

# Disability awareness promo

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**Bryan De'Ath - Founder and CEO, Skill Boosters:** Introducing two new video-based courses on disability from Skill Boosters. These courses explore the everyday issues faced by disabled customers and employees through the comedy of a collective of professional disabled comedians.

**Simon Minty – Comedian, disability trainer and consultant:** Meet the Abnormally Funny People.

**Steve Day:** I'm more annoyed about being bald than being deaf, honestly, because you can't make a living out of being bald, can you? But I made one out of being deaf. I've deafed it up, I don't care.

**Lee Ridley:** I need help to make my lunch, I need help to get dressed and I need help to change the television channel. That last one is just because I'm lazy.

**Bryan De'Ath:** To create these courses, Skill Boosters teamed up with Simon Minty, leading trainer and disability consultant, who also just happens to be one of the founding members of Abnormally Funny People.

**Simon Minty:** I think humour and comedy around these awkward subjects can really cut to the point, so you listen, you learn and you're laughing.

**Georgie Morrell:** Comedy's a great way to get a conversation about disability going. First, you can say and get away with things that you probably can't in daily life.

**Tanyalee Davis:** I feel like my act gives people insight into my life, they get to see life through my eyes and realise we're not all that different, despite the whole height thing. And maybe next time they see another little person, they're not gonna freak out.

**Don Biswas:** Up there is no problem, I can hide behind a microphone, but in the real life is what I find really hard.

**Bryan De'Ath:** The training takes the approach that working with disabled customers and colleagues is really just a matter of common sense, but with a little bit of confidence thrown in. And just sometimes all of us need a bit of a reminder as to what that might look like.

**Shop assistant:** Do you need any help?

**Simon Minty:** It's important for organisations to understand disability the best they possibly can, whether it's their customers, or whether it's working with disabled colleagues.

**Steve Day:** I could see it in her eyes, "Oh my God, he's deaf. I've got to do something different."

- We have an open-door policy, which has got even better since we put that ramp in (laughs).

**Lee Ridley:** I never really got the time to do any work. My colleagues always insisted on checking up on me to see if I was okay.

- Do you want me to hang up your coat?

- Let me adjust your chair.

- It's freezing in here. Let me turn the heating up for you.

**Bryan De'Ath:** The first course explores our comedians' experiences of the not always great customer service they receive.

**Simon Minty:** As disabled people, we're still on the end of some pretty silly behaviour.

- Aw, that's lovely, is that for you?

**Laurence Clark:** Very obviously not mine, I'm more of a 'Little Mermaid' guy myself.

**Bryan De'Ath:** The second course examines the behaviours and attitudes they've encountered in the world of work and recruitment.

- You have 40 minutes to create a presentation on inclusivity. (tyres screeching)

**Juliette Burton:** He was trying to bond by saying that he was a bit of a nutter himself.

- We're all a bit nutty, so you'll fit right in.

**Simon Minty:** If your recruitment excludes disabled people, you're missing out on potential talent. We've got the skills like everybody else and we might actually even bring something else to the party.

**Don Biswas:** A lot of people with Asperger's, they completely think outside the box. And that could be useful for any organisation.

- Don't worry, mate. I'll get you sitting nice and comfortably.

**Simon Minty:** Just wanted to say thank you so much for keeping getting it wrong around disability because that means that us disabled comedians have got so much more material and if you start getting it right by learning from this course, well, we're out of a job.

**Lee Ridley:** I really enjoy it when people just come up and talk to me because I know that they don't care that I'm disabled. That means a great deal.