



## **The 2016 PMZ**

### **Nick Thomas Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement**

**Winner to be announced at the Nick Thomas Awards Evening**

**Being held at Plymouth Music Zone on**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

The PMZ Nick Thomas Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement was created to commemorate a talented young musician and rap artist who sadly passed away a number of years ago with a condition known as 'SADS'. Nick Thomas had a passion in life for music and had always wanted to develop a career using music to help other young people. Shortly after his sudden death, Nick's family came across the work being done by Plymouth Music Zone. Nick had left Plymouth in his early twenties to seek out opportunities to do what he loved around about the time PMZ was being first set up. His family believe if Nick had known about Plymouth Music Zone, he would have found a perfect home here in the city for his dreams and talents.

With this in mind, Nick's family very kindly decided to donate some money to Plymouth Music Zone in his memory. Some of that donation has already made a difference by allowing more young people to make music a part of their lives. This award, first created in 2007, set out to remember and embody Nick's passion and how much music meant to him and so many young people.

The Nick Thomas Award for Outstanding Achievement represents the powerful musical journey Nick wished to continue – a journey that will now live on in the hearts and minds of all the winners that will be honoured in his name.



## **GUIDE TO THE 2016 PMZ NICK THOMAS AWARD**

### **THE AWARD**

The PMZ Nick Thomas Award attempts to recognise the outstanding achievement of a young person who has excelled at Plymouth Music Zone by using music to make a difference to their own and to other young people's lives. The winner of this award will be someone who is dedicated and passionate about music and PMZ. The person must also demonstrate a desire to value music as a vehicle to not only empower themselves but to inspire people around them. However, it is not strictly about musical skill and achievement - and not defined by set criteria. The winner will be someone who embodies the spirit of being passionate about music and using it as the powerful force that it can be. And it will be someone who has had a recognisable impact on PMZ and the people around them.

### **PRIZES**

The actual main PMZ NICK THOMAS AWARD was originally commissioned from local sculptor, Amanda Bluglass, in collaboration with Nick Thomas's family. The resulting piece is a perpetual award that is displayed all year round at PMZ. Every year the name of the new winner is added.

This year's winner will also receive an individual unique trophy especially designed by a celebrated local mosaic artist, Jane Stevens. As with previous awards, Jane works through Frameworks, a creative arts facility for established local artists.

All finalists will receive a framed certificate of achievement.

### **PMZ PERFECT PARTNERS and THE LYNDA MACPHERSON INSPIRATION AWARD**

Also at this year's event, Plymouth Music Zone will be recognising three partner organisations and individuals who have been vital in making PMZ's collaborations a success in the 'PMZ Perfect Partner Awards'.

We will also present an award to recognise the inspiring achievements of PMZ's older participants, in memory of former PMZ participant Lynda MacPherson, a previous resident of St Pauls Court residential home.



**Thoughts from Nick Thomas's family about what the award might reflect about Nick:**

"The thing that I always enjoyed watching in Nick was how involved he would become in making music, he would almost become lost in it. Whether he was writing lyrics, making beats or listening to a new CD he would dedicate himself to it totally and that sort of enthusiasm would draw people in.

"But it wasn't merely his dedication that was so fascinating, anyone who knew Nick knew him as a charismatic, energetic and positive person. He always looked for the solution to the problem instead of simply giving into it."

"I think that...the award should pay tribute to Nick's personality, that the winner of the award should be positive, dedicated, energetic and inspiring."

"Passion, enthusiasm, charismatic, positive, dedicated, energetic and inspiring"

"Whether Nick has planned a particular track and thought long and hard over what message he was putting across or whether he was just free style and coming up with it all on the spot, either way, the way his mind worked was just absolutely genius. I used to just listen to the CDs he did, over and over again and really analysing and studying the words he was using and the way in which he delivered the message through his music."

"Another thing that really stands out to me is that Nick was a perfectionist when it came to his music especially. He was all about developing his skills and it was like a daily thing to him, part of his routine, but it all came so naturally to him, like music was a part of him."

"So it would be really nice if the person who won the award had a real passion, enthusiasm etc. for song writing, a real talent for it..."

**...And it would be amazing if you could see that music is really a part of this person, like it was a part of Nick..."**