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Hull to be at the forefront of national LGBT 50 celebrations with week of events in July

Hull will be at the forefront of national events to mark 50 years since the start of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK, when it hosts the biggest LGBT+ celebrations ever held in the region.

Hull 2017 is joining forces with **Pride in Hull** and the iconoclastic queer collective **Duckie** and a host of partners to create **LGBT 50**, which will take place from 22 - 29 July.

Pride in Hull will get things started in exuberant style, hosting the first ever **UK Pride** on the opening Saturday. The event will see a new route for the annual parade, which will finish in Queens Gardens and feature a celebration of 50 years of LGBT+ icons led by Duckie and made with the help of the LGBT community. It will be topped off with a headline performance by the legendary **Marc Almond**, who will be bringing his special brand of musical magic to what is expected to be the liveliest and most colourful Pride festivities the city has ever seen. Everyone is invited!

Hull's **LGBT 50** festivities will culminate on the second Saturday with a very special **Duckie Summer Tea Party** in Queen Victoria Square in the heart of the city. Bringing café culture to the historic square, there will be dancing, surprise performances, tea and cake and much more for people of all ages to enjoy. More details will be revealed about how to be part of one of the highlights of the summer - a specially commissioned **Yorkshire Dance** production by choreographer **Gary Clark** involving a mix of professional dancers and participants from across Hull.

Throughout the week there will be exhibitions, socials, debates and more, offering an opportunity to celebrate Hull's LGBT+ community and heroes past and present, freedoms gained and to show solidarity with continuing struggles for LGBT equality in the UK and around the world. There will also be a celebration of LGBT+ film supported by the British Film Institute with Hull Independent Cinema.

Humber Street Gallery will host **The House of Kings and Queens** (27 July - 24 September), a specially commissioned exhibition of photography by **Lee Price**. Captured in Sierra Leone, where homosexuality remains illegal, Price's powerful images offer a glimpse into **The House** where inhabitants can live without oppression, exposing what it means to be gay in Hull's sister city Freetown. More details about Hull's LGBT 50 programme will be announced in due course.

Pride in Hull spokesperson, Graham Jenkinson said: "It's brilliant that Hull is marking LGBT 50 with a week of events as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations. Pride in Hull is going to be absolutely spectacular this year and we're delighted to announce Marc Almond as our first headliner. He's an icon of music and we know he'll put on a fantastic show that people will remember for years to come. We also have the absolute honour of being named the first ever 'UK Pride', so we'll have the eyes of the LGBT+ community across the country and beyond firmly focused on us. There will be something for everyone and

we can promise nobody will leave disappointed!"

Martin Green, Director Hull 2017 said: "2017 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the start of decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK and Hull will be the epicentre of celebration and commemoration. It's an opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made, but also what still needs to be done, here in the UK and around the world. But it's also a chance to dress up, wear a flower, get a bit sparkly and have a big old celebration. We're more than excited that Duckie are coming back to Hull, joining the energetic Pride in Hull team, Yorkshire Dance and our other partners to create something really special that is a lot of fun."

The LGBT+ community in Hull is also being invited to get involved in Pride in Hull by sending in photographs for an exhibition which celebrates the theme for 2017, *Through the Decades*. The exhibition, *A Moment in Time* will look at life before the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 and highlight what has changed in the 50 years since.

Emma Wilkinson, founding trustee and curator for Pride In Hull, said: "This exhibition isn't about showcasing great photography, it's about sharing honest snapshots of LGBT life in the city - moments that have made us laugh and moments that have made us cry - those moments that have made us who we are."

For more information about LGBT 50 in Hull please visit www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50

For more information about Pride in Hull, visit www.prideinhull.co.uk, follow us on Twitter (@PrideInHull) or Facebook (/PrideInHull) and sign up to our mailing list to ensure you get all of the latest news as soon as it's announced!

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Hull UK City of Culture 2017

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, starting with **Made in Hull**, 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.

Hull 2017's second season, **Roots and Routes**, runs from April to June and explore Hull's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city; this season of work will also celebrate Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown.

Freedom runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, *Freedom* will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, **Tell the World** will run from October to December.

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 70 partners supporting

the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making the National Lottery the largest single funding body of Hull 2017.

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, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

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