

## 'Raf-Fixed-It'

### **RAFIK HUSSEIN – The Dream Merchant**

For the past 40 years, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and filmmaker Rafik Hussein has been touching lives by making people's wishes come true. Through his 'Dreams Come True' and allied foundations, Hussein has helped children and adults, with terminal and life-altering illnesses, live their dreams.

Rafik has made countless people happy by helping them meet some of the most influential people on the planet and taking them on once-in-a-lifetime adventures. This is where he gets his tagline, 'Raf-Fixed-It' from.



### **Inspiration and Passion to Realize Dreams**

In his words, "From my experience, it is immensely rewarding to see what difference you can make – for instance, you can see how people progress in confidence, attitude, and behavior. It's also the smaller things that are just as important, such as talking to someone who can go for days not speaking to anyone. I can truly say the benefits of giving one's time and commitment to a worthwhile cause is priceless".

Rafik's love for meeting new people and communities, gaining constant knowledge and understanding people's way of life, and, finally, making a difference to individual way of life is a constant motivator for him.



It is his innate desire to provide people with at least an opportunity, which propels him in his unwavering commitment to his work. While he makes others' dreams come true, his share of happiness comes from seeing others happy.

His work lends him a sense of purpose and multiplies his self-esteem.

What is worth mentioning is that Rafik does not accept any donations nor does he ever ask for any. He has not registered his organization as a charity as he does not want to apply for grants, funding, and donations. A one-man team, not answerable to anyone, Rafik helps people whenever wherever he can. There is never any money exchanging hands. Help is accepted in the form of services and that too directly offered to those who need it.

## Dreams Do Come True And He Believes in It!

Rafik understands first-hand the value of helping people and how it can make a difference in someone's life. He started "Dreams Come True" when he was only 15 and it's been 40 years since and dreams still continue to come true for the ones, he attends.

Tuesday July 11 1995 EASTERN EYE 3 +2 The Weekly News, July 15, 1995.

# RAF'LL FIX IT!

**Charity king helps dreams come to life**



**RAF'LL FIT IT**  
Rafik enjoys making dreams come true

PHOTO: SS GULSHAN



**ROYAL TREAT**  
Rafik fixed it for Peter Bird (right) to meet Prince Charles

**If you want to fly on Concorde, visit Disneyland or even meet royalty, Rafik Hussein could fix it for you!**  
The flamboyant dream-maker from Northampton models himself on Jimmy Savile and aims to bring a little happiness into other people's lives.  
Rafik's latest act of kindness was to take 10-year-old brain tumor victim Sarita Bhatia to last with a special sur-



**ROYAL TREAT**  
Rafik fixed it for Peter Bird (right) to meet Prince Charles

# 'MR FIXIT' WHO MADE BRAVE BOY'S DREAMS COME TRUE

**Critically-ill Wayne was taken in Rolls-Royce round London for a day he'll never forget, thanks to amazing efforts of one man**

**WATCHING** Jimmy Savile on TV making children's dreams come true made a lasting impression on Rafik Hussein when he was a youngster — and now, years later, he is also known as "Mr Fixit".

Recently, Rafik organised an incredible day out for 10-year-old Wayne Jenner. This brave and bright little boy is terminally ill with an inoperable brain tumour.

Rafik heard that Wayne's dearest wish was to own a go-kart, and he decided to do his best to make this, and many other dreams come true for Wayne.

Rafik grew up with his family in Northampton. He started working for the Deragate Entertainment Complex, rising to become their sales and development manager.

The company hosts showbusiness events, puts on ice shows and many other kinds of entertainment. Because of this, Rafik made a lot of contacts which would help him later.

Rafik also carried out voluntary work with charities such as Mind, Mencap and Night Shelter and, on behalf of one of the charities, he arranged for an eight-year-old girl in a wheelchair, to take tea with Princess Diana at Althorpe House.

### Help

Word soon spread about this "Mr Fixit". All sorts of people began to ask for Rafik's help, and he started to spend his time fixing things for them.

He recently arranged for a partially-paralysed man, mentally impaired after a car accident, to meet Prince Charles.



Rafik, Wayne and Debbie.

After a visit to the Guinness World Record Museum at the Trocadero Centre, Piccadilly, they went back-stage at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square.

Wayne was shown around the cinema projection room and enjoyed talking to the technicians so much, it was difficult to drag him away.

### Thrilled

The trio then had lunch at the Cafe Royal, and Wayne was really thrilled when he was presented with his go-kart, which had been specially constructed for him by Index Catalogue.

The company hope to sponsor him to go on a go-kart track circuit. After feeding the swans in Regent's Park, Wayne took another little nap. Finally, in the evening, he was taken to The

**Incredible outing ended with Wayne seeing his name in**

His first project at 'Dreams Come True' was to convince Martin Stanford, the former Radio Northampton Broadcaster and SKY News Journalist to do a 'Radiothon' to help the Northamptonshire Association for the Blind. The event was a huge success and the money raised was used to buy a minibus that provided door-to-door transportation to the blind. This provided the blind community of the region to freely conduct their daily routine without depending on anyone.



## 'Helping the Homeless'

In 1986, when he was only 18, Rafik launched the 'Helping the Homeless' initiative helping the homeless, on the streets of London, with food, information on local healthcare, local support, and advice. Since then, 'Dreams Come True' has helped over 20,000 children and adults with serious illnesses. Rafik has been working on most of his projects as a one-man band for the last 4 decades.

Raf, who had faced rough conditions during his childhood, now believes in using his position and connections to help the disadvantaged. On Christmas, when it is particularly colder for some people, Raf comes sharing his warmth with them.



● Rafik and volunteers with a supply of blankets at the West London Day Centre in Seymour Street.

Page 12 Thursday, December 30, 1993 Northampton Chronicle & Echo



**HOTEL HELPS OUT:** Two dozen homeless people at Northampton's Oak Street night shelter enjoyed a four-course meal courtesy of staff at the Northampton Moat House. Deputy general manager David Hathaway, pictured above left with his wife Lesley, and night porter Ray Coles, also pictured, brought the food down and helped dish it up. Organiser volunteer Rafik Hussain, right, said: "There were some leftovers and these were heated up and used to feed the many homeless people that came to the shelter in the evening."

Photofile 63970/21

## Launch of 'The International School of the Media for the Disadvantaged'.

In 1987, Rafik established the 'International School of the Media for the Disadvantaged'. It focused on providing training and work opportunities to the disabled and disadvantaged in the media industry. He helped innumerable disabled and underprivileged individuals with education and job opportunities with his school.



The Rt Hon Neil Kinnock - Vice President European Commission launching and supporting Rafik Hussein on April 24th 1987 for Pilot Scheme of The International School of the Media, with a Section for the Disabled.

He campaigned for the disabled persons to work in the Media Industry by getting 36,207 signatures. This petition was given to John Birt - Director General of the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) and as a direct result of this, BBC set up a new unit enabling the disabled and disadvantaged with opportunities to work in BBC.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1996 **NEWS** *Chronicle & Echo 17*

■ Volunteers collect 36,000 signatures on petition destined for BBC

# Rafik battles on for disabled film-makers

**DREAM-merchant Rafik Hussein has launched a campaign to get disabled people into the television business.**

Rafik, of Cloutsham Street, Northampton, has engaged the help of more than 80 volunteers in Northampton and London, who have collected a total of 36,207 signatures, which will be sent to the BBC next month.

Rafik sent a programme idea to the BBC last year for a programme to make dreams come true for disabled and terminally-ill children.

But although the BBC made a pilot programme, they failed to take up Rafik's idea of using disabled people to make the programmes.

"I hope this petition will make the BBC sit up and listen to me," said Rafik. "I hope that the BBC will respond favourably to this request, in the light of the response I have received from people in the community. I feel the community has a big hand to play in the media, as they spend the money on TV licences.

"By responding to my request, the BBC will be responding to community rather than commercial needs."

Rafik, who recently took disabled and terminally-ill children on a skiing trip to Italy, hopes a video of the trip, made and edited by disabled people, can soon be shown on television.

■ ENTERPRISING - Rafik Hussein, centre, with youngsters on a ski trip to Italy

SECURITY HINGES SHOOTBOLT LOCKS

**Sentinel**  
INTERNALLY GLAZED WINDOWS FROM POSH

PROBABLY  
**BRITAIN'S MOST  
SECURE PVCU WINDOW  
& DOOR SYSTEM**

## Rafik - The Film Maker

Hussein began his career as a Sales and Development Officer and worked for Derngate Centre, Northampton. He also tried his hand at photography working onboard the Sovereign of the Seas, the largest cruise liner afloat by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

While professionally working and actively helping people through his foundations and 'Fixed-It' projects, Raf also went back to education. In 1993, he graduated with a Diploma in the Art & Technique of Film Making from The London Film Academy after a chance meeting with filmmaker Steven Spielberg. As a student, he championed for disabled filmmakers.

# Making dreams come true

By ELENA ANTONIOU



**KIND HEART:** Film student Rafik Hussein wants to make others happy

MARYLEBONE'S own Jim'll fix-it is looking for people to write to him so that he can make their dreams come true.

Film student Rafik Hussein's, 27, of Gloucester Place has arranged 50 charitable fix-its to date, including lunch with Hollywood heart throb Richard Gere, and trips to Disney World.

Inspired by Jimmy Saville's TV show, he is now appealing for people in Westminster to come forward to be fixed.

He said: "It was my favourite show. I must have sent in hundreds of letters asking for my three wishes. My first dream was to go on a cruise, my second to go to Elvis Presley's home, Graceland, and the third was to go to Disneyland."

But he was unsuccessful, so Farik, 27, decided he would put some sparkle in other people's lives instead.

Last month when the mother of a young disabled man asked for something to brighten up his birthday last month, she got more than a few candles on a birthday cake - Rafik put her son's name in lights at Leicester Square.

He said: "My family was very poor so I know what it's like to go through difficult times and how good it feels to have someone tap you on the shoulder and say they can help."

"I want to carry on doing this for ever. Working for charities has given so much pleasure I can't put it in words." Farik, in his second term at the London International Film School in Covent Garden, would like to hear from anyone with a special dream.

Write to him at the London International Film School, 24, Shelton Street, Covent Garden.

In 1995, Rafik directed and produced a short film titled 'Black and White,' which was screened at a Charity Gala evening in the presence of HRH Prince Charles at the MGM Multiplex Cinema, Northampton. The protagonist of the story was a disabled person and the film gave goosebumps to HRH Prince Charles. He said. "It was Amazingly Emotional." The funds raised at the event were donated to several charities.



## Recognition Too Followed

Rafik's relentless efforts to help people were recognized and celebrated by various prestigious organizations of the United Kingdom. The **Top Philanthropy Award** was presented to him in 1993 and the **Charitable of the Year Award** in 1994, by Roger Davids MBE of CVS.

In 1995, he was awarded **The Whitbread National Award** of the year by Sir Michael Angus for his outstanding work and commitment to Charity. In 1996, he also received **The International Global Charity Volunteers Award**.

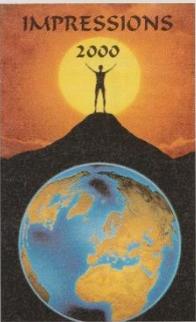
In 1997, he was awarded **The National Community Award** to recognize him for selfless and uncelebrated efforts and commitment in his day-to-day life relating to issues and efforts that serve to create a better society. This was followed in 1998 by the **Citizens Award** for doing extraordinary work in his local community.



Baroness Thornton (Minister of the House of Lords) congratulates Rafik Hussein for his outstanding work and commitment to the disadvantaged communities in the United Kingdom. 2008 at the House of Commons.

## The Unique Poem Collector

In 1996, Rafik showcased the other side of his personality by organising The Poem Exhibition, where he showcased original and hand-written poems by National and International stars, singers, sports personalities, celebrities, politicians, religious figureheads, prime ministers, presidents, and royalty. Currently, he has a collection of 2007 poems which will be auctioned shortly and the funds will be diverted to helping the disabled.



**Impressions 2000 Ltd.**  
Presents  
**The Poem Exhibition**



Rafik Hussein

Rafik Hussein has over the past 11 years been collecting poems from National and International Stars, Singers, Sports Personalities, Celebrities, Famous Politicians, Religious Figureheads, Prime Ministers, Presidents and Royalty. To date he has collected over 1000 poems. These are all original and have been personally hand-written.

Rafik has carried out local and international charity work over several years and in 1995 was awarded **The Whitbread National Award of the Year** by Sir Michael Angus, Chairman of Whitbread plc, for his outstanding work and commitment in the charity world. This year Rafik was presented with the 1996 international award, **The Global Charity Volunteers Award** for his dedication to disabled communities around the world. He has also made dreams come true for thousands of underprivileged children with disabilities and life threatening diseases.

Better known as Mr Fix-it in the United Kingdom, Rafik has had extensive television, radio and newspaper exposure in making wishes come true for people with disabilities.

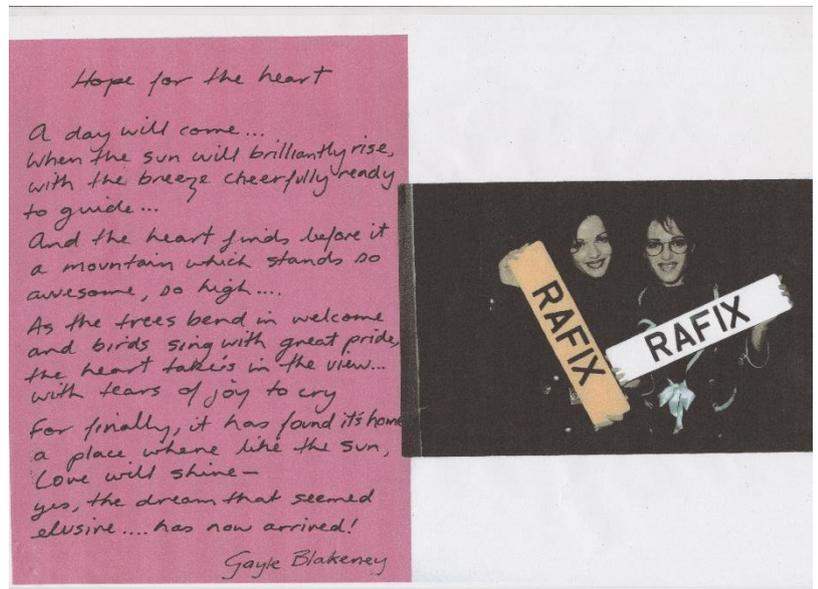
In the last few years he has begun an ever-challenging project of making dreams come true for disabled people who want to enter the media industry, with the formation of The International School of the Media for the Disabled.

This will be the first showing of this unique collection. These and other exhibitions around the country will be forerunners to the finale exhibition in one of the pavilions at the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition in the Year 2000, by which time Rafik will have collected 2000 poems for the completion of this unique collection.

The exhibition runs from Tuesday 27th August to Saturday 31st August 1996.

The first day of the exhibition is a private viewing and will be attended by celebrities and prominent people.

**Tickets £20**  
**Over 60, Under 16, UB40, Student - £10 off**  
**All Disabled Persons No Admission Charge.**



## London Community Television - For the Community and by the Community

In November 1998, 31-year-old Rafik founded the London Community Television or LCTV. The LCTV aimed to provide a broadcasting service for the community and by the community, thereby giving job opportunities to the disadvantaged. With LCTV, Rafik helped many disabled, homeless, and underprivileged people make a living for themselves and be independent.

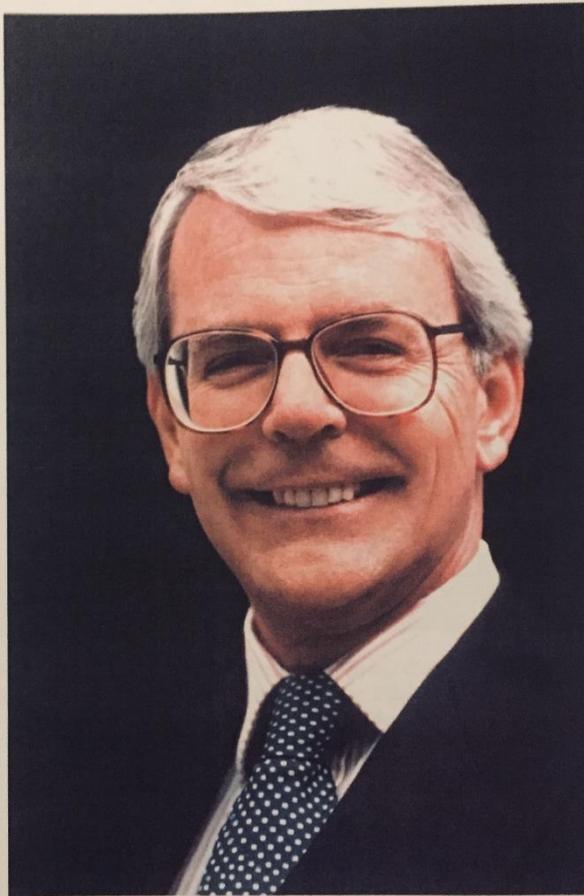
"...and I hope making the dreams come true for all these people will help you in your dream of the London Community TV"



*Lots of love from Diana*

Princess Diana supports and congratulates Rafik Hussein for his outstanding work and commitment to the disadvantaged children and adults

"Your aim to create an International School of the media for the Disabled and the London Community Television channel is an encouraging initiative in providing opportunities for Disabled people to develop skills and achieve independence."



*With every good wish. John Major*



*Best wishes  
Tony Blair*

"I am pleased to have this opportunity to wish Rafik Hussein every success in the International School of the Media for the Disabled, and the London Community Television Channel. Rafik has been helping people who are ill and people with disabilities for the past few years and has brought them great joy by making their Dreams Come True"

LONDON COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Making the Impossible possible...



Communicating with the world

## Some Short Stories – ‘Dreams that Raf Fixed-it’

- ✧ An 8-year old girl in a wheelchair saw her dream of having tea with the then Princess of Wales, late Lady Diana fulfilled due to Rafik’s efforts.
- ✧ In 1995, Rafik ‘fixed’ a meeting between HRH Prince Charles and 39-year-old Peter Bird, who was left physically and mentally disabled after a life-threatening car accident. This ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ meeting made headlines in the UK.
- ✧ Rafik took 10-year-old terminally ill Wayne Jenner on a day-out around London in a Rolls Royce in 1995. They visited the Guinness Book of World Records Museum in Piccadilly and back-stage at Odeon Cinema in Leicester. His dream of owning a Go-kart was also fulfilled by Rafik.
- ✧ He filled disabled youth Geoffery Beckett’s 20th birthday with fun and music. Geoffrey was taken on a limousine to dine at the Hilton Hotel, after which they went to the Prince of Wales theatre to watch Barry Manilow’s famous musical Copablanca.
- ✧ Godfrey was homeless with no where to sleep and no hope in life when Rafik helped him with accommodations, full-time education, and a job after finishing his studies. In 2000, Godfrey Elstow, the 200th student of the International School of the Media for the Disadvantaged, received his Diploma in Technical Media Studies- covering Journalism, Radio Production, and technology at the age of 53. He also got a job at London Community Television as a Production Assistant. His graduation ceremony was attended by the then Mayor of Northampton, Arthur McCutcheon. His story made headlines with many imminent personalities congratulating him for the achievement.
- ✧ Rafik also annually provides blankets, food and shelter to the homeless on Christmas and has coaxed many hotels and restaurants in the area to provide food for them. This tradition has continued for 38 years with thousands of lives touched.
- ✧ He has created education and work opportunities for several disabled and disadvantaged individuals over the years with the International School of the Media for the Disadvantaged and the London Community TV.
- ✧ And Many More...

# When sad Geoffrey smiled: the night Rafik fixed it

WEMBLEY'S own Mr Fix It brought a rare smile to the face of a young man who has faced a series of personal tragedies.

Rafik Hussein, who is trying to set up a Brent community centre for the homeless and learning disabled, arranged an extra special surprise for Geoffrey Beckett's 20th birthday.

While most people would buy a present and card for the occasion, Rafik hired a limousine and whisked Geoffrey from his home in Northampton to the bright lights of London.

And part of the spectacular birthday surprise included dinner at the Hilton Hotel, a trip to the Prince of Wales Theatre to see a show plus a meeting with television star Gary Wilmott and London's top nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow.

Geoffrey's plight came to Rafik's attention in September when his mother Joan wrote to him to try and 'fix' something for his birthday.

Rafik, 27, of Llanover Road, lived in Northampton up until a year ago when he became known as the Mr Fix It of the town through his efforts to help the disabled and disadvantaged.

His mother told Rafik how Geoffrey had suffered from poor

BY MATTHEW BRAND

health since he was three months old.

He was beset by asthma attacks following pneumonia which affected his attendance at school.

Since leaving school Geoffrey was prevented from working after discovering a serious knee condition. He is now waiting for an operation on both legs.

Mrs Beckett wrote: "I wonder if there would be any possibility of you being able to arrange a special surprise for Geoffrey. My husband and I and the family believe the surprise would greatly cheer him up."

Rafik said: "I often got many letters particularly those related to people with learning disabilities and mental health problems asking me to make their dreams come true.

"It is not always possible but I always did my best to do something special for them."

Rafik spent three years working with MIND and Mencap in Northampton before moving down to Wembley to study at the London International Film School.

"I spoke to Mrs Beckett for quite some time and I knew I just had to do something special for him.



Geoffrey gets the VIP treatment from night club owner Peter Stringfellow



Rafik Hussein

"Through my contacts in various areas I was told I could arrange something for him and this was another of my efforts to make somebody's dream come true."

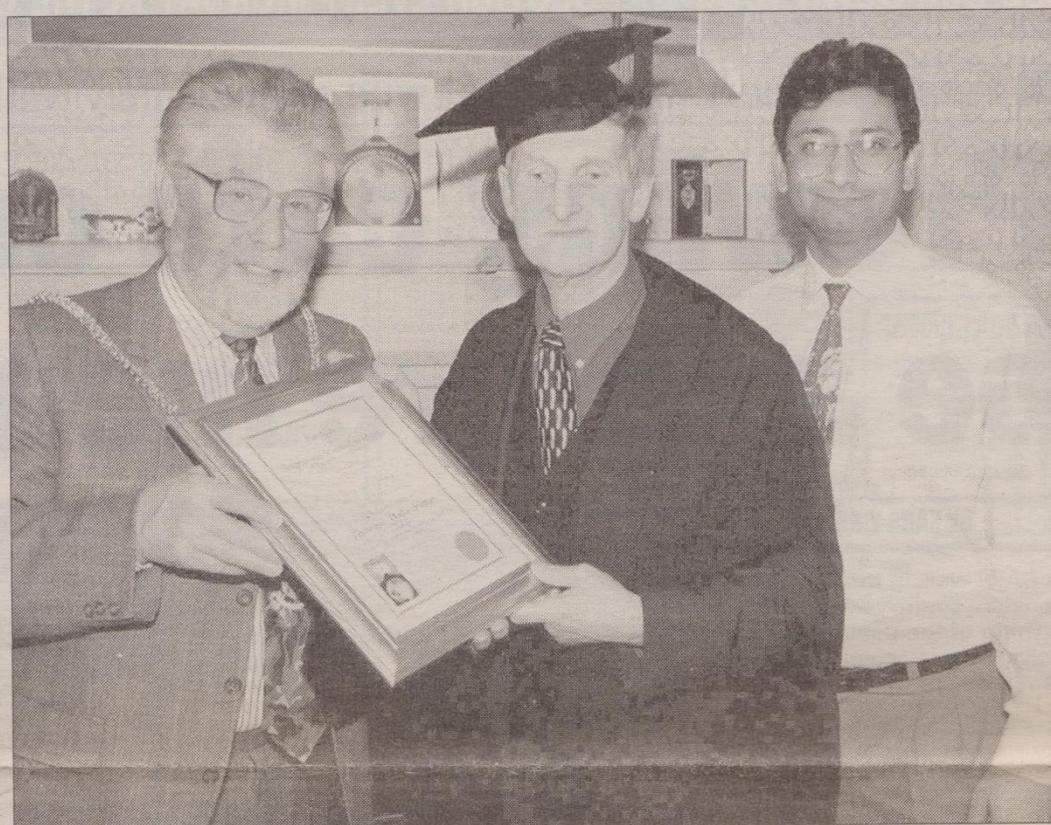
And sure enough on Tuesday last week the car picked Geoffrey and his mother up for a night out to remember. The evening was rounded off with Geoffrey being presented with a certificate by Peter Stringfellow.

Rafik said through his work as a sales development officer with the Dergate entertainment centre in Northampton, he made contacts through a number of star's agents.

"His mother told me it is one of the few times she has seen him smile. And that is the greatest reward you can have through arranging something like this."

■ Ex-homeless man lands role on new television station

# Bouncing back after hardship



■ GRADUATED – Godfrey Elstow (centre) with Mayor Arthur McCutcheon (left) and Rafik Hussein

CE picture 000228-16-4

**GODFREY Elstow from Northampton has battled through homelessness and hardship to secure a job at a new television company.**

Mr Elstow, 58, completed a one-year pilot course in technical media studies – covering television and newspaper journalism, radio production and technology – run by the London-based International School of the Media for the Disabled.

He was presented with his graduation certificate at the Guildhall by Mayor of Northampton Councillor Arthur McCutcheon.

He will now go on to work as a production assistant at London Com-

munity Television, which will go live in July.

Mr Elstow is one of 26 people who have completed the pilot course, which was launched in April 1987 by European Commissioner Neil Kinnock. Six of the students were from Northampton.

On receiving his certificate, Mr Elstow said: "This is one of the happiest days of my life and I am looking forward to starting my new job."

Both the school and the new television company, which concentrates on providing work opportunities for people with disabilities or disadvantages, have been set up by for-

mer Northampton entrepreneur Rafik Hussein.

Mr Hussein, who now lives in London, has built the company based on his experience in the voluntary sector.

In the past he helped many sick children and young people with his Dreams Come True scheme, which arranged for youngsters to meet celebrities, go on the holiday of a lifetime, or do something they had always wanted to do.

Mr Hussein also plans to launch a London Community magazine and a London Community radio station later this year.

BY EDUCATION REPORTER SARA YIRRELL

Rafik Hussein has made dreams come true for thousands of disabled children and adults by fulfilling their wishes.

Rafik takes 10 disabled people on a skiing holiday in a beautiful resort in Italy.

The Office of the  
Leader of The Opposition





*Margaret Thatcher*

23 November 1999

**MESSAGE FOR MR RAFIK HUSSEIN OF**  
**DREAMS COME TRUE**

May I add my own congratulations to those of your many other supporters for all your work in making Dreams Come True for disabled and terminally ill children. I know of the time and effort you put into helping these young people and I wish you well in all your future endeavours.

*Margaret Thatcher*

45 Front St. South,  
Trimdon,  
Trimdon Station,  
Co. Durham.  
TS29 6LY  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

RAFIK HUSSEIN

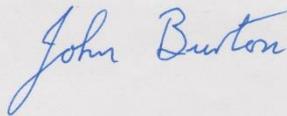
It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the work Rafik has done in helping countless numbers of people achieve their dreams. over what is now a period of some 30 years.

I first came into contact with Rafik when, as Tony Blair's Agent, I helped him arrange a meeting between a young disabled child and the then Leader of the Labour Party. I was convinced that Rafik did this in a genuine belief that he was spreading happiness, and enriching the young child's life.

There was no sense of self-aggrandizement in Rafik's actions, but rather an attitude of compassion, caring, and happiness in the fact that he was attempting to bring a little joy in to someone's life.

If the world was full of people like Rafik, it would certainly be a much more loving place.

Yours truly



John Burton M.B.E.  
Deputy Lieutenant for County Durham  
Agent to the Rt.Hon Tony Blair M.P. Prime Minister



# Raf-Fixed-It

*"Dreams Come True"*

## VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Meeting with President of  
the United States of America

**Barack Obama**

January 2016

Rafik Hussein making wishes come to life  
for disadvantaged children and adults

*Special thanks to Cristian Podina for his support.*



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**And the Journey Continues**