



Inspirational van Gass to Address Inspiring Youth Event at the Bright Purple Academy

Charity fund-raiser and British Army veteran, Jaco van Gass, will address an audience of young Scots on 25 April where he will share an inspirational story about rebuilding his life after incurring devastating war injuries.



South African born van Gass will speak at the Bright Purple Academy, the training and development resource centre of Edinburgh-based recruitment firm Bright Purple Resourcing, where he will recount his experience in the Afghanistan war where he was hit by a rocket propelled grenade, losing his left arm and sustaining severe injuries throughout his entire body.

Through intense rehab and determination Jaco has overcome adversity and taken on the world. He learned how to ski and now represents the army in the Combined Services Disabled

Ski Team. He has also completed several marathons all over the world, raising money for various charities. In 2011 he was part of a team of disabled soldiers, accompanied for five days by HRH Prince Harry, which trekked unsupported to the Geographical North Pole. In the process the group raised £1.5 million for Walking With the Wounded, a charity which re-trains and re-educates injured soldiers when they leave the armed forces.

His address at the Bright Purple Academy is part of the recruitment firm's Inspiring Youth series, presented in conjunction with the organisation Inspiring Scotland and specialist training consultancy, Future Sales Factory.

In addition to his account of serving in Afghanistan, Jaco will also talk of how to find motivation and inspiration within everyday life experiences to help develop a successful career. The key themes he will cover includes overcoming adversity, maximising human performance, taking risks, managing change and coping with pressure.

Bright Purple CEO, Nick Price said: "Jaco van Gass is an extremely uplifting individual who, on the back of an absolutely devastating personal incident, has literally picked himself up and gone on to some amazing achievements. His story is an ideal one for the Inspiring Youth series as it shows us that whatever circumstances we are facing it is possible to find strength and depth to do great things."

