



PRESS RELEASE

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Gogglebox duo complete Back To Ours line-up

Gogglebox favourites Jenny and Lee are coming to Hull as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017's **Back To Ours** Festival in February half term next week.

The pair, famed for dissecting TV programmes, will join female impersonator Ceri Dupree at the William Gemmell Club on Thursday 23 February 2017.

Tickets, which cost £7.50, are available from www.hull2017.co.uk/whatson/events/back-to-ours

Funded by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund, *Back To Ours* will see schools transformed into cinemas, shopping centres into theatres and social clubs into big tops. It has been developed in partnership with the venues which will be hosting: Kingswood Academy, North Point Shopping Centre, Winifred Holtby Academy, The Freedom Centre, Archbishop Sentamu Academy, William Gemmell Club, Hymers College and Sirius Academy West.

Jenny and Lee complete the first Back To Ours festival (22 - 25 February) line-up which includes:

- Leeds rockers **The Pigeon Detectives**, who will be performing tracks from their brand new fifth studio album *Broken Glances* in advance of the public release on 24 February.
- **JOAN**, performed by drag king Lucy Jane Parkinson, aka LoUis CYfer, winner of Drag Idol 2014. Joan will be followed by Hull's own African musician **Hekima**.
- TV stand-up comic **Mark Thomas**, whose multi-award winning show **The Red Shed**, which has been described as "part theatre, part stand-up, part journalism and part activism", tells the story of the battle for hope and the survival of a community.
- **Meet Fred**, which tells the story of a 2ft-tall cloth puppet whose life begins to spiral out of his control when threatened with losing his Puppetry Living Allowance.
- **Picture House**, a family film festival with a feast of Roald Dahl movies and the chance to meet your favourite film characters.
- **The Story of Mr B**, a surprise filled puppet show set in a giant pop-up book.

Jenny said: "We're really happy to be supporting Hull at this Back to Ours event."

Back To Ours Producer Louise Yates said: "There is a real buzz in the air as some of the most-loved community venues in the North, West and East of the city are preparing to host this series of amazing shows and performers. And with tickets starting from just £2.50, it is an affordable way of keeping the whole family entertained over half term right on your doorstep."

Back To Ours in February is the first in a series of festivals. The next two festivals for 2017 will be during half terms 26 May - 3 June and 27 October - 4 November.

The programme has been developed in partnership with Ed Collier at China Plate, Chris Fell at Leeds International Film Festival, Film Hub North, The British Film Institute and Dean Shakespeare at Revolver Promotions.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Jenny and Lee

Jenny and Lee both grew up in Hull but met 21 years ago when she was the landlady of the Crown Inn pub in Paull and he was a regular customer. The pair have won over millions of viewers with their down-to-earth nature since they joined the show in series 4.

Ceri Dupree

Ceri Dupree has been delighting audiences worldwide for almost 30 years, impersonating Marilyn Monroe to Madonna, Shirley Bassey to Barbara Cartland, Tina Turner to Margaret Thatcher. His unique talents have led him through musical theatre, pantomime, television and cabaret and he has taken his show all over the world from South Africa to Seychelles.

Mark Thomas: The Red Shed (Lakin McCarthy)

The Red Shed is Wakefield's Labour Club, which comedian, activist and theatre-maker Mark Thomas has been visiting since his university days. Marking the club's 50th birthday, Mark interviewed old friends and comrades to piece together the club's history and worked with them to campaign for the rights of some of the poorest workers in the country. *The Red Shed* is the story of the battle for hope and the survival of a community. Part-theatre, part-stand up, part-journalism and part-activism, *The Red Shed* returns to Mark's obsessions of community and struggle. *The Red Shed* was the winner of The Stage's Special Award and The Scotsman's Fringe First award for innovation and outstanding new writing at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2016.

JOAN (Milk Presents in association with Derby Theatre)

An earthy story of courage, conviction and hope, this is Joan of Arc - quite possibly the world's first drag king. Packed with guts, heart and some well-placed couscous, *JOAN* fuses lyrical new writing with quick wit and cabaret prowess. *JOAN* is performed by drag king champion Lucy Jane Parkinson, aka LoUis CYfer (Winner of Drag Idol 2014), and is written by Milk Presents co-director Lucy J Skilbeck (BBC Legacy Fund recipient). *JOAN* stormed Edinburgh in 2016, picking up three awards including The Stage Edinburgh Award, The Scotsman Fringe First Award and A Mervyn Stutter Spirit of the Fringe Award.

The Story of Mr B (Shake Shake)

This surprise-filled puppet show, set in a giant pop-up book, tells the story of Mr Bumblegrum. Turning from one page to the next, this grumbling character goes on a colourful and moving journey through the seasons. Nature tries to cheer him up with tenderness and humour, trees play, the sun swirls, mushrooms laugh and snow falls. As spring arrives Mr Bumblegrum realises he wants friendship again. Can you help blow the stormy clouds away? Will you be his friend? Delighting audiences young and old, *The Story of Mr B* is performed with puppets, animated objects and shadow theatre.

Meet Fred (Hijinx Theatre in association with Blind Summit)

A cloth puppet fights prejudice every day. Fred just wants to be a regular guy, part of the real world, to get a job, meet a girl and settle down, but when threatened with losing his PLA (Puppetry Living Allowance), Fred's life begins to spiral out of control. Hijinx is a theatre company based in Cardiff that tours to small scale theatres throughout the UK and

Europe. What makes them different is that their casts always include actors who have learning disabilities. The ability of these effortlessly talented performers is at the heart of every show they produce, creating work that is utterly absorbing, surprising and provocative. Containing strong language and puppet nudity, *Meet Fred* is for audiences 14+.

The Pigeon Detectives (Under the Influence)

Friends since school, the band formed in 2002 and enjoyed meteoric rise on to the UK music scene. Signed to Leeds label Dance to the Radio, their first record *Wait for Me* went on to sell over half a million records, reaching number three in the UK album chart.

Picture House (Leeds International Film Festival)

Dive into the magical world of Roald Dahl with the magical musical fantasy *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory* (1971, U, 100mins); the classic fairy-tale comedy about a girl genius and her terrible parents *Matilda* (1996, PG, 102mins); and *Fantastic Mr Fox* (2009, PG, 87mins), the unique animated gem about the misadventures of a fox, voiced by George Clooney.

LISTINGS

Back To Ours

22 - 25 February

www.hull2017.co.uk/backtoours

Kingswood Academy

Wednesday 22 February - 6pm
Meet Fred

Saturday 25 February - 7.30pm
The Red Shed (access show: BSL)

North Point Shopping Centre

Thursday 23 February - 7.30pm
The Pigeon Detectives

Friday 24 February - 7.30pm
Joan
Followed by Hekima

Winifred Holtby Academy

Thursday 23 February - 11am and 2pm
The Story of Mr B

Friday 24 February - 11am and 2pm
The Story of Mr B (access shows: relaxed performances)

Saturday 25 February - Screenings at 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4pm
Picture House

Freedom Centre

Saturday 25 February - 7.30pm
The Pigeon Detectives

Archbishop Sentamu Academy

Wednesday 22 February - Screenings at 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4pm
Picture House

Thursday 23 February - 3.30pm
Meet Fred (access show: BSL)

Thursday 23 February - 7.30pm
Joan
Followed by Hekima

Friday 24 February - 7.30pm
The Red Shed

Saturday 25 February - 11am and 2pm
The Story of Mr B

William Gemmell Club

Thursday 23 February - 7.30pm
Ceri Dupree
Jenny and Lee

Hymers College

Saturday 25 February - 7.30pm
Joan (access performance)
Followed by Hekima

Sirius Academy West

Wednesday 22 February - 11am and 2pm
The Story of Mr B

Thursday 23 February - Screenings at 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4pm
Picture House

Friday 24 February - 7.30pm
The Pigeon Detectives

Saturday 25 February - 1pm
Meet Fred

About Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 60 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, lottery distributors, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** - Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** - Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6

million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk

Follow us on **Twitter** @2017Hull **Instagram** @2017hull **Facebook** HullCityofCulture

China Plate

Launched in 2006, China Plate is an independent theatre studio that works with artists, venues, festivals and funders to make original, exciting theatre that plays with form and has narrative at its heart. China Plate are passionate about creating adventurous and imaginative new work with popular appeal. Using theatre to engage and inspire, the company takes work into venues, village halls, schools, on to the streets and to festivals in the UK and internationally.

In 2014, China Plate created, toured and programmed work for over 21,000 people (nationally and internationally) across 45 venues with a diverse programme of shows and events.