

Programme:
somewhereto_

Region:
National

Date:
August 2011



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Gemma Clough, Creative Learning Manager at Sunderland Empire

somewhereto_ is a nationwide project to help young people find the space they need to do the things they love within sport, culture and the arts. Their aim is to help improve the lives of thousands of young people and create thousands of success stories, today and in the future. This is Mark Sowerby’s story.

Mark met with Neil and Michele when they were on a visit to Darlington College promoting the somewhereto_ programme. Mark came forward and stated that he needed spaces to perform magic to the general public. At present Mark was part of a Magic group in Darlington which was made up of older people and they rarely had performance opportunities. Mark wanted to further his skills and gain more experience of engaging and performing with audiences.

After thinking of possible performance spaces, Mark was presented with the opportunity to perform prior to a national show at the Sunderland Empire Theatre. The show was Shaun the Sheep and Mark was given the opportunity to engage with young people and adults prior to the show to perform his magic.

Mark’s performance went down a storm and Shaun (main star of the show) came to meet mark in front of the audience and their photos and story were featured in the Sunderland Echo newspaper. Mark has since gone on to perform at the Sunderland Theatre’s Gala Night in front of local councillors and the Mayor’s cabinet.

Gemma Clough, from Sunderland Empire, spoke about Mark with somewhereto_, saying: ‘We were delighted to provide Mark with a platform to showcase his magical talents. I’ve had a sneak preview of some of his tricks and was blown away by how fantastic he was. We’re thrilled to be working with somewhereto_ and look forward to providing many more opportunities to local young people in the near future.’