# Ray Winstone's live sculpture honours veterans' resilience and arts-based recovery



Renowned actor Ray Winstone recently took part in a live sculpting event in London, where acclaimed royal sculptor Frances Segelman created a bust of him to raise funds for Blesma, a charity dedicated to supporting limbless veterans. The event, held at The Garrison Chapel at Chelsea Barracks, was described by Winstone as a “no-brainer” decision, emphasising that his involvement was motivated not by endorsing war but by supporting servicemen and women who have sacrificed significantly.

Winstone, known for major roles in films such as *The Departed* and *Sexy Beast*, spoke candidly about his personal connections to the military community. He recounted his visit to Camp Bastion during active military operations and his experiences accompanying injured soldiers back to the UK, including visits to hospitals and rehabilitation centres in Birmingham. He highlighted a particular project where wounded veterans were encouraged to engage in theatre, writing and performing plays as a means of rebuilding confidence and reintegrating into society. “It’s difficult enough to walk into a strange room on your own, you’ve got to stick your chest out and front it, but when you’ve lost your legs or arm or part of your face it’s very difficult to do,” Winstone explained. “But through the arts, through theatre, these people grew.”

The actor stressed that many young people who join the armed forces do so seeking skill development and stable employment, only to find themselves confronting the harsh realities of war. “It’s not about supporting a war but supporting our kids,” he said, underscoring the human element behind military service and the importance of providing ongoing support to veterans.

Frances Segelman, who has sculpted busts of notable figures including members of the royal family and Dame Judi Dench, showcased her impressive ability to create artwork quickly—completing the piece within two hours at the event. She remarked that the presence of an audience helps her concentrate and adds to the thrill of live sculpting, especially when it benefits such a worthy cause as Blesma.

Blesma, known as the limbless veterans’ charity, offers vital assistance to servicemen and women who have lost limbs or suffered severe injuries in the line of duty. The funds raised from this event contribute directly to their programmes aimed at improving the quality of life and integration of injured veterans. Organisers and supporters have also facilitated additional fundraising efforts, including a GoFundMe campaign to help those unable to attend contribute remotely.

The use of arts in veteran rehabilitation has a precedent in various initiatives worldwide. Events like the Veteran Arts Showcase demonstrate how creative expression plays a significant role in veteran recovery, supporting emotional healing and societal reintegration. Military charities such as those funded through the BFBS Big Salute grant scheme also exemplify how resources are invested in diverse support services for serving personnel, veterans, and their families.

Winstone’s participation in this event reflects his broader commitment to charitable causes. He is a patron of several organisations addressing issues from health challenges to youth support, including Talk... Don’t Walk, the Alzheimer’s Society, and Prostate Cancer UK, demonstrating a consistent dedication to helping vulnerable communities.

In summary, the live sculpting event not only celebrated artistic talent but also spotlighted the vital importance of supporting limbless and injured veterans through charities like Blesma. Winstone’s heartfelt involvement underscores the connection between the arts and veteran wellbeing, emphasising empathy and societal responsibility towards those who have served.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/), [[2]](https://www.world-today-news.com/ray-winstone-sculpture-for-blesma-charity-in-london/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/), [[2]](https://www.world-today-news.com/ray-winstone-sculpture-for-blesma-charity-in-london/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/), [[4]](https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-to-support-blesma-the-limbless-veteran-charity)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/), [[5]](https://www.forcesnews.com/military-life/forces-charities/how-have-previous-bfbs-big-salute-grant-winners-benefited), [[6]](https://veteranartsshowcase.org/vas2020.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[3]](https://www.looktothestars.org/celebrity/ray-winstone)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/), [[2]](https://www.world-today-news.com/ray-winstone-sculpture-for-blesma-charity-in-london/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/ray-winstone-says-live-sculpting-event-for-veterans-charity-was-a-no-brainer-QPT6RZA5BFKRRMUSV7ZEVSHEAQ/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.world-today-news.com/ray-winstone-sculpture-for-blesma-charity-in-london/> - Actor Ray Winstone participated in a live sculpting event in London, where renowned artist Frances Segelman created a bust of him to support Blesma, a charity aiding limbless veterans. Winstone expressed that his involvement was a 'no-brainer', emphasizing his commitment to supporting those who have served. The event underscored the importance of recognising and assisting veterans who have made sacrifices for their country, with funds raised contributing directly to Blesma's ongoing programmes and services.
3. <https://www.looktothestars.org/celebrity/ray-winstone> - Ray Winstone is a patron of Talk... Don't Walk, a charity addressing the issue of runaways in England. He has also supported various other charities, including the Alzheimer's Society, Haven House Children’s Hospice, PeyBack Foundation, and Prostate Cancer UK. Winstone's charitable activities reflect his dedication to a broad range of causes, from health and family support to assisting at-risk youths.
4. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-to-support-blesma-the-limbless-veteran-charity> - A fundraiser has been organised to support Blesma, the limbless veterans' charity. The event, scheduled for August 23, 2025, aims to raise funds for the charity's initiatives. For those unable to attend, a GoFundMe page has been set up to facilitate donations, allowing supporters to contribute to the cause remotely.
5. <https://www.forcesnews.com/military-life/forces-charities/how-have-previous-bfbs-big-salute-grant-winners-benefited> - The BFBS Big Salute is an annual fundraising initiative that supports military charities providing assistance to serving personnel, veterans, and their families. Previous grant winners, including Blesma, have utilised the funds to enhance their services and support for those who have served in the armed forces.
6. <https://veteranartsshowcase.org/vas2020.html> - The Veteran Arts Showcase is an annual event celebrating the creativity of current and former members of the Armed Forces and their families. The 8th Annual 2020 Showcase featured visual artists, crafters, writers, poets, musicians, and performers, highlighting the role of the arts in veteran reintegration and recovery from the aftereffects of war.
7. <https://fliphtml5.com/obunp/avxz/U.S.VETS_Honoring_Those_Who_Served_Virtual_Gala/> - U.S.VETS is the largest non-profit organisation of its kind, providing a range of support services to veterans. The organisation operates 21 residential sites and nine community service centres across five states and the District of Columbia, housing over 3,000 veterans daily. Their programmes include emergency housing, permanent housing, and supportive services for veteran families.