

Prison videos get top awards

Two music videos that bring together thugs from rival West Midland gangs have won a prestigious Royal Television Society award for Wolverhampton University graduates.

Davinder Claire and Balwant Dass, both 29, worked with notorious Birmingham gangsters at Swinfen Hall young offenders' institution near Lichfield earlier this year.

The inmates wrote and performed in the videos, *Change The Way* and *One Life To Live*, filmed by the former students in January.

Davinder, from Wolverhampton, and Balwant, from Oldbury, who studied digital media at the university, set up their own video production and photography business, Rainmaker-VF, after graduating in 2003.

They won the award for Best Corporate/Non Broadcast programme at the RTS ceremony at the Burlington Hotel, Birmingham.

Davinder said: "It was a great challenge to put a group of young offenders from rival gangs together in a room and expect them to write a song about their experiences and then make a music video with it."

The videos are part of the Sonic music project, a partnership project between Staffordshire Arts and Museum Service and Make Some Noise Youth Music Action Zone.