

The Great Search for Success

What is success? Where do you find it? How do you hold onto it when you've got it? Head to the East Wintergarden on Thursday 9 June to find out more

For many of the 3.5 million people employed in hundreds of sectors across London, success is a mystery. Some have glimpsed it, many are obsessed with finding it and often those who do achieve it don't have time to appreciate it. On Thursday 9 June, professionals from a cross-section of industries, including finance, technology, education, law and sport, are coming together to celebrate success and to uncover the universal factors behind it. Teamwork, creativity, inspiration and a positive attitude can have more of an impact than we realise – and these insights don't always come from the workplace.

In 2003, Anna Hemmings, six time World Champion and a guest panellist at the event, developed Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which threatened to force her into early retirement. For Anna, her success over adversity came down to one thing: attitude. "Even in the worst times and moments, you always have control over your attitude. I used my dreams of competing again at the World Championships and the Olympic Games to inspire me throughout my illness and I didn't give up until I found a therapy that worked. Less than a year and a half later, I took my fourth World title at the Marathon Canoeing World Championships in Australia."



Kanya King, founder of the MOBO awards and a patron of the Success in the City event, says success is doing the thing you love: "Pick an area that you're truly passionate about; it provides you with drive and motivation during the difficult times. Define what's important to you and write about your subject, be a spokesperson for your industry and just get your thoughts out there."

We tend to agree. After all, passion is where Success in the City event started – along with the infectious enthusiasm of one woman behind it. Angela Payne is Account Manager in Media at Thomson Reuters and a supporter of the national domestic violence charity, Women's Aid. After working in Canary Wharf for four years, she became committed to uniting and empowering the London professional community. "When I was young,



my parents sent my brother and me to karate classes and some of the students were domestic violence sufferers. As the training improved our strength, discipline and self-confidence, this fundamental shift in one's character has proven to be one of the most valuable lessons in my life."

Angela was determined to find ways to inspire and empower other women. In 2010 she approached Women's Aid, the charity for whom Sarah Brown, Will Young and Tana and Gordon Ramsay are patrons. In a time of austerity and when public funding is being cut, Angela found Women's Aid's commitment and enthusiasm to provide awareness, education and support for 250,000 women and children each year an inspiration in itself. She pitched the idea for a fundraising event to colleagues, clients and local businesses, and their response was overwhelming. Success in the City was born. It has set in motion a wave of generosity which will make the evening truly a night to remember.

Hosted by SkySports presenter Charlie Webster, a live panel of Britain's favourite athletes, including Olympic Gold Medallist Sir Matthew Pinsent and Olympic long distance runner Liz Yelling, will join others in discussing the secrets to their success. Charlie believes in the huge influence "sport can have on people, how it can change lives for the better, giving people confidence and a common ground", adding that she is a keen supporter of Women's Aid because "everything [the charity] acts upon is hugely important in putting an end to violence against women and children."

Guests will take home gifts from luxury brands, including Jurlique and Charbonnel et Walker, and have the opportunity to bid on exclusive items and experiences from Tiffany & Co., Pommery Champagne, Marriott Hotels and London City Airport. Nutritionists and Personal Trainers from Virgin Active Canary Wharf will provide one-on-one consultations, alongside Dermalogica therapists giving skin and beauty tips.

As the champagne flows, guests will chat and share insights with celebrities and business professionals, enjoying an intimate performance from one of London's most beautiful female voices.

So what is the secret to success? Well, it looks like we'll just have to go along to find out. ■