

BBC SCREENPLAY FORMAT

by

(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

There should be one
contact address only
in the bottom left
hand corner.
Always include a phone
number and an e-mail
address if you have one.

Characters -

Nigel Taylor - Kobby

Ryan Harston - Terror, Jay, Mr Orton, Hull Lad, Rugged Ry, Fan, Dave

Millie Watson - Mrs Turner, Trinity, Robbo, Mrs Sanchez, Student

Steven Arnott - Mr Greensmith, , Red Eye

PROLOGUE

Clap to the riddim and skank / petrol in your tank / money in the bank

Throw your hands in the air / just dont care

Push your hands to the sky / come on bruv dont be dry

Introducing the band (Ryan then Millie then DJ Fire)

SCENE 1 - INTRO TO THE TORCH

SONG - scene 1 ye option

KOBBY
(During Steve's DJ'ing,
Kobby grabs his 90s hat
from the box)

KOBBY (CONT'D)
Welcome to The Torch.
I'm Kobby. This show came about
from a conversation with me and my
grandad, Ebo Taylor. Ebo Taylor is
known as a founding father of
afrobeat. Before he passed early
this year he spoke about legacy and
passing on the Torch. And that got
me thinking - what is legacy? It
made me assess my journey as a
person through the lens of success.
It starts at 13 years old in my
flat in west London, on a mission
for titles to define myself. I want
to be the heavyweight champion of
the world like Iron Mike Tyson.

*(A ring bell. Kobby imagines its
him. **Music out.**)*

KOBBY (CONT'D)

What? I'm 13, I don't know I'll turn out to be 5 foot 7. (**Music in.**)

Or maybe I'll be a Grammy award-winning producer like Kanye or Diddy (**music out**) (yeah I know, neither of them aged well at all). So I'm in my flat with the one thing that always stuck with me...(picks up tape player and presses play on tape deck) Music.

SCENE 2 - THE FLAT

KOBBY

Tell me why....aint nothing but a heart break

Terror enters, Kobby doesn't notice. Terror takes the tape player and presses stop.

TERROR

That's wack man

KOBBY

Uncle That was my jam!

TERROR

You don't know nothin' man, the back street boys...even the name tsk...Nephew, I got something for ya...Ebo Taylor's Life Stories (a flame sound plays)

SONG - let me talk my ting

TERROR (CONT'D)

(TERROR places the tape in the tape player and Ebo's music plays. He places the tape player on the plinth) This is your Grandad's Torch

KOBBY

What do you mean Torch?

TERROR

(TERROR picks up the trophy and takes it with him onto the box) The Torch, The thing that makes the world go round. Listen.

KOBBY

WOOOOW, Ebo Taylor's Torch that's so cool. (I had no idea what Uncle was on about but I knew I wanted a Torch of my own)

TERROR

And when you get one with your name on it - Everyone will respect you and we can get off this estate for good

KOBBY

do you get one through music?

TERROR

Forget about alla dat hype, you will get yours through education. Don't be like me.

KOBBY

Education? Nah. I wanna be a world-famous musician like my Grandad, Ebo.

TERROR

Your smart, stay in your books, you got this. (He places the trophy on the plinth, presses stop and puts the tape player in the central box)

SONG 1 - "THE TORCH"

SONG - let me talk my ting

KOBBY

Something about this Torch,
theres something about this Torch
The way it shines so bright
the way it shines at night
If I could get this torch
mum wouldnt have to work no more
If I could get this torch
I wouldnt get teased no more
What is it? Is it spiritual? Is it
a gift? Is it a miracle?
This torch - is it power or a
curse?
Will it pull my head out the dirt?
How do I get my Torch, how can I
make this work?

(MORE)

KOBBY (CONT'D)

STEVE, RYAN, MILLIE

How does he get his Torch, how does he make this work? (Music off, next track in)

(Sitting up)

There was something about the music, my crazy uncle, my grandad's Torch...I can hardly sleep all night...and before I know it (alarm beeps, **music in**)

SCENE 2 - IT'S 1999

SONG - EBO Taylor Love perc 26 aug

MUM (V.O.)

Prince Nigel get ready for school!

KOBBY

MUM calls me a prince cos one of my uncle's is a chief in Ghana

MUM (V.O.)

Nigel!!

KOBBY

oh and Nigel is my gov name. YES
MUM!

KOBBY gets ready for school whilst the underscore plays. He puts on his shirt and tie, then backpack and grabs handlebars. He then sits on the central box on the upper deck.

KOBBY (CONT'D)

LYRICS

It's 1999 and I'm just 13
I'm the newest kid on the scene
Living in west in the flats giving
daps London life with the hat to
the back
The whole block banging out
Machiavelli
Coat hangers hanging out the back
of tellies
Big gold chains yeah that is swaggy
No tight jeans everything is baggy
Everything tastes better with a bit
of maggy
And my love for music I get it from
my daddy

(MORE)

KOBBY (CONT'D)

Bootlegging tapes off the radio
 Rapping all the lyrics to the
 stereo
 Yo mtv raps a crazy show Busta
 rhymes what's the scenario
 I go every where on a push bike
 Nike Cortez so I look right

EBO TAYLOR (V.O.)

Love is now what you need
 Supernatural things is now what you
 need

KOBBY

Is what my mama says yeah, I gotta
 give to receive...

KOBBY (CONT'D)

Love...

SONG ENDS

KOBBY (CONT'D)

I've got all this love and
 excitement bundled up ready to get
 a Torch at school (he puts the
 handlebars in the SL box) but it
 doesn't work out (Track plays) Me
 and Mum are in the head teachers
 office, and its not looking good,
 bruv.

SCENE 2 - LAST DAY AT OLD SCHOOL

MRS TURNER

Nigel is enthusiastic which is
 wonderful but not just during
 Monday morning maths - mrs Etwi-

KOBBY

Mrs Etwi-Barimah

MRS TURNER

Exactly. Do you give Nigel coca-
 cola for breakfast? He's an
 absolute nightmare.

KOBBY

Mum's FUMING, I'm dead.

MRS TURNER

Curb your enthusiasm Nigel.

(MORE)

MRS TURNER (CONT'D)

(She puts her costume in the central box)

MUM VO

I know what the problem is.

KOBBY

Is...is it me?

MUM VO

No. It's the teachers. Princes don't go to state school they go to Latymer Upper School and get their education. And that's where you're gonna go.

KOBBY

But mum Latymer is Bare dry

MUM VO

No buts. Black boys need a way out more than ever, remember Steven Lawrence.

KOBBY

(Gets blazer from central box) Yes ma, so off I go to the posh school with the big iron gates, where kids with floppy hair get into their chauffeured cars.
(Music plays)

SCENE 3 FIRST DAY

TRINITY

This school is alive with the sound of music (sung)

KOBBY

This blazer is an advert to get robbed! Excuse me, do we have to wear these blazers to leave the school grounds

TRINITY

Its mandatory darling wear it with pride!

KOBBY

(aside) I better keep my money in my socks

KOBBY (CONT'D)

Bruv - are you a real person?

JAY

First day at school, I know what
you mean, I'm Jay

KOBBY

Kobby. Yeah, bro do you listen, to
like music?

JAY

Music?

KOBBY

Yeah like the foundation?

JAY

Hiphop

KOBBY

Garage

JAY AND KOBBY

Ebo Taylor's Life Stories

KOBBY

That's my grandad man!

JAY

No way?

The Torch lights up briefly but Kobby doesn't see it
(school bell rings)

JAY (CONT'D)

Don't be late for Music. Ebo
Taylor's grandson? I'm sure you'll
smash it.

Jay dashes off,

KOBBY

Latymer is just off. Jay's bless
but the rest of the people - Aliens
fam. I'm feeling lost, but I gotta
stay focussed on getting my
education, just like Uncle said.
Well, at least it's my favourite
subject - music.

SCENE 5 - MUSIC LESSON

Trinity and Jay are already seated and singing, Kobby is late

MR GREENSMITH
You are LATE.

KOBBY
Sorry Sir -

MR GREENSMITH
Ah. Continue, Trinity.

Of course, sir. (She sings a mad
aria)

Excellent. Now Jay.

(Jay plays a mad drum solo)

Exquisite. And together. (They do)

Perfect. Now Nigel. Show us what
you learnt at your previous school.

Kobby raps the Fresh Prince theme.

Mr Greensmith sighs, Trinity burst out laughing.

TRINITY
As if!

KOBBY
What's so funny?

MR GREENSMITH
CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

(School bell. Trinity and Jay
leave, laughing at Kobby)

SCENE 6 -

CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM"

SONG - Curb your enthusiasm 2

KOBBY
I come in loud, got dreams in my
backpack
Heart full of noise, they don't
know how to catch that
Uniform stiff, got my soul in a
headlock Smile on my face but I'm
choking on stress bro
(MORE)

KOBBY (CONT'D)

Hands up, questions spilling out my
mouth Tryna shine light but instead
they rub me out
With a board rubber I'm an
undercover brother all on my own
always feeling other

MR GREENSMITH

Nigel. You've got two choices here.
You either make your grades, or you
make the rugby first team.

SCENE 7 - SPORT

SONG - LADS, LADS, LADS

KOBBY

It's not exactly my thing but Sport
is bare important at Latymer and
since I ain't nearly as academic as
these absolute boffins, I made sure
I got in the team!

RUGBY TEAM

(SONG) Lads, lads, lads-lads-lads-
lads Lads, lads, lads-lads-lads-
lads
banter, banter, gimme that banter,
banter banter gimme that banter,
Lads, lads, lads-lads-lads-lads
Lads, lads, lads-lads-lads-lads
macho macho gimme the macho man
macho man
macho macho gimme the macho

MR ORTON

Great game, lads. Who are we?

LADS

Latymer.

MR ORTON

What do we do?

LADS

WIN!

(Kobby isn't as into it
as the other lads)

MR ORTON

What's the matter Taylor

KOBBY

nothin' nothin' at all...just ready
to smash smash smash

MR ORTON

That's the spirit Taylor, true
torch bearer in the making. (The
next track comes in) Come on lads,
first game of the season, let's
smash 'em. (He blows his whistle)

SONG Good game -

SONG - torch acceptance speech 26

MILLIE

lost in memories, emotion running
free, I'm searching for the torch
that feels so real, the thing
that'll set me free

KOBBY

I came, I saw, I came, I saw
yeah I won that clash for sure
I smashed some guys and I smashed
em bad
And coach said that was the best
game we had

I played the game in the mud and
rain, but it wasn't enough to light
my flame, to get a torch I can't
fall behind, to get a Torch is all
about the grind

I came, I saw, I came, I saw
yeah I won that clash for sure
I smashed some guys and I smashed
em bad
And coach said that was the best
game you've had

lost in memories, emotion running
free, I'm searching for the torch
that feels so real, the thing
that'll set me free.

MR ORTON

(offering his hand) Good luck
Taylor. Stay out of trouble.

KOBBY

I leave Latymer broken and I don't
know why.

(MORE)

KOBBY (CONT'D)

I gave everything at rugby and tried my best academically, but I know I've flopped it. So I do what everyone else does when the plan doesn't work. I run...to Uni. I scrape into Kingston University London. I turn up on the first day and

MRS SANCHEZ

Who are you?

KOBBY

Nigel....

MRS SACNHEZ

What's your student number

KOBBY

Oh I haven't been given one yet they said I needed to speak to you

MRS SACNHEZ

The places are full! Clearing was weeks ago - (a beat) go on now

KOBBY

MUM, I messed up

MUM VO

You'd BETTER find another university by tomorrow Nigel!

KOBBY

Yes ma! I get out the big book of Universitites...find Kingston University - go one down...Kingston Upon Hull. Ring them they say

SECRETARY

You start tomorrow

KOBBY

SORTED MUM

MUM VO

Good boy

SONG - NEW HORIZONS / FRESH START (torch Throwback)

SONG - Torch Throwback 26

(Train announcements play as Kobby gets on the train with his suitcase)

KOBBY

I'm ready just to get away Holler
at me for a brighter day The
system's cold, but I fight and pray
Tryna rise above the games they
play Born in the struggle, I been
down before But I got dreams in my
head that they can't ignore Life is
a war, brother what we living for?
Gotta break free, open up the door
Feel the pain, but I smile still
Heart full of rage, but I got the
will To climb this hill, keep
pushing till I reach the top Ain't
no peace until the violence stop
They lock us up and they try just
to cage the mind But my soul too
strong, can't kill the grind
Imma rise, let my people shine
Keep my head up, cant kill my vibe
no surprise.

SCENE 8 - UNWELCOME TO HULL

Kobby Arrives at Hull Train Station

KOBBY

Fresh start, let's go. Maybe I can
find my Torch in Hull.

HULL LADD

Whoa wo wo whoa sweet childa
miiineeee.

KOBBY

Excuse me, I'm lookin' for a good
night out, where do go around here?

HULL LADD

thats a funny accent - wheres you
from?

KOBBY

London

HULL LADD

London???!?! The big smurk,there's
a gig tonight at The Adelphi - hip
hop rap and that

KOBBY

Yeah I love hip hop

HULL LADD
you lot all love that rap stuff
don't you, anyways its called
KOROCKINIT AAAAAAND I have tickets.
Tell you what pal, I'll do you a
ticket for £15?

KOBBY
Can you do it for £10?

HULL LADD
Deal

KOBBY passes the tenner from his sock

KOBBY
Had this since I was a kid

A beat

HULL LADD
I'll leave your ticket on the door

KOBBY
I'll have it now please

HULL LADD
I said I'll leave it on the door,
comprende?

HULL LAD leaves, Kobby walks to the Adelphi, he notices it
says FREE entry and walks in (filter on for underscore track)

SCENE 9 - ADELPHI

KOBBY
The Adelphi. I'm on the
guestlist...Kobby K O/

DOOR STAFF
Its free entry pal there is no
guestlist - just don't break
anything (filter off)

KOBBY
Free entry?! TSK...this place is
mad...and cool. one one side of the
room you got the breakers with
shirtless sweaty energy, and on the
other u got the guys in the Fubu
tracksuits but everyone is vibing
of that beat. I feel like tonight
could change my life.

SONG - korockinit

DJ scratch and now we are in full rap battle mode

RUGGED RY

(lyrics) This is Ko to the rock to
the ININIT the Rap battle night
who's gunna win it?
This is Ko to the rock to the
ININIT the Rap battle night who's
gunna win it?
Ahhhh yeah right here in the
Adelphi can somebody, anybody make
some NOISSSE?
It's £5 entry for the Yorkshire
famous rap battle night - winner
takes all. Who's gonna step up to
the stage to take on our reigning
champ? How about you suitcase?

KOBBY

Suitcase. I'll show you suitcase.

RUGGED RY

What's your name and where you
from?

KOBBY

I'm Kobby Taylor and I'm from
London!

RUGGED RY

Now, welcome to the stage RED EYE
THE JEDI !!!! JEDI, JEDI, JEDI.

RED EYE a large white man wearing a hooded sleeveless vest.
He has tattoos all over his arms and is missing his 4 front
teeth. He steps onto the stage. As soon as his boot touches
the stage the crowd roar.

CROWD

Red eye red eye

Red eye raises his hands and the crowd go wild, Red Eye
lowers his hands and the crowd gets quiet, He raises his
hands to the beat and they go wild again

RED EYE

It's the R.e.d on the m.i.c.
Look at this little southerner
right here, look in his eyes full
of fear, soon be bald in a couple
of years

KOBBY
(aside) How does he know?

RED EYE
Run the beat
So here we are in round 2
And by the looks of you ill be in
round 3 soon
Short, bald with a squeaky mouse
voice
Of course I'm coming first you'll
be second choice
This is my crew I see that your
alone
So turn around pick up ya suitcase
and head back home! COCKNEY

The DJ scratches out the beat, KOBBY is perplexed

KOBBY
W...what...what did you say?

DJ SCRATCH

KOBBY (CONT'D)
What nah, you didn't just say that
did u If we go back and forth it'll
be an issue
how old are you you look about 50
is there a doctor in the house?
Send help quickly
This guys gunna die hes got heavy
breathing
Red eye the Jedi his real name's
Stephen
You sausage roll you do roly-poly
polies,
Look at your face - I see a moly
moly moly!

Big screeeeetch

RUGGED RY
Show-stealer! Suitcase wins!

KOBBY
pfft Suitcase - my name's Kobby
Taylor - let me spit my bars.

Song: "WHO AM I" [KOBBY Taylor REMIX OF EBO Taylor -
HEAVEN PLAYS]

Who am I I don't even know I think
 I'm Nigel Taylor with the bad boy
 uk flow Who are you The question
 should come first Its mere
 psychology so ill spin it in
 reverse Who am i I'm a uk don Ghana
 is the place that i come from Who
 are you cut from the same kente
 cloth from different ends so we
 both feel lost Verse 1 Uk was my
 birthplace In London my father's
 son now I'm confused of what I've
 done Became a uk citizen Learned
 the land I'm living in Told was a
 privilege But Ghana was my heritage
 Now in a place confused dot com
 Verbal dexterity here I'm number 1
 But in Ghana my twi is virtually
 none And these mans look at me
 think I'm virtually dumb Next time
 a fante man calls me a sell out Ill
 say ur living here too get the hell
 out Been Ghana like ten times
 before Love the land love the food
 but theres more History on the
 shores when slaves got all aboard
 Whipped for no cause But now we win
 awards Blacks are integrated
Majority really hate it But me i
really rate And ill debate it with
 you Who am I I don't even know I
 think I'm Nigel Taylor with the bad
 boy uk flow Who are you The
 question should come first Its mere
 psychology so ill spin it in
 reverse Who am i I'm a uk don Ghana
 is the place that i come from Who
 are you cut from the same kente
 cloth from different ends so we
 both feel lost

RED EYE

You got bars gee.

KOBBY

You too!

RED EYE

Listen I'm starting a Beats Bus, we
 could use skills like yours

Red passes Kobby a flyer

KOBBY

Beats Bus? Like a tour bus?

RED EYE

Kinda, It's a mobile recording studio to teach the next generation the elements of hip hop

KOBBY

Working out the back of a bus teaching kids? I can't get a Torch like that G

The torch dims

KOBBY (CONT'D)

I'm about to be a star...my grandad Ebo Taylor and the family band are coming to the UK and I'm going to rap for them. When I show them what I can really do, they'll give me a Torch.

RED EYE

Just think about it.

KOBBY

And I do, for a second. But I've got to stay focused on my Torch, so I head back to London to join Grandad's family band.

SCENE 10 - THE TOUR

Bass lick and the band are warming up - they welcome Kobby to the stage

EBO VO

Welcome everyone worldwide this is my grandson I'm so proud of him, he will be the next Torch bearer of the family

KOBBY

I'm on stage at HOOTENANNY'S club in Brixton. This is my big moment.

EBO VO

Band give him something to rap to

The band play some music but KOBBY gets it really wrong, forgets his lyrics and the band peters out - KOBBY distraught leaves the stage and sits on the CS block.

KOBBY

Man, I know those lyrics like the back of my hand. Can't believe I messed it up in front of Grandad.

FAN

Excuse me it's Kobby right...yeah not the best performance but not the worst HAHAAHAHAH anyway can you translate what your grandad is saying please - it's beautiful but I cant understand a word

KOBBY

What, errr translate

FAN

Yeah, translate

KOBBY

Me...errrr....(whispered) I don't speak Twi

PAUSE

FAN

What? You - Ebo's Grandson - don't speak Twi? Biggest language in Ghana. (very Loud) Thats embarrassing!

Fan leaves chortling loudly, KOBBY watches him leave, FAN turns around again and looks at KOBBY for a fresh dose of really loud laughing before disappearing round the corner. lights dim, solo white light, Kobby sits at the piano and plays and talks

KOBBY

I don't speak Twi.
Not like the world expects me to.
I've been called all sorts for it.
Like Oreo. Coconot.
But growing up People only spoke Twi when they were hiding something me
I'd sit at the top of the stairs,
Listening to the muffled words float in the air
Hearing them argue, holler at each other in Twi, and I wonder is it all about me
Everything else was a blur of sounds I didn't understand
But it felt so negative
(MORE)

KOBBY (CONT'D)

And it messed with me.
Twi to me wasn't a language. It was
a trigger.
Every time I heard it, It was beef.

Ive been overlooked And
Misunderstood All the insults I
could write a book You dont know
what it feels like to be Too black
Too white
cultures leaving me behind
We human but not human kind
Every bbq There whats wrong with u
Getting dissed whilst they serve my
food
I dont speak no twi theres nothing
wrong with me
I dont speak no twi
It's nothing to do with you.

After the show. I'm feeling lower
than ever and need some words of
wisdom.

SONG - maye omama

KOBBY (CONT'D)

Grandad can I have a word?

EBO VO

Im so proud of you.

KOBBY

Why? I still haven't got a Torch, I
messed up the gig and I cant speak
Twi

EBO VO

The Torch is a fruit for all to
see, but the roots are the most
important part of the tree.

KOBBY

the roots?

EBO VO

Be transformed by the renewing of
your mind, success.... It doesn't
always look like what they've told
us. When you choose your path the
doors of opportunity will open up
like the windows of Heaven
Some are born great

(MORE)

EBO VO (CONT'D)
 others achieve greatness
 Some have greatness dressed upon
 them

KOBBY
 I've made this Torch thing all
 about me

KOBBY pulls out the flyer RED EYE gave him

KOBBY (CONT'D)
 The Beats Bus - each one teach one.
 (a beat)
 Passing the torch to the next
 generation. Yo is that Red?

RED EYE
 This is I, this is who I be, R to E
 to the D that's me/

KOBBY
 (he's so hip hop) Yes listen this
 beats bus thing I wanna join

RED EYE
 We got a taster session on...come
 on down!

KOBBY
 So I do. I leave the bright lights
 of the tour behind and head back
 North to a dusty classroom where a
 Jedi called Steve is about to
 change my life.

SCENE 12 - THE WORKSHOP

RED EYE
 Welcome everyone to the Beats Bus,
 my names Steve the Founder. I'm
 here today with Kobby and we're
 going to teach you all the elements
 of Hip Hop. What are they, bro?

KOBBY
 There's 5 elements : Rap, DJing,
 Breakdancing, Graffiti and
 Knowledge. But the main thing I
 want you all to know is that hip
 hop is inclusive. With its one love
 mentality you'll never be made to
 feel like an outsider.

RED EYE

he's right and thats what we're
going to be teaching yall today

KOBBY

And it's in this room that I
finally found it. My home. My
Torch. This is what Ebo was trying
to tell me all along! Getting a
Torch isn't about making yourself
more important it's about helping
others. Growing up I was told
success was about money, titles and
security but now I realise success
is about finding your purpose and
helping other people find theirs.

Ebo has been a massive influence on
me and the entire family. The music
he made, the legacy he's left.
Grandad always believed that you
learn a skill and you pass it on,
and that's what we're doing with
Beats Bus. I truly love what I do
and I want to ask everyone here
today what's your version of a
Beats Bus?

Thank you for watching.

Now, I want us to come together and
enjoy Ebo's music. Come and have a
chat and a dance.

They invite them to join us on stage for the final number.