

Singing of life on the streets

- Music video is a YouTube sensation
- Stars ex-homeless people in the city

PETE BAINBRIDGE

A MUSIC video starring former homeless people singing about life on the streets of Manchester has become a YouTube hit.

The four-minute film, titled *Street Life*, follows a group of colourful characters as they paint a picture of true poverty.

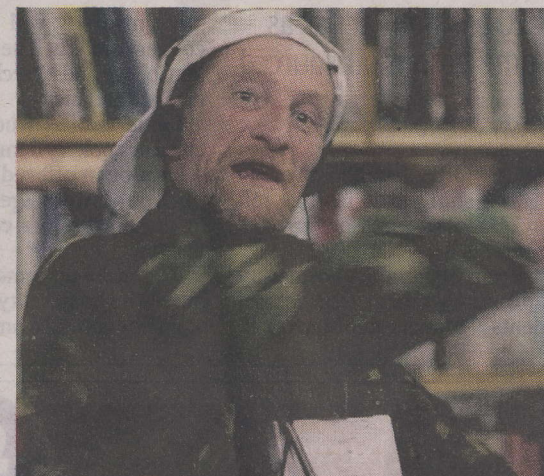
It was shot at 12 locations, including wasteland in Salford and a graveyard in Timperley.

The video's producers hope that while it has a humorous and light-hearted touch, the film will help change public views of vagrancy and people living on the margins.

Those seen on camera have been homeless themselves, and the lyrics for the song were developed through workshops.

The chorus features lyrics such as 'I sleep in a graveyard 'cause the dead they cannot harm you'.

Street Life, which has been



CHANGING VIEWS The *Street Life* video, starring former homeless people and filmed on location around Greater Manchester aims to challenge perceptions about rough sleepers, say its makers, the charity Acting on Impulse. It has had more than 7,000 hits on YouTube already

viewed more than 7,000 times on YouTube, is the work of Manchester charity Acting on Impulse, which works with socially excluded people.

Since the charity was founded in 2007, its members have made three short films and two stage productions, but this is their first venture into music.

The characters and lyrics for the song were developed over 12 months through workshops at the Mustard Tree homeless charity near the city centre.

The song was completed by composer Jamie Serafi.

The film was shot over 12 locations, including Timperley Library and a nearby bus stop, a car park at Salford University, the Pint Pot Pub in Salford, Whitworth Park and Cornerstone homeless day centre, south of the city centre.

The director is CBeebies' Joe Chambers and the video was produced by Lauren Pouchly with Salford film company Finite Productions.

Lauren, 29, a drama school graduate, set up Acting on Impulse with her parents Sue and David Tomlinson in 2007 after being inspired while volunteering on a soup run.

Lauren, now a freelance film producer based in Chorlton, said: "The video's very much about getting people to stop and think about the way they judge someone who's homeless, and not just say 'why don't they just get a job'.

"A lot of these guys haven't

had a strong family support system after things have gone wrong in their lives, and no one to pick them back up. It's trying to get the message across that it could happen to anyone.

"We've done lots of work with these guys, and the biggest thing was seeing a change in their confidence and self worth during filming.

"We have had a public presence on stage or a DVD produced, but this is the first time we have done something online.

We're hoping it can be seen by as many people as possible."

Also online is the behind-the-scenes documentary by Liz Vick, who interviewed and filmed the actors during the regular acting workshops and on location for the video.

This tells some of the poignant true life stories behind the film.

See video on this story at:
manchestereveningnews.co.uk