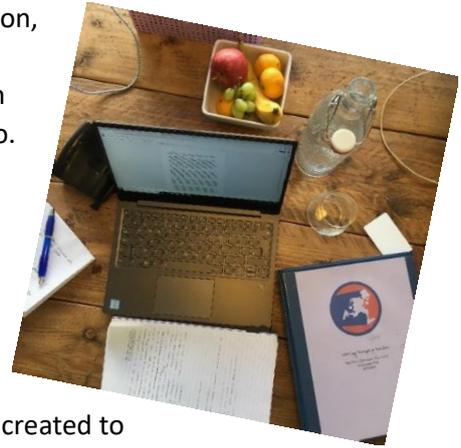


## SIN Cru In and Out

You all remember seeing something amazing on TV and thinking, wow I'd really like to do that, well when Tom first saw bboys moving, gliding through the air he was shocked at how easy they made it look, and he always wanted to try it out ever since. Several years on, Tom's lecturer on his dance degree course at Surrey University, introduced him to SIN Cru. He instantly wanted more information to see what they are about, what they stand for and what they do.

Starting when hip hop became more mainstream, SIN Cru standing for strength in numbers began in 1995 as Sinstars graffiti crew, founded by Kilo and Dref. As it grew they brought in MCs, DJs then eventually dancers to form SIN Cru. The main idea behind SIN Cru was to unite artists and demand proper contracts rather than a token fee, or free clothing for their work, and to show hip hop as a solid culture. In 1999 JNR Sinstars were created to teach the younger generation how to battle, when to chill or throwdown, getting them involved in music videos and performances, and teaching them about hip hop culture. The JNR Sinstars scheme is open for youth dancers up to the age of 16yrs, then eOTO is mentoring for emerging artists from 16yrs onwards, and Sinstars are the professional crew which you have to battle to get into.



Tom and Sarah met for the first time in the SIN Cru office early on the first day of October. They will be spending the year together on placement with SIN Cru, as part of the eOTO scheme. Each one teach one (eOTO) was set up as a middle ground for young people moving up from JNR Sinstars to gain more responsibility and continue learning and developing themselves. The step from JNR Sinstars to Sinstars was too big for many JNRs who weren't quite old enough to be part of an adult crew, yet had outgrown the youth crew, so eOTO was formed to fill this gap. The name eOTO was given by SIN Cru's associate artist Poe One from Style Elements, as an

ethos of sharing which he follows and believes in. Members of eOTO get to learn and develop skills in a more mature setting while training and developing their knowledge of choreography, theatre, marketing and hip-hop culture. Focusing on a certain area of the culture and organisation that they would like to further their understanding on through taught, hands-on experience.

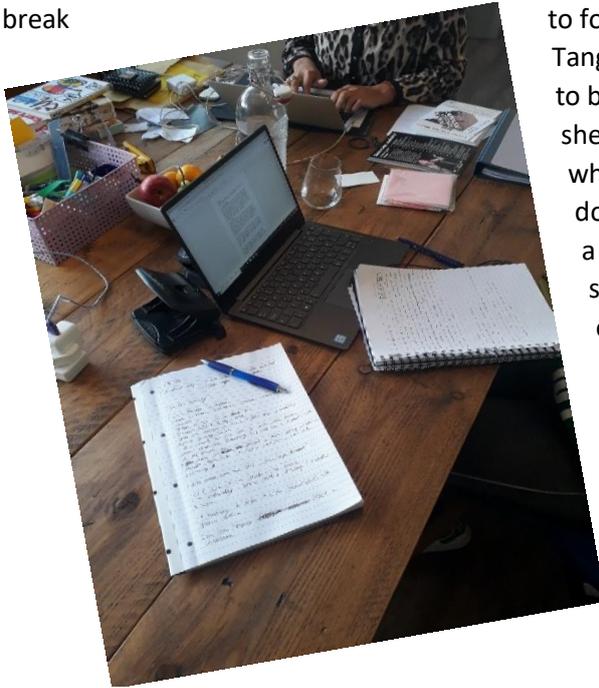
Tom is 20, soon turning 21. As a child he first started swimming and boxing. After watching the Step-Up films, he took an interest in dance and started to learn street dance. Hobbies include dancing and swimming continuing from a young age and he also enjoys reading books and comic books, and gaming and is saving up for a new PC. With dance he has performed and won competitions within a dance crew. An interesting memory and fact from his childhood was when he was at a funfair at the age of 2, he got his middle finger stuck in the moving floor of a fun house. The tip of his finger was cut into so deeply that it was left hanging



off. It was

later reattached at hospital. He is on a full-time internship with SIN Cru, and already looking forward to 6.00am morning practice and daily runs with London the wayward husky.

Sarah is 17 and currently attending college, studying psychology and health and social care. She has danced since she was 3yrs old in ballet, contemporary and recently Spanish dance but has taken a break



to focus on her studies. Her hobbies are dancing and Tang Soo Do which she is a red belt in. Sarah wanted to be a nursery teacher but after her work experience she changed her mind and although is undecided in what she wants to do now, has a strong interest in documentary film making. Sarah is joining SIN Cru on a part time placement to support her health and social care studies. She will be looking specifically at early years creative engagement, and physical and social development.

Written by Tom O'Donohoe and Sarah Bailey.