

kirbyjones

managing and representing influential speakers



Darren Edwards

Disabled Adventurer & Inspirational Speaker

Book Darren Edwards for your event: 020 3713 7291 / 07855 774508 / penny@kirbyjones.co.uk



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Darren Edwards's life has been defined by persistence, resilience and change. Few people can talk with Darren's authority and honesty about how to positively and successfully face uncertainty and fear. A gifted storyteller, by turns inspiring, likeable and candid, he explores practical solutions to challenging situations through the lens of his remarkable story.

After time in the armed forces, and pursuing his mountaineering passion, Darren trained as a teacher. Shortly after qualifying, he was climbing in North Wales when the ledge he stood on fell away, and he plunged over 100 feet. Lucky to survive, he broke his back in two places, severing his spinal cord. Darren was paralysed from the chest down. As well as dealing with the trauma of his new circumstances, he faced a gruelling rehabilitation regime and an uncertain future.

Within days of leaving hospital, Darren found purpose. Determined to return to his outdoor adventures, he bought a kayak and took to the water for the first time. It was the start of a series of adventures that saw him kayak the length of Britain with fellow ex-servicemen and become the first wheelchair user to complete the 777 challenge - seven marathons on seven continents over seven days. Later this year, he will sit-ski across Antarctica to the South Pole.

As well as challenging himself physically and mentally, redefining what he, and others, thought possible, Darren also embraces a passion for entrepreneurialism. Driven by his desire to make a difference and help others, he launched Adaptive Expeditions, a company that organises adventures that encourage disabled people to push their boundaries.

Grounded in the training and mindset acquired in the forces, and his pursuit of mountaineering, Darren explains you don't need to experience extremes to build resilience. That everyday pressures can be just as challenging as tackling any mountain or terrain. He shares the lessons he's learned from facing the unknown head-on. He considers how to remain positive and focused in the face of difficulties. He delivers real-world examples of how to empower individuals and teams, and how to uncover your own leadership style.



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“In a world of so much uncertainty and fear, your words and ideas clearly meant so much to our Senior Leadership Team and this is a huge accolade to your intuition, lived experience and sheer determination. The skill demonstrated in sharing this was valued and appreciated by us all, thank you so much. We feel privileged to have met you and listened to your story.”

CEO at British Airways

“Darren Edwards takes you on an incredible journey – his own personal journey to becoming the remarkable man he is today but more importantly on your own personal journey of self-reflection. He fills you with positivity as you tangibly feel the determination and drive he has, to not only overcome adversity, but embrace it, tackle it head on and learn from it. These are not just words – he models and proves you can focus your energies on positivity, resolve and a new future.”

HR Director at Pepsi

“There are many who carry the title 'Inspirational Speaker', but I have never listened to a more inspiring story of overcoming adversity which contained such practical and relevant takeaways for our senior leaders and all levels across the organisation. Thank you, Darren.”

CEO at Procter & Gamble

“Darren captivated the delegates from the moment he arrived to the end of the longest round of applause. He is a pleasure to work with, and a consummate professional, from briefing calls to follow-up. His presentation was heart-warming and honest, inspiring and your delivery pin sharp - I've never seen such a high score from delegate feedback. Please carry on never saying no, keep embracing new challenges, and I can't wait to have you back to hear more of your incredible adventures!”

CEO of Association for Event Organisers

“Darren's keynote address at our recent staff Wellbeing Festival was incredibly inspiring and has helped to rally our NHS workforce, who have gone through an incredibly challenging 18 months. I'd not hesitate in recommending Darren as a keynote speaker at any event.”

CEO at NHS

