

## Locally-born and raised actress writes tongue-in-cheek film script



**BIG SCREEN:** Grimsby-born actress Niya Hill who is to release her own film called Grimsby Girl. It comes after the Sacha Baron Cohen film named Grimsby which was released earlier this year.

# Grimsby girl retaliates

**THIS GRIMSBY girl is fighting back.**

That was the emphatic message resonating from actress Niya Hill, who is to release a short film in response to Sasha Baron Cohen's blockbuster movie named after the town.

Named Grimsby Girl, the film will be a spoof which pays homage to the Kill Bill movies, with a tongue-in-cheek look at how a northern woman responds to regional prejudice upon moving to London.

Niya, 50, who was born and raised in Grimsby, left the town at the age of 18 to live and work in the capital – where she experienced many of those prejudices.

She said: "Things have completely changed since 1985, which is when I first came here.

"At that time there was a lot of mickey taking of people with a different accent. If you were northern, you were perceived to be uncultured or uneducated – and I did experience that.

"But it's changed now. There are lots of people in the mainstream media with northern accents, for example, which is how it should be.

"So things have definitely

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improved."

The mother-of-two has sat on the idea for over a decade, but felt compelled to release it following the hysteria surrounding Sacha Baron Cohen's Grimsby film, which hit cinemas earlier this year.

"It is an ideal time to produce the film to respond to Sacha Baron Cohen," she said.

"However, I have to admit, I haven't actually watched it yet. I refused to pay money at the Box Office on principle more than anything else.

"But I have a good idea about it, I have spoken to lots of people who have watched it and I've read the reviews – but I will watch it at some point.

"It's also referenced in the film at one point."

She added: "People in Grimsby do not keel over and let people treat us like that."

She has been working on the script for the last few weeks but says it will definitely be made this year.

Among the sponsors are Grimsby firm JCS Fish Ltd.

The former Hereford Technology School and Welholme Primary School student revealed some of the filming will also be taking place in Grimsby and Cleethorpes.

"I have got ideas for actors but we need to push ahead now," Niya added. She revealed she will also be playing a role, but not the lead character.

A director is being sought but a "brilliant" producer, who is currently in Cannes, is already on board, Niya added.

Niya, who still owns a chalet on the Humberston Fitties, is part of the Actors Screen Collective group that will produce four short films, including Grimsby Girl, that will be premiered in Spring 2017 at the Tristan Bates Theatre in Covent Garden.

The group are also part-funding the film.

Niya is also looking for further sponsorship to get the film off the ground. Should anyone like to speak to Niya about sponsorship, contact her on niya@phantasia.net

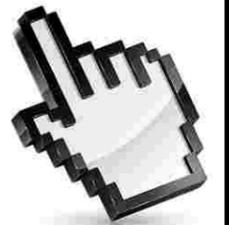
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People in Grimsby do not keel over and let people treat us like that

Niya Hill

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## Students taste the future on visit to university



**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:** Tollbar Academy Year 9 students visited the University of Hull campus to get an idea of what they can expect at university in the future. Pictured with University Ambassador and student Prescillia Annoni, who showed them around the campus, are, from left: Owen Jones, Caitlin Penfold, Casey Horsfall, Harris Moorcroft, Rebecca McCall, William Mayall, Jacob Loughton, Megan Larn, Charlie Henderson and Sebastian Martinez.

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