



A Circa production, co commissioned by LIFT, National Centre for Circus Arts, Spitalfields Music, Hull UK City of Culture 2017, LeftCoast and Brighton Festival.

Hull performers join international artists for contemporary circus in a cemetery

Performers in Hull will join world renowned circus company *Circa* as they bring their internationally acclaimed production *Depart* to Hull's General Cemetery.

Depart will transform Hull's General Cemetery to create a spell-binding and immersive show as part of the *Roots and Routes* season at **Hull UK City of Culture 2017**. Tickets for the show, which runs 18 - 21 May, are available from www.hull2017.co.uk/depart.

Over 100 singers from Hull Freedom Chorus will be a part of the cast, layering vocals onto the musical arrangement curated by electronic musician **Lapalux**. Performers from Northern School of Contemporary Dance will also join the company throughout the tour.

Supported by Hull CCG and Spirit of 2012, Hull 2017 is also working with the National Centre for Circus Arts to upskill gymnastics and dance students, creating 'Circus Champions'. As part of a programme of development, mentoring, experience and training, the champions will participate in *Depart*, leading the audience around the cemetery.

Depart, which is Supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund, received its world premiere last summer at **LIFT 2016** where it played in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

Inspired by the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice, *Depart* takes audiences on a path through the underworld in atmospheric locations. Transforming this evocative environment, celebrated circus artists will dance above the heads of a roaming audience to create genre-defying spectacles. With direction from Yaron Lifschitz and a creative team including Lapalux, *Depart* brings together acrobats, aerialists, local community choirs and video artists for an inimitable, immersive evening of immersive entertainment.

Following the run at Hull's General Cemetery, *Depart* will then travel to the Woodvale Cemetery at Brighton Festival (25 - 28 May) and Blackpool's Stanley Park (1 - 4 June).

Katy Fuller, Executive Producer of *Depart* for Hull 2017, said: "*Depart* embodies the whole ethos of Hull 2017: bringing world class artists to the city; showcasing and developing local talent; and using non-traditional venues to encourage people to look at parts of the city in a whole new light."

Yaron Lifschitz said, “At the heart of the experience is the attempt to grasp the ungraspable - to connect ourselves with the very liminality that makes us human, to look up even as the long-buried lie beneath our feet. Depart is a meditation, a playground for the soulful, an art gallery without walls, a circus in search of transcendence and a hundred moments of joyous beauty. It is performed with respect and aims for rapture.”

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of LIFT, said “With circus performers defying gravity at every turn and Lapalux’s beautiful electronic score soaring above the treetops, wandering around Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park during Depart last June was a personal highlight of last year’s LIFT. I’m delighted that we’re now able to share Circa’s epic and emotionally-charged show with audiences across the country, bringing an array of exceptional circus artists, composers, choral arrangers and singers and dancers together to create a spine-tingling piece of work. I hope Depart stays with audiences for as long as it has stayed with me.”

- ENDS -

For further information please contact Philippa Redfern at The Corner Shop PR // philippa@thecornershoppr.com // 0207 831 7657

Images can be downloaded [here](#).

Username: DepartTour

Password: Circa

Listings

A Circa production, co-commissioned by LIFT, National Centre for Circus Arts, Spitalfields Music, Hull UK City of Culture 2017, LeftCoast and Brighton Festival

Depart

Director: Yaron Lifschitz

Composer & Sound Designer: Lapalux

Composer & Musical Director: Sam Glazer

Associate Director & Costume Designer: Libby McDonnell

Lighting Designer: Lee Curran

Resident Director: Alice Lee Holland

Video Designer: Ben Foot

Video Designer: Valentina Floris

Conductor & Musical Director: Isabelle Adams

2017 tour dates

18 - 21 May

General Cemetery

Hull City of Culture, Spring Bank West, HU5 3SE

On Sale on 15 February from www.hull2017.co.uk/depart

25 - 28 May

Woodvale Cemetery

Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 3QB

On Sale Now

1 - 4 June
Stanley Park
West Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HU
On Sale Now

Notes to Editors

Circa

Circa has, since 2004, been at the frontier of new circus - creating powerful works of circus art that challenge, thrill and delight. Featuring an ensemble of multi-skilled circus artists under the direction of Yaron Lifschitz, Circa's award-winning works have been seen in 34 countries across six continents. At the centre of Circa is the art. Shows that push the boundary of the circus artform, blur the lines between movement, dance, theatre and circus and yet are a unique, singular 'Circa' experience.

LIFT

LIFT travels the world to bring global stories to London, bringing spectacular performances and moments of magic to every corner of the capital.

For over 35 years LIFT has presented shows in partnership with London's major arts venues, theatres and galleries, but also in countless hidden spaces and places across the city. It works with world-class artists, whose radical imaginations create exceptional work that questions the nature of theatre, engages with the big ideas of our time, and reveals the stories and communities of our incredibly diverse Capital.

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, 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, community engagement and neighbourhood programming. £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

Freedom Chorus

The Hull Freedom Chorus was formed in 2011 by the City Arts Unit of Hull City Council, and made their debut at Hull's Freedom Festival that same year. Over the past six years, this 590-strong community choir, with members starting from as young as 14, has been delighting audiences at large scale events.

<https://www.hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/let-freedom-chorus/>

Brighton Festival

Brighton Festival is an annual celebration of music, theatre, dance, circus, art, film, literature, debate, outdoor and family events - taking place in venues both familiar and unusual across Brighton & Hove for three weeks every May.

Established in 1967, Brighton Festival has become one of the city's most enduring symbols of inventiveness and celebration, renowned for its pioneering spirit and experimental reputation. Now one of Europe's leading producing and commissioning arts festivals, Brighton draws some of the most innovative artists (and adventurous audiences) from the UK and around the world.

LeftCoast

LeftCoast is a programme of arts and creative activity happening across Blackpool and Wyre. We're all about creating amazing art on your doorstep. From jaw-dropping spectacle to intimate experiences in your neighbourhood, we want to make art happen. In the process we hope to inspire and support creatives who live, work and study here.

LeftCoast has been brought together by a local partnership of organisations including Blackpool Coastal Housing, Blackpool Council, Wyre Council, Blackpool Grand Theatre and Merlin Entertainments. We're funded by Arts Council England's Creative People and Places Programme.

Spitalfields Music

Spitalfields Music is a creative charity producing live music experiences in East London through a year-round programme of festivals and creative learning and participation projects.

Since 1976, Spitalfields Music has produced two festivals a year, bringing together world-renowned artists with local musicians. Spitalfields Music's award-winning Learning & Participation programme brings participatory music opportunities to members of the local community in schools, libraries and care homes across East London.

This year, Spitalfields Music celebrates 40 years of working in the unique home of Tower Hamlets, inspired by the spirit of the people who live and work there. The organisation is looking forward to the next 40 years harnessing the extraordinary power of music-making as force for community cohesion.

National Centre for Circus Arts

The National Centre for Circus Arts is a registered charity and one of Europe's leading providers of circus education. Based in a magnificent Victorian power station adjacent to Hoxton Square, they involve thousands of people in the creation and performance of circus arts every year. Their

diverse range of work includes a BA Hons degree in Circus Arts, a structured progressive training programme for under 18s and professional development opportunities for aspiring and established performers. Adults and young people can take part in a range of recreational classes and they provide workshops and away days for the business community.

Biographies

Yaron Lifschitz is Artistic Director and CEO of Circa. He has created works with the company such as *by the light of stars that are no longer...*, *CIRCA*, *Wunderkammer*, *How Like an Angel*, *"S"*, *Beyond*, *Opus*, *Carnival of the Animals* and *Il Ritorno (The Return)*. His recent works have been reviewed as being "stunning", "exquisite" and "the standard to which all other circuses can aspire". Yaron lives in Brisbane with his son, Oscar. His passion is creating works of philosophical and poetic depth from the traditional languages of circus.

Lapalux is known for his experimental use of texture and off-kilter beats. He has released two albums to great acclaim: *Nostalchic* and *Lustmore* as well as contributing tracks to numerous video games including *Grand Theft Auto V*. Lapalux has recently collaborated with Tristan Sharps of dreamthinkspeak, creating an ambient soundscape for the director's most recent work, *ABSENT*, presented by LIFT in 2015.

Sam Glazer is a composer, cellist and workshop leader who has led creative projects for Spitalfields Music, Wigmore Hall, Britten Sinfonia, RPO and Glyndebourne, working with babies and parents, children and teachers, vulnerable adults, people living with dementia and adults in a community choir. Sam has worked for a number of years at the Royal Academy of Music, mentoring young musicians who are studying Music in the Community.

Libby McDonnell works across disciplines as a designer, choreographer, director and performer. With her dynamic visual sensibilities her work is always firmly connected to choreographic exploration, her curiosity about humans and the fantastical. Libby has designed costumes for all of Circa's major creations since 2010 and has show-directed and managed tours in Australia and abroad. Libby was recently appointed Associate Director at Circa. In 2015 Libby co-directed and choreographed *Before Your Eyes*. This performance experience launched MA Scené Nationale's 2015/2016 seasons in Montbéliard, France. It was an immersive performance activating 88 local participants as performers and was created in 4 weeks by working extensively within the community.

Lee Curran is a lighting designer of dance, theatre, opera and music, working with numerous artists and organisations including Hofesh Shechter, Royal Court, Royal Shakespeare Company, Rambert Dance Company, Royal Exchange Manchester, National Theatre of Wales, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Donmar Warehouse, English Touring Opera, HOME, Frieze and Breakin' Convention. Lee was recently nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Lighting Design for *Constellations*.

Alice Lee Holland is a director, choreographer and dance animateur. Born in Perth, she began her artistic career as a member of STEPS Youth Dance Company. She is a graduate of the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Unafraid to think from zero, Alice is an ambitious artist committed to the contemporary arts as a place for innovation and change. Her six-year tenure as Artistic Director of STEPS saw the organisation take full flight. Alice joined Circa as Resident Director in 2015.

SDNA is a creative studio based in London producing distinctive digital artwork, they explore techniques of interaction within public spaces, using emerging technologies and unusual presentation media. Their interdisciplinary approach, integrating site-responsive installation and

live performance, aims to widen the scope of digital art. They collaborate across disciplines and scale whilst keeping a recognisable approach and distinctive aesthetic.

Isabelle Adams is a singer and teacher, working with a wide range of people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities. She leads creative music projects and presents concerts for Wigmore Hall, Britten Sinfonia, Royal Opera House and the Royal Academy of Music. Recently, she assembled a chorus of all-comers for the London premiere of David Lang's *Crowd Out*, a site-specific outdoors celebration of 1,000 whispering, shouting and singing voices.