



Havering Sixth Form College student has Got To Dance!

A Havering Sixth Form College student has danced her way to the semi-finals of the popular reality TV show Got To Dance.

Jackie Kibuka, 17, is part of the nine-strong dance group Unity Youth who blew the Sky 1 programme's judges away in auditions and previous rounds with their spectacular street dance routine to win a place in the live shows out of thousands of entries from around the country.

They will appear on the semi final show on Sunday February 7th at 6pm to compete against five other dance acts for their place in the final – and are hoping Havering and the surrounding boroughs will vote for them.

The all-girl outfit train in East London three times a week and are passionate about dancing. They all dream of being professional dancers and are hoping that Got To Dance – which is the dancing equivalent to the X Factor – could be their big break.

Jackie, who lives in Dagenham, and is studying Business Studies, English and Psychology A Levels at Havering Sixth Form College, has been dancing with the group for about a year.

She said: "Dance is my passion. It gives you the freedom to express yourself and interpret music physically. I hope to inspire others, push boundaries and show that Unity Youth is about respect and being part of a family. We really hope people vote for us to get through to the final."

Jackie says she was overcome with emotion when judges, Ashley Banjo from Britain's Got Talent winning dance group Diversity, Kimberly Wyatt from the Pussycat Dolls and West End theatre dancer Adam Garcia, gave Unity Youth three gold stars in the audition stages to secure their place through to the next round.

The girls then faced an agonising dance-off and were ecstatic to be chosen as one of the show's top 18 acts. These have been split into groups of six for three semi-finals, and two acts from each semi - voted by the public - will go through to the final.

The group is choreographed by Tashan Muir who also works with the older, established dance crew Unity who have won many national and international dance competitions.

Jackie said: "Tashan really believes in us. We are doing this for him so that he gets the recognition he deserves and we are excited to have the opportunity to be able to showcase our talent."

Unity Youth won first place in the Bring It On Competition 2009 and also qualified for the iDance finals in Las Vegas - but could not raise enough money to go and compete.