

## Gabrielle Wolstenholme – Personal Statement

‘We have to take risks with art. If we don't, it all becomes a bit boring.’ (Julie Walters)  
Risks are something I believe to be pertinent when creating and working as a creative; without risk nothing new or unique will happen. Standing out and creating earnest and honest work is, to me, the most beautiful and introspective art you can offer the world.

As an artist myself, I have studied in performing arts and drama & theatre since I was 16 completing my GCSEs. Afterwards studying in Manchester at The Manchester College, Sheena Simon in Performing arts (acting), I completed this course with a triple distinction \*, I then carried on my education in York at York St John University studying Drama and Theatre in a BA Honours. Throughout my studies I have learnt many skills that have developed who I am as an artist and also brilliant life skills in general.

Outside of education, I have created an artist co-operative with four other artists called ‘The Northern Project’. Our goal is simple, as five northern artist ourselves, we have learnt first-hand how there is a lot less opportunity for us working and creating in the North. As ‘The Northern Project’, we want to create a space where northern artists feel seen and heard and give them a place to create and network. Both virtual and physical, we have created a space where artists in the north of England can meet, work together and network easily to create a collective atmosphere. Started five years ago by Alec Boyd, Millie Ayers and Gabby Wolstenholme, we now house Nuala Fowler and Sam Bond within the main circle in the collective, who all produce work under ‘The Northern Project’ branding. We are all extremely committed creatives with varying skills and full portfolios, all originating from the north of England, which is sorely missing arts investment outside of the likes of media city in Manchester. Britain, but more specifically the north of England is lacking in help for independent creative enterprise; we offer a tool to give independent artists exposure to both the public and opportunities for selling art commercially. Primarily ‘The Northern Project’ is for artists, but also for individuals, groups and businesses seeking bespoke media and art, for any purpose ranging from personal commissions to corporate advertising. Also, creating this network will allow us to outreach into the wider community and bring art to everybody, affordably.

Outside of ‘The Northern Project’, I am also a freelance filmmaker and have worked with another filmmaker Sam Devito Film and Photography, for over two years now as his assistant camera operator, director and producer. Together we have worked on corporate projects with companies like J.P Morgan, Breedon Cement Works and Ramm + Martell Shoes. Throughout working on these projects, I have learnt skills in directing many different groups of people, patience and dedication and also versatility in creative skills. Also, I am extremely driven and motivated in setting a goal and achieving it as I have started working in the field I want to be in and also set up an artist collective with other like-minded young artists who have the same creative vision as myself.

Outside of my educational and professional life, my hobbies also include photography and music. At age 12 I taught myself to play guitar which gradually developed into me learning piano, ukulele then gradually I started to write music and songs for projects my friends have created like films and theatre shows.