

# Educate and Celebrate Showcase 2016: A Night to Remember

An amazing night was had by all at the Educate and Celebrate Birmingham Showcase Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. A fabulous Birmingham start to LGBT History Month!

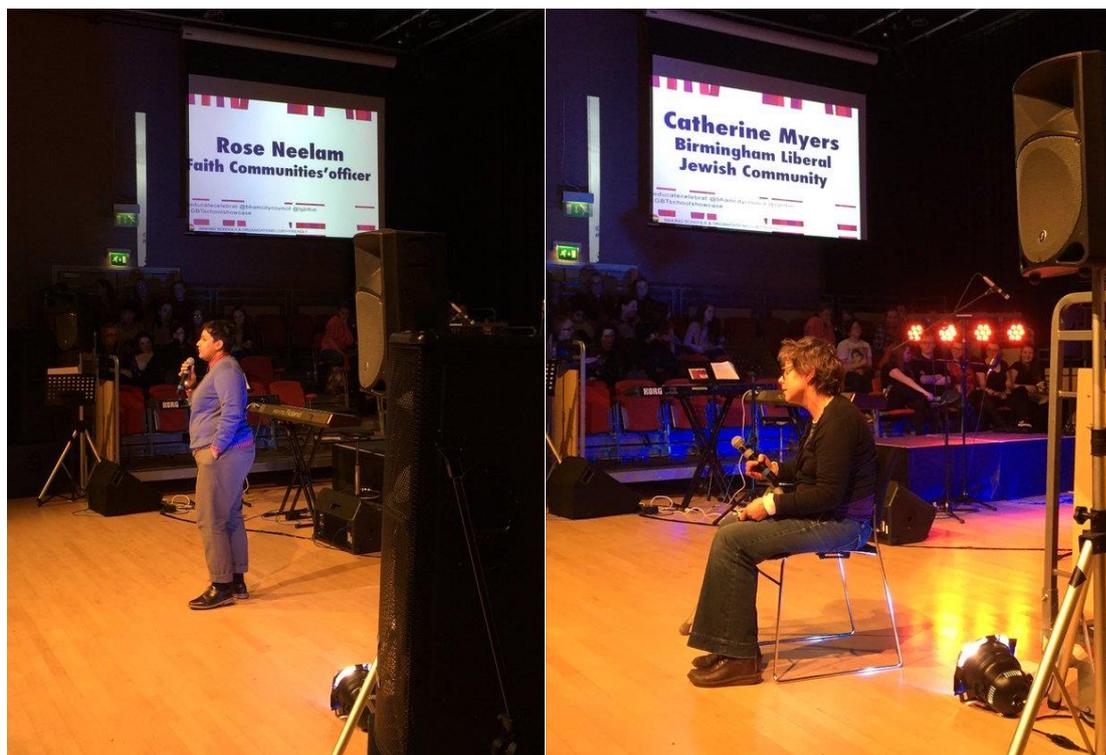
Birmingham LGBT Unison and the LGBT Employees Network were proud to support the event which has become a delightful and inspiring highlight in the year of the City's cultural life.



Hosted at Birmingham Metropolitan University, Matthew Boulton College Campus, The Birmingham night kicked off a series of six regional school showcases to celebrate LGBT History Month. Primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities throughout the region performed songs, dance, plays, poetry and speeches building on curriculum work on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Students celebrated and championed diversity and inclusivity in style!

**Colin Diamond the Executive Director of Education for Birmingham City Council** gave a keynote speech. He put aside notes prepared for him about council and education statistics. He said the night was all about the children and young people who had produced such incredible work. Colin said he was proud that the children and young people of Birmingham are leading the world on diversity issues around gender and sexual orientation.



This year LGBT History Month has a focus on Religion, Belief and Philosophy. The Showcase event included Rose Neelam, a Muslim Faith Communities' Officer and Catherine Myers from the Birmingham Liberal Jewish Community. Both spoke of the privilege it was to be a part of such a special night celebrating diversity.



***George Salter school pupils perform their inspiring play about inclusivity. They showed how to be supportive to a friend who is transitioning gender.***



***Kings Norton Boys' School perform 'Rotton to the Core' – one of the 8 Equality Songs debuted at the showcase.***

There is still time to vote for the winning Equality song. Go online to Educate and Celebrate or Birmingham City Council: <http://www.educateandcelebrate.org/> or <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/educate&celebrate>

Singer-Songwriter Vix Perks, an organiser of the event and leads the Equality Song for Birmingham competition. Vix explained why she is involved: ***As a Brummy born and bred, I am extremely proud to be part of a wonderfully diverse community that celebrates difference. This Educate & Celebrate Schools Showcase is so inspiring as we help pupils use their creative talents to say no to discrimination, yes to equality.***

A student from the region who participated in a previous Educate & Celebrate showcase said:

***We learnt about being proud to be yourself! Having the chance to speak openly and honestly in front of such a diverse and energetic crowd meant a lot to me and I shall never forget that moment.***

