



PRESS RELEASE

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MAJOR PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017

- Hull New Theatre reopens following £16m transformation with a visit from **The Royal Ballet** led by its Hull-born director, Kevin O'Hare
- Philip Larkin's life and work celebrated with major exhibition ***New Eyes Each Year*** - and Grayson Perry as The Philip Larkin Society Distinguished Guest Lecturer
- **Slung Low's** year-long epic adventure ***Flood*** by James Phillips told online, live in Hull and on BBC television
- International performance, technology and site-responsive pioneers **dreamthinkspeak** premiere ***ONE DAY, MAYBE*** in Hull
- The Ferens Art Gallery hosts the **Turner Prize** and presents a major exhibition exploring ***Skin***, including works by **Ron Mueck**, **Lucian Freud** and the first showing of **Spencer Tunick's** photographic work featuring 3,200 local people in the nude and painted blue for ***Sea of Hull***
- The 10th Waterstones Children's Laureate will be announced in Hull prior to the first ever children's literature festival in the city
- New work by artists including **Bob & Roberta Smith**, **Tania Kovats**, **Chris Dobrowolski**, **Claire Barber** and **Claire Morgan** in shopping centres, car parks, streets and public squares as part of the visual art series ***Look Up***

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 today unveiled details about **seasons two and three** of its year-long cultural programme with **42 new commissions and world premieres**, **24 festivals** and **13 new exhibitions** amongst hundreds of events and activities taking place from April to the end of September 2017.

Hull's New Theatre re-opens with an exhilarating evening of classic and modern dance presented by **The Royal Ballet**. Specially curated by the company's Hull-born Director, Kevin O'Hare, ***Opening The New*** brings together artists from Hull with a selection of Royal Ballet principals and soloists. Joining The Royal Ballet on stage will be some of the exciting dance talent emerging in the city today, as well as Hull's own Xander Parish, soloist with The Mariinsky Ballet and Joseph Caley, principal with Birmingham Royal Ballet.

The two seasons, ***Roots & Routes*** (April to June) and ***Freedom*** (July to September), continue Hull 2017's commitment to inspiring and entertaining residents and visitors alike, as well as asking questions and raising debate. From art to music, from theatre to film, and dance to family friendly activities, there is something for people of all tastes and ages, with more reason than ever to visit Hull.

The aim is to build on the success of opening season **Made in Hull**, which since January has drawn hundreds of thousands of people, including to the opening event, the *Look Up* public art installations *Blade* and *The City Speaks*, and successful exhibitions at Ferens Art Gallery, Brynmor Jones Library at the University of Hull and the newly opened Humber Street Gallery.

Spring and summer bring 24 festivals, from the 10th anniversary of the acclaimed **Freedom** festival and **Humber Street Sesh** to **Radio 1's Big Weekend**, and **Hull Jazz Festival** to **Tidal Waves**. Fifty years after the start of decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK, Pride in Hull stages the first ever **UK Pride**, kicking off week-long LGBT 50 celebrations in July.

The major partnership with BBC continues, including the **Uproot** festival in April and **Contains Strong Language**, a major new national spoken word and poetry festival, launching on National Poetry Day in September.

Martin Green, Director Hull 2017 said: "The response to our opening season *Made in Hull* has exceeded all our expectations and as we go into seasons two and three, we want people to continue to be excited, whether they live here or are visiting. With our wonderful partners there's a terrific line-up over the next six months. We've a summer of festivals and a host of new commissions by national and international artists that cement UK City of Culture as the nation's cultural quadrennial. Get planning, it's the perfect time to visit this great city."

Councillor Stephen Brady, Leader of Hull City Council, said: "With season one almost completed, the signs are that Hull is going to be one of the most successful cities of culture there has ever been. The seasons two and three events, revealed today, show a world-class programme that will continue to engage, excite and enthral local residents and visitors throughout spring and summer. Combined with the transformation of the city centre and some of our most important cultural venues, Hull's tenure as UK City of Culture is creating a surge of positivity, pride and celebration. We are now being talked about for all the right reasons and we've never been more proud to say 'Welcome to Hull'."

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, said: "I am immensely proud of my roots in Hull, and what has been achieved so far in Hull's year as UK City of Culture. For me this opportunity to return to my home city, for the company to take to the stage in the magnificent setting of Hull's refurbished New Theatre and to create new links with the young talent of Hull is unique and special for all of us."

HULL 2017 SEASONS 2 & 3 - SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

THEATRE, PERFORMANCE AND DANCE

Flood, created by Leeds-based **Slung Low** and written by **James Phillips**, is a year-long epic told online, live in Hull and on BBC television. It is Slung Low's most ambitious and experimental project to date, mixing live performance, special effects, film and digital elements to tell a story across an entire year.

Flood is the story of what happened when the world was destroyed, and how the people who lived tried to make it new again. Far out on the North Sea a fisherman raises a girl in his net, miraculously alive, from the deep sea. Is she one of the migrants now washing up on English shores? Or someone sent for some higher purpose? One day it starts to rain and no-one knows why. And it doesn't stop. Each of **Flood's** four separate parts will enrich and link to each other, but can also be experienced separately as stand-alone pieces. Details of Parts Three and Four will be revealed at a later date.

Part One of *Flood*, the prologue *From The Sea*, is available now at www.hull2017.co.uk/flood. Part Two, *Abundance*, will be performed live on the **Victoria Dock** (11 - 15 April). Part Three, *To The Sea*, will be broadcast on BBC television in the summer.

The **University of Hull** will host the prestigious **National Student Drama Festival** on its Hull campus in April. NSDF is for young people who love theatre - making it, watching it, talking and writing about it. With 14 productions, 100 workshops, discussions and late night events, NSDF provides an exciting opportunity for anyone aged 16-25 to watch, discuss, write and try something new. The festival has provided a springboard for thousands of theatre makers since being founded in 1956, with famous alumni including Simon Russell Beale, Mark Gatiss, Meera Syal, Sir Antony Sher, Caryl Churchill, Ruth Wilson, Ade Edmondson and Sir Richard Eyre (8 - 14 April).

Hull Dance will host *Transgression: Breaking the Rules*, a weekend of contemporary dance featuring dancers from Hull and across the Humber region at venues around the city, including Humber Street Gallery (12-14 May).

The first Hull 2017 theatre commission of Roots and Routes at **Hull Truck Theatre** will be *Richard III* (4 -27 May), a co-production with **Northern Broadsides** directed by the remarkable company's artistic director and founder **Barrie Rutter**. This production of Shakespeare's iconic history play marks the 25th anniversary of Northern Broadsides, whose first ever work was a 1992 staging of *Richard III* in a boatshed in Hull's marina.

Depart is a spellbinding spectacle from internationally acclaimed circus artists, **Circa**. Inspired by the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, *Depart* will take you on a path through the underworld in the uniquely atmospheric **General Cemetery** (Spring Bank West) from 18 - 21 May. Led by **Yaron Lifschitz** with a creative team including the electronic musician **Lapalux**, this ethereal collaboration brings together acrobats, aerialists, choral singers and video artists for a remarkable performance that has been described as a meditation, a playground for the soulful. *Depart* is co-commissioned by LIFT, the National Centre for Circus Arts, Spitalfields Music, Hull 2017, LeftCoast and Brighton Festival, and is supported by Arts Council England. **SOLD OUT**

Assemble Fest (3 June) takes place for one day only on Hull's **Newland Avenue** and will transform the most unlikely of places into pop-up performance spaces. The avenue will come alive with flashmobs, interactive shows, music, art and dance in a variety of the area's independent venues, from delis to hairdressers. Supported by Newland's local and international traders, the festival features new site-specific works from Hull's burgeoning theatre companies and family-friendly activities along the street.

Critically-acclaimed Hull theatre company **Middle Child** present a new piece of gig theatre, *All We Ever Wanted Was Everything* (6 - 17 June), mixing original live music from **James Frewer** with **Luke Barnes'** bold new writing and direction from Middle Child artistic director **Paul Smith**. This visceral, immersive and anarchic show will be performed at **The Welly**, one of the city's best-loved venues, and features some of the favourite local bands from Humber Street Sesh. Middle Child is an associate company of Paines Plough and a supported artist of Hull Truck Theatre.

The world premiere of *Mighty Atoms* by **Amanda Whittington** (*Ladies Day*, *Be My Baby*, *Amateur Girl*) will be directed by Hull Truck Theatre artistic director Mark Babych and is inspired by Hull's original Mighty Atom, Barbara Buttrick. In a struggling pub on one of Hull's toughest streets, ex-pro boxer Taylor Flint runs a women's boxercise class. For Lauren, Jazz, Aneta and Grace the class is much more than a way to lose weight and have a laugh - they're fighting the grinding challenges of everyday life. When the pub is threatened with closure, the women agree to be part of an unlicensed fight night to raise money and rally the community (8 June -1 July).

National Youth Dance Company (NYDC), which is run by **Sadler's Wells** and funded by Arts Council England and the Department for Education, comes to Hull for the first time. ***Tarantiseismic***, a new work from Guest Artistic Director **Damien Jalet** is staged at **Middleton Hall** and features 40 young dancers in a unique work addressing themes of melancholia, ritual, control and abandon. There will also be a newly created piece by young people from Hull and East Yorkshire (20 July).

For the first time in the main house, **Hull Truck's Youth Theatre** groups will unite to present a world premiere. Directed by **Tom Bellerby**, **Bryony Lavery's** feisty new script is based on Charles Dickens' ***Our Mutual Friend*** (22 - 26 August), offering a fresh take on the famous novel about friendship, cruelty, money and lack of money, and is relocated to the banks of the Humber.

The **Market Theatre of Johannesburg**, known internationally as 'Theatre of the Struggle', challenged the apartheid regime and became a powerful voice for freedom and emancipation. Their production of ***The Suitcase*** will have its UK premiere at **Hull Truck Theatre** (31 Aug - 9 Sept) before touring Northern England. *The Suitcase* is a short story by Es'kia Mphahlele, adapted for the stage by the Market Theatre's Artistic Director **James Ngcobo** with music from **Hugh Masekela** and choreography by **Gregory Magoma**. It follows a young couple from the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal who seek a better life in the city, soon to realise that urban life is cold, cruel and unwelcoming. With unemployment and pregnancy in the mix, a split-second decision is made which sets the couple on an unexpected course.

International pioneers of site responsive performance **dreamthinkspeak** present ***ONE DAY, MAYBE*** which will conjure a kaleidoscopic dreamscape where live performance, installation and cutting edge technology combine to create a vividly dystopian vision of a world spinning thrillingly out of control. Deep within a hidden office complex in the city centre, a mysterious new Korean technology company is about to change the way you view the world. *ONE DAY, MAYBE* is the company's most technically ambitious production to date. Originally commissioned and produced by Asian Culture Complex, The Museum of Art, Kochi, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, AsiaNow and dreamthinkspeak, this new version will premiere in Hull (1 September - 1 October).

Hull 2017's third season will see the reopening of **Hull New Theatre** following its £16m rebuild, the most significant since being opened in 1939 as a successor to the Hull Repertory Theatre Company. Hull City Council's ambitious transformation of the Grade II listed building includes new state of the art technical and backstage infrastructure, alongside front of house enhancements including a new easily accessible entrance and foyer, lift access, increased audience capacity, plus additional catering and licensed bars, and spaces for business, community and social events. Hull New Theatre looks forward to establishing itself firmly in the spotlight as a world-class venue, set to be enjoyed by all for many years to come.

An extraordinary one-off visit from **The Royal Ballet** will officially reopen Hull New Theatre on 16 September, with other highlights of the programme including a touring production from the **National Theatre**, ***The Kings of Hull***, a brand new work from renowned playwright and creative director **John Godber** (27 September to 7 October), and a residency from the acclaimed **Opera North**.

Specially curated by the Company's Hull-born Director, **Kevin O'Hare**, The Royal Ballet performance brings together artists from Hull with a selection of Royal Ballet Principals and Soloists. Joining The Royal Ballet on stage will be some of the exciting dance talent emerging in the city today as well as Hull's own **Xander Parish**, Soloist with The Mariinsky Ballet and **Joseph Caley**, Principal with Birmingham Royal Ballet.

The Royal Ballet's visit celebrates Hull's extraordinary contribution to dance and ballet with a day of citywide activities, happenings and community projects as The Royal Ballet immerses the city in an inspirational day of dance.

MUSIC AND FESTIVALS

With the world class concert venue **Middleton Hall**, which has undergone a £9.5 million redevelopment, plus a well-established gig culture at Hull University Union, music lovers of all stripes are catered for. This year includes ***Once Contemporary, Always Contemporary***, a series of live concerts celebrating the enduring appeal of classical music which includes a ***Big Chamber Weekend*** with BBC Radio 3 (8 and 9 July). The student union will host chart-topping British band **White Lies** (3 March), whilst **Peter Hook & The Light** will perform Joy Division and New Order's Factory Records compilation album '*Substance*' (11 May).

Hull UK City of Culture and **Opera North** present ***The Height of the Reeds: A Sound Journey for the Humber Bridge***, featuring music by Norwegian trumpeter **Arve Henriksen**, guitarist **Eivind Aarset** and electronic wizard **Jan Bang** giving way to the vast sound of the **Orchestra and Chorus of Opera North** and threaded through with the deep music of the Humber Bridge itself, captured by Hull based sound artist **Jez Riley French**. Evoking both the long history of sea travel from Hull, and the Bridge as a powerful symbol of home, ***The Height of the Reeds*** is an unforgettable experience in sound. Head to the Humber Bridge, put on a set of supplied headphones and disappear into an audio adventure, walking the epic span of the Bridge, with a world of sound in your ears (1 - 30 April).

The many other live music events happening throughout this period include ***Uproot*** (6 - 8 April) at Hull Truck Theatre, which explores the city's rich folk music traditions. Broadcast on BBC Radio 3, ***Uproot*** will feature a series of concerts from one of the most recognisable faces in modern British folk music, **Eliza Carthy**, joined by some very special invited guests, alongside international artists **Warsaw Village Band** and Sierra Leone's **Refugee All Stars**, representing Hull's links with its sister cities in Sierra Leone and Poland.

A celebration of the deep cultural ties between the city of Hull and the Nordic states, critically acclaimed singer-songwriter John Grant joins forces with arts organisation Curated Place for ***John Grant's North Atlantic Flux, Sounds from Smoky Bay*** (28 April - 1 May). Get ready for an experimental journey through electronica, spoken word, avant-garde, rock and pop music over four incredible days. Festival venues include Hull City Hall, Gate No.5 and more, with headline sets at City Hall from **John Grant**, **GusGus**, **Susanne Sundfør** and **Lindstrøm**. ***North Atlantic Flux*** features a whole host of acclaimed local and international talent taking to the stages including **Wrangler**, **Sóley**, **Steve Cobby & Russ Litten**, **Sykur**, **Fufanu**, **Prins Póló**, **Mugison**, **Kill J**, **James Orvis**, **Nils Bech**, **Jez Riley French**, **Tonik Ensemble**, **Pinquins**, **Adelle Stripe & Halldór Smárason**, **Sweaty Records**, **Science of the Lamps**, **Nordic Affect**, **Simon Desbruslais**, **Tom Kaye**, **Eyvind Gulbrandsen** and the **Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM)**, with more to be announced.

BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend (27 - 28 May) is set to be one of the musical highlights of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 when it comes to Burton Constable in East Yorkshire. **Kings of Leon**, **Little Mix** and **Stormzy** have already been announced, with more names to be revealed. Further details, including how to get tickets, will be released in late March / early April, with an estimated 50,000 tickets to give away across the two days.

To complement the Big Weekend, ***Radio One's Academy*** will take residence in Hull, aiming to inspire 16-19 year olds to take the next step in their creative careers. BBC Radio 1's iconic ***Live Lounge*** will transmit from the Academy, while ***BBC Introducing*** gigs will provide a platform for local bands and artists. Stars from across the musical genres will host Q&As and practical workshops

that will see attendees learn song writing and performance techniques from the best in the business.

Scottish art collective **Neu! Reekie!** present *Where Are We Now?* (2 - 4 June) bringing together radical artists for a three-day festival across the city. As the UK reaches a crossroads and the divisive forces of prejudice stir across Europe and North America, the festival will ask the radical artists from all four corners of the UK where they stand. Through hip-hop and live music, film, animation, poetry, spoken word, literature, visual art, street theatre and debates, Neu! Reekie! intend to take the pulse of the counterculture and try to find some answers.

The festival's opening event will take place at **Hull City Hall** on Friday 2 June, when they will be joined by **Young Fathers**, **Charlotte Church** and **Hollie McNish**. In addition to the music and spoken word guests, the evening will feature animation and short films. On Saturday 3 June, Neu! Reekie! and Hull music promoter **Altu 'Flowrex' Collingwood** will invite the guiding lights of UK hip-hop to **The Welly** for an evening of live music. The line-up includes **Akala**, **The Four Owls**, **Stanley Odd** and **Eva Lazarus**.

The three-day festival includes acclaimed dub-poet **Linton Kwesi Johnson**; artist, musician, writer and producer **Bill Drummond**; 2016 Stanley Kubrick prize-winning filmmaker, writer and curator **Mark Cousins**; artist **Jamie Reid** renowned for his work with the Sex Pistols; *A Love From Outer Space* founders **Andrew Weatherall** and Hull-born **Sean Johnston**; soul singer **Law Holt**; *Caught by the River* co-founder **Jeff Barrett**; UK rapper **Chester P**; pop provocateur **Momus**; poet and writer **Sabrina Mahfouz**; and legendary Scottish outfit **Finitribe**.

Paul Heaton and **Jacqui Abbott** perform a very special one-off show, *Beauty in the East* at Hull's **KCOM Craven Park** with support from special guests **The Divine Comedy** and **Billy Bragg** (3 June), including songs from their two Top 5 albums and classic tracks from *The Beautiful South* and *The Housemartins*.

The *Tidal Waves* music festival takes place at **South Cliff Beach, Bridlington**, with two days of music showcasing a wealth of local talent as well headline acts including **The Hoosiers**, **Reverend and the Makers** and **Toploader** (9 - 10 June). Kicking off on the Friday night before a packed day-to-night programme on Saturday, *Tidal Waves* brings an eclectic mix for all the family, plus big names on the Saturday night. More to be announced.

The historic **Zebedee's Yard** in the heart of Hull Old Town will host a series of shows from major artists, kicking off on Friday 23 June with **Primal Scream** and **Echo and The Bunnymen** and on Saturday 24 June with **The Flaming Lips** supported by **Public Service Broadcasting** (tickets on sale 9am Wednesday 1 March).

The *Beverley Folk Festival* brings the best of folk, acoustic, roots and Americana to **Beverley Racecourse**, with the likes of **Eddi Reader**, **Martin and Eliza Carthy**, **Jon Boden** and **Heidi Talbot** on the line-up. Also includes literature, comedy, poetry, workshops, dance and children's activities (16 - 18 June).

Hull plays host to a celebration of new music, from the UK's most innovative composers when the **PRS Foundation's New Music Biennial** (30 June - 2 July) treats audiences to world premieres of new performances that reveal the inner workings of the country's most creative, musical minds.

In an initiative supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and delivered in partnership with the Southbank Centre and BBC Radio 3, explosions of sound will erupt across the city, as music pioneers including **Eliza Carthy**, **Sam Lee**, **Jason Singh**, **GoGo Penguin** and Hull's own **Daniel Elms** stage a series of epic recitals that go beyond the boundaries of traditional musical composition.

Performances across the weekend include **Anna Meredith & Southbank Sinfonia**, **Simon Holt & BBC Philharmonic Orchestra**, **Gavin Bryars**, **Mica Levi and BBC Philharmonic Orchestra**, **Daniel Elms** (Friday 30 June). **Ray Lee**, **Laurence Crane**, **Errollyn Wallen**, **Emily Hall**, **Hannah Peel**, **James McVinnie and Darkstar**, **Eliza Carthy and GoGo Penguin** (Saturday 1 July), and **Mark Simpson**, **Jason Singh & Anne Martin**, **Jocelyn Pook**, **Peter Edwards**, **Philip Venables**, **David Hoyle & London Sinfonietta**, **Brian Irvine and Jennifer Walsh** and **Sam Lee** (Sunday 2 July).

Jeff Lynne's ELO, the globally renowned group known for their epic live shows, will perform a headline concert at the **KCOM Stadium** as part of Hull 2017 on 1 July. With a distinct style that seamlessly blends rock, pop and classical, Jeff Lynne's ELO has had 26 UK Top 40 singles to date, selling in excess of 50 million records worldwide.

The 25th Summer Edition of **Hull Jazz Festival** (11 - 15 July) sees some of the freshest names in UK jazz perform alongside internationally renowned artists. British Jazz giant **Courtney Pine CBE** joins forces with soul legend **Omar** for the first time and MOBO Award-winning saxophone-drum duo **Binker and Moses** bring their hypnotic live show to Hull. Trailblazers **Nérija** are paving a new way for women in jazz and the new wave of Gypsy Jazz is represented by **Sébastien Giniaux Trio** and **The Grimaldi Quartet**. Hull jazz legends **Ain't Misbehavin'** reunite after 25 years and saxophonist **Snake Davis** performs much-loved classic sax solos.

Now in its 27th year, **Hull Folk and Maritime Festival** celebrates Hull's rich and unique folk heritage with a programme of more than 80 free events over four days filled with music, dance and family entertainment running from 20 to 23 July.

The award-winning grassroots music festival, **Humber Street Sesh** (Saturday 5 August) returns to Hull Marina in 2017 bigger and better than ever, with hundreds of artists - covering all music genres - playing across 14 stages. Drawing crowds of around 30,000, Humber Street Sesh celebrates the excellence and diversity of regional musicians and artists, providing a powerful platform for homegrown creative brilliance capturing the heart and soul of the city.

Freedom Festival (1 - 3 September) goes from strength to strength and this year celebrates its tenth anniversary with a huge programme over three days. Played out on city centre streets, with Hull's architecture and heritage as the stage, *Freedom Festival* is not afraid to push boundaries with art and themes of freedom. More than 200 artists from over 30 countries will be performing alongside local talent. They include: a new visual arts commission from Brazilian sculptor **Néle Azevedo** exploring modern day slavery; the UK premiere of **Cie Bistaki's *The Baina Trampa Fritz Fallen; Counting Sheep***, starring **The Lemon Bucket Orkestra**, Canada's only balkan-klezmer-gypsy-party-punk-super-band and one of the smash hits of last year's Edinburgh fringe festival; an extraordinary dance work from Catalan heavyweights **Lali Aiguade Company**; **The Dandy Lion Project**, a photography exhibition that explores global expressions of the Black Dandy; and a new show from Newcastle's brilliant dance company **Southpaw**. This is just a taste, the *Freedom Festival* team will be revealing full programme details for this year's milestone event in due course.

Two days of live music featuring a vast line-up of local musicians, plus some very special guests, **Hull Trinity Festival** brings live performances to the city's Old Town over one music-filled weekend (23 & 24 September) inviting audiences to explore and enjoy original acts in Hull's city centre.

Classically Yours sees **East Riding of Yorkshire Council** join forces with **Orchestras Live** to bring some of the UK's top orchestras to the area, including **Manchester Camerata**, **Sinfonia Viva** and **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**. The programme is supported by Arts Council England with concerts throughout the year in Beverley, Bridlington, Pocklington and Withernsea (ongoing until March 2018). Includes **Noisy Kids**, with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** presenting an interactive, family friendly performance at **Bridlington Spa** (9 July).

Hull City Hall's music programme continues throughout the year, including: **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hull Philharmonic Orchestra, Caro Emerald, Al Stewart, Voices Across the Humber** (featuring six choirs from both banks of the Humber), as well as **Opera North's** production of *Turandot*.

VISUAL ART

Look Up, the year-long programme of temporary artworks, has placed *Blade* by **Nayan Kulkarni** and *The City Speaks* by **Michael Pinsky**, interrupting the city's public spaces. The next commissioned works will appear in shopping centres, car parks, streets and public squares. Artists include **Bob & Roberta Smith, Tania Kovats, Chris Dobrowolski** and **Claire Morgan**. Two of the co-commissions with **The Deep**: **Chris Dobrowolski's** work (March to May) will look at environmental concerns around plastics and our oceans; and in August, **Tania Kovats**, working closely with **The Deep's** staff, will create a large scale sculptural work, *BLEACHED*, which responds to the beauty of coral and its fragile position in the ecosystem.

The Train Track and the Basket by **Claire Barber** explores the phenomenon of 'transmigration', and the notion that skills and belongings traverse transport routes alongside people. Between 1848 and 1914, more than two million people arrived into Hull by ship from mainland Europe, and left by train to the transatlantic ports of Liverpool and Southampton, seeking new lives in the New World. This mass movement of people, many of whom were in Hull for just a few hours, ended abruptly with the outbreak of the First World War. Barber's installation at Hull's Paragon Station is partly inspired by social narrative painting made at the time of transmigration, which captures loss, lament and excitement at a new beginning, and draws from personal travelling experiences, through Outer Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand and Iceland.

Claire Morgan is creating a large scale suspended installation in the main atrium space of **Princes Quay Shopping Centre** as part of *Look Up* which will appear in mid-May, further information will be released in due course.

Look Up: Paper City is a ten-day celebration of colour in **Humber Street Gallery** and **Fruit Market**, with installations by some of the most exciting creative figures in contemporary art, design and architecture using the specialist coloured paper Colorplan from Hull company **G. F. Smith** (30 June - 9 July). Also revealed at the launch of *Paper City* will be the World's Favourite Colour, an international survey to discover what colour the world likes best (www.colorplanpapers.com).

This is a Freedom of Expression Centre by **Bob and Roberta Smith** will take over **Hull School of Art and Design** during its summer break hosting talks, workshops and a new exhibition created by the artist, exploring the differing degrees of freedom experienced by artists around the world, following his most recent investigations into the nature of modern protest (1 August - 8 September).

Humber Street Art Gallery

Hull's new contemporary art space **Humber Street Gallery** teams up with **Film and Video Umbrella** to present *Somewhere Becoming Sea* (5 April - 17 June), an exhibition of international artists working with the moving image, including **Lavinia Greenlaw, Nikolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen, Simon Faithfull** and **Cecilia Stenbom**. The show explores Hull's long-standing importance as a gateway to the North Sea and beyond, and how expanses of water that divide countries are also channels that connect them.

Worm Mini Festival (23 - 26 June) will see Rotterdam's **WORM**, a venue which was 'born under the stars of punk, Dada, Fluxus and hacktivism' will take up residence in Humber Street Gallery. Artists, filmmakers, musicians, DJs and performers will host a series of workshops and events showcasing the talent in the progressive underground culture of Hull's 'sister city'.

The gallery also teams up with the **Crafts Council** and a host of international artists to present **States of Play** confirming that play and creativity isn't just for kids (6 July - 25 September). Supported by Arts Council England and British Council.

Ferens Art Gallery

The Ferens Art Gallery follows its acclaimed reopening with a major new exhibition, **SKIN**, which opens in April and explores the human body and how artists have depicted the nude form, including **Ron Mueck**, **Lucian Freud** and **Édouard Manet**. Features the much-anticipated photographic work by **Spencer Tunick**, created last year when 3,200 people stripped and were painted in shades of blue for *Sea of Hull* (22 April - 13 August).

Offshore - Artists Explore the Sea, at the Ferens and Hull Maritime Museum includes artists **John Akomfrah**, **Tacita Dean**, **China Mieville**, **Martin Parr** and **Mariele Neudecker**. Curated by Invisible Dust, it explores the sea, monster myths, climate change and Hull's maritime history (1 April - 28 August).

The Ferens also plays host the world's greatest contemporary arts prize, the **Turner Prize** (26 September - 7 January 2018), the shortlist for which is announced in May.

Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull

Each year the Trustees of the **National Portrait Gallery** commission a portrait from the winner of the **BP Portrait Award** resulting in a selection of portraits of some of Britain's best known cultural figures. The exhibition represents the diversity, creativity and vision of a group of people who have shaped Britain today, and the best in contemporary portraiture. It features portraits of public figures, including JK Rowling, Paul Smith, Ian McKellen, Helen Mirren and many more. Artists include **Richard Towse** and **Stuart Pearson Wright** (29 March - 11 June).

Cairns, an exhibition of life size sculptures by Icelandic artist **Steinunn Thórarinsdóttir** will be placed around the university campus, reflecting on the historic connection between Iceland and Hull (29 April - October). Cairns are a common sight in the Icelandic landscape and were used as landmarks for people to find their way from one place to another. They were also often placed on coastlines to guide ships to harbour. The figures on campus portray frozen moments of contemplation and take on the form of human trail markers, referencing themes of spirituality and physicality. Steinunn is well known in Hull for her iconic sculpture **Voyage** overlooking the Humber estuary at Victoria Pier. On 1 May, as part of **John Grant's North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay**, University of Hull lecturer and trumpeter **Simon Desbruslais** will give the world premiere of a piece by composer **Deborah Pritchard** in response to *Voyage*, at the foot of the sculpture itself.

Artlink

The **Artlink Centre for Community Arts** is curating **Square Peg** in conjunction with **Shape Arts**, showcasing work by a range of artists who are disabled, throughout 2017. It includes an exhibition of work by the shortlisted artists and recipient of the **Adam Reynolds Memorial Bursary**. The seven artists are **Anna Berry**, **Juan delGado**, **Ruth Le Gear**, **David Lock**, **Peter Matthews**, **Aidan Moesby** and recipient **Oliver MacDonald** (April - July).

Hull Maritime Museum

The next major installation at Hull Maritime Museum be *The Weeping Window* from 24 March. By artist **Paul Cummins** and designer **Tom Piper** and part of **14-18 NOW**, the arts programme for the First World War Centenary, it is made up of several thousand handmade ceramic poppies from the installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* that drew thousands of visitors to the Tower of London in 2014. *A Cabinet of Curiosities* draws on the comedy writing talents of youngsters from ten schools in Hull, who will mix factual and imagined interpretation to create an 'openly populist' and 'light-hearted' feel with the help from Britain's best loved comedian **Bill Bailey** who will help curate this curious collection of Hull's history (27 May - 10 September). *A Common Foe* (15 July - 24 September) will explore how Iceland and the UK have helped each in adversity at sea, as well as confronting each other over fishing rights.

LITERATURE

The *Big Malarkey Festival* (26 June - 2 July) is Hull's first ever children's literature festival and will be held in East Park. The week-long festival will feature writers, poets and puppeteers as well as animation workshops and a Poetry Slam. The *Big Malarkey* will also feature a special programme for under-5s, and will finish with an all-dancing finale weekend. Produced in partnership with **Hull Library Services**, the festival is made possible with funding from the James Reckitt Library Trust and is for everyone aged 0 - 16 years old.

Prior to this, on 7 June, the 10th **Waterstones Children's Laureate** will be announced in Hull. The role of the children's laureate is awarded once every two years to an eminent writer or illustrator of children's books to celebrate outstanding achievement in that field.

The English poet, novelist, and biographer **Sir Andrew Motion** FRSL, who was Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 1999 to 2009, will speak at *BP Cultural Visions Lecture Series* which takes place at the **University of Hull** (24 June).

Larkin: New Eyes Each Year (5 July - 1 October) will be a biographical exhibition at the University of Hull, where Larkin spent three decades as librarian, and will lift the lid on the life of one of Hull's most influential creatives. Curated by Anna Farthing, and featuring unseen letters, photography and personal possessions, the exhibition will explore connections between Larkin's life and work in Hull.

Complementing the exhibition, this year's *Philip Larkin Society Distinguished Guest Lecturer* will be acclaimed British artist **Grayson Perry** (5 July).

Contains Strong Language (28 September - 1 October) is a major new national spoken word and poetry festival in Hull created with Hull's literature festival **Humber Mouth** and in association with the city's independent publishing imprint, **Wrecking Ball Press**. Beginning on National Poetry Day with local, national and international poets, *Contains Strong Language* is a celebration of new and exciting wordcraft. The festival will include **John Cooper Clarke** and the **BBC Philharmonic Orchestra**, along with world premieres, gala readings and concerts to be announced. The festival will also create a mammoth washing line of poetry about city landmarks, written by Hull residents.

The heart of *Contains Strong Language* will be *The Hull 17*, an ensemble of seventeen artists including **Kate Tempest**, **Imtiaz Dharker**, **Kate Fox**, **Joe Hakim**, **Harry Giles**, **Helen Mort**, **Alice Oswald**, **Bohdan Piasecki**, **Jacob Polley**, **Louise Wallwein**, **Fred Voss** and **Dean Wilson**. BBC national and local radio stations will be broadcasting from the festival and live shows from *Contains Strong Language* will include Jo Whiley on BBC Radio 2, *The Verb* with Ian McMillan and the BBC's flagship arts radio programme *Front Row*.

Running concurrently with *Contains Strong Language* will be *Humber Mouth* (28 September - 7 October) Hull's increasingly influential literature festival. This 25th anniversary edition will use both conventional and digital platforms to explore literature and poetry. This includes *How Was Your Day?* which will gather experiences of everyday life in Hull's sister cities.

FILM

A packed programme of more than 400 film and documentary screenings, festivals and one-off events is taking place in Hull throughout 2017, as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations. There are films for audiences of all ages and tastes and filmmakers are coming to the city to be part of the year-long *Transformative Film Culture for Hull* programme. It includes discussions, workshops, children's activities and screenings at venues around the city, including **Middleton Hall** at the University of Hull, which recently underwent a £9.5m redevelopment to create a state-of-the-art concert and arts venue, and **Hull Truck Theatre**, as well as some less obvious locations.

Transformative Film Culture for Hull is being delivered through Hull 2017 and by Hull Independent Cinema and a unique partnership of film festival, educational and archive partners from across the north. Funded by the BFI with National Lottery funding and led by its partner BFI Film Hub North, it reflects the BFI's UK-wide strategy to bring a wide range of films and related activities to local audiences and to support local film networks and audience initiatives.

BP Big Screens is also coming to Hull, bringing free opera and ballet outdoors on the big screen. People are encouraged to come with friends, family and a picnic for the three screenings in **Zebedee's Yard**. Being shown are a triple bill of the Royal Ballet's *The Dream/Symphonic Variations/Marguerite and Armand*, Verdi's tragic *La traviata* and Puccini's spectacular *Turandot* (7 June, 4 and 14 July).

CULTURE, IDEAS, CELEBRATIONS AND PROVOCATIONS

Hull will be at the forefront of national events to mark 50 years since the start of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK. Hull 2017 is joining forces with **Pride in Hull** and the iconoclastic queer collective **Duckie** to create **LGBT 50** (22 - 29 July). Pride in Hull will kick off a week of events, hosting the first ever **UK Pride** on the opening Saturday, including a new route for the annual parade, which will finish in Queens Gardens. Throughout the week there will be exhibitions, socials, films, debates and more. The biggest celebration of LGBT+ culture in the region will culminate on the second Saturday with a very special **Duckie Summer Tea Party** in Queen Victoria Square and the opportunity to be part of a specially commissioned **Yorkshire Dance** production by choreographer **Gary Clark**. Everyone is invited to one of the highlights of the summer.

As part of **LGBT 50**, **Humber Street Gallery** will host *The House of Kings and Queens* (27 July - 24 September), which will exhibit especially commissioned 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.

Freedom Talks in September sees the University of Hull's **Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation** inviting internationally-renowned speakers to help explore the notion of what freedom means to us. The Institute is a proud recipient of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for its outstanding contribution to uncovering the true extent of slavery around the globe and how lessons from the past can educate the future. More details, including the final line-up and booking information, will be announced later in 2017. (1 - 4 and 28 - 29 September).

Throughout the year, the **British Council**, a Major Partner of Hull 2017, is organising **Hull-Freetown 2017**, which builds on the long-standing links between the twinned cities with a series of cultural and educational projects. Slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce was born in Kingston-upon-Hull in 1759, became its MP and was a key figure in the founding of a free colony in Sierra Leone in 1792. Civic links between the two cities stretch back 37 years and in 2016, a delegation from Hull was one of the first UK groups to visit Sierra Leone after the end of the Ebola epidemic. Hull-Freetown 2017 will feature specially commissioned films, art exhibitions, music workshops, theatre residencies and community based football projects. It is designed to stimulate growth and skills development in the creative industries, strengthen existing links between schools and foster new ones.

LOCAL EVENTS ACROSS THE YEAR, ACROSS THE CITY

Hull 2017's first **Back To Ours** festival has just taken place, with shopping centres, social clubs, schools and other local venues across the city hosting an huge variety of performances. They included the likes of drag king show *Joan*, the hugely acclaimed *The Red Shed* by Mark Thomas, indie stars The Pigeon Detectives, drag artist Ceri Dupree, Jenny and Lee from Gogglebox, film screenings and family friendly shows. Building on its success, **Back To Ours** runs two more times this year, with line-up details to come (half terms: 26 May -3 June and 27 October - 4 November 2017, www.hull2017.co.uk/back-to-ours).

Also taking place across the year, 60 original projects funded through the **Creative Communities Programme** continue, with artists developing projects alongside local people in the heart of Hull's communities. Inspired by local stories and aimed at inspiring creativity and connectedness, a variety of new work is being produced, from site specific installations, to music and performance, to photography and film (ongoing, <http://bit.ly/2mivmp5>).

Taking place in different locations around the city throughout the year, **Land of Green Ginger** takes inspiration from a famous street in Hull's Old Town to create another ground breaking citywide story. Designed to infiltrate everyday life, *Land of Green Ginger* is the antidote to boredom; it is astonishment and delight and curiosity and it will spread across Hull as each chapter leads on to the next. An exciting cohort of artists, including **Lone Twin**, **Davy and Kristin McGuire** and **Macnas** will be spinning myth and magic across Hull neighbourhoods, transforming places which can feel unnoticed into places of possibility, where "*Acts of Wanton Wonder*" can occur. Our story begins: "*There once was a land that nobody believed existed. And every day people passed by it or around it or over it or through it, but never once saw it or felt it or heard it or knew any person or thing in it. Until - one day - the land revealed itself...*" (throughout 2017).

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ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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.

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.

Hull City Council and UK City of Culture 2017

In 2013, Hull City Council co-ordinated the bid for UK City of Culture status in collaboration with the city's cultural, community organisations, artists and following communications and engagement campaign, which resulted in overwhelming support from local businesses and the public.

The decision to bid came as part of Hull's City Plan set out by Hull's City Leadership Board in 2013 to transform the city over ten years, creating 7,500 jobs. One of the key ambitions of the City Plan is to harness the power of culture and the arts to make Hull a world-class visitor destination, with hosting UK City of Culture 2017 being a key milestone on the journey.

20 November 2013, the day Hull achieved UK City of Culture status, was widely hailed as 'the day the city changed forever'. Following the announcement, Hull City Council established an independent company to

deliver the 2017 cultural programme, providing an initial investment of £4m, appointing Rosie Millard as Chair and Martin Green as CEO and Director. The Council also accelerated the delivery of a £100m cultural capital programme that is now transforming the city and its cultural venues.

Hull's year as the nation's cultural capital is expected to deliver a £60 million economic impact in 2017 alone.