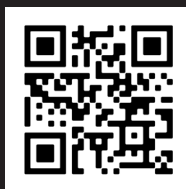
Travis Jay playing 'John' from Supacell, Netflix Series.



To celebrate Black History Month, Morley Radio has curated a rich mix of Morley podcasts and shows from the past years. Tune in this month for a new Morley Prize Podcast and live shows. Find out more at www.morleyradio.co.uk/blackhistorymonth

Scan the QR code to listen to our **Black History Month content exclusively at Morley Radio!**

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Staff Profile - Florence Marfo

Florence Marfo

– Programme Area Manager for Humanities and Languages at Morley College London and presenter of the Morley Prize For Unpublished Writers of Colour podcast series.



The podcast showcases diverse writing, from memoir to the novel, and authors' writing journeys. Florence interviews influential authors, creatives, journalists and academics including Adjoa Andoh (aka Bridgerton's Lady Danbury), journalist Gary Younge and Dr Janine Bradbury, Senior Lecturer of Contemporary Writing and Culture at the University of York.

Florence says "I really enjoy researching the show and have met some amazing guests. I'm hoping that it is a useful resource to listeners who want to be conversant in art by black creatives."



morleycollege.ac.uk/blackhistorymonth

Artwork on front cover is Self Portrait by
Tobias Laurent Belson

