

9 May 2017

Line-up for Big Malarkey Festival announced

The line-up for Hull's first children's literature festival has been confirmed ahead of free tickets being released next week.

The Big Malarkey Festival will bring together writers, illustrators, cartoonists, performers, musicians and artists to a fantastical tented village for children inside East Park to celebrate children's literature in all its forms and invite creativity through activities and workshops.

Taking place at the end of June, the festival is a week-long celebration of children's literature for everyone aged 0 to 16 years to enjoy alongside their families and friends.

Made possible with funding from the James Reckitt Library Trust, Hull Culture and Leisure and Hull UK City of Culture 2017, the inaugural event will see an exciting, inspiring and diverse programme aimed at children and young people, their families and educationalists. Promoting many different art forms, from writing to illustration, drama, storytelling and music performance. Visitors can expect author readings, interviews, workshops and opportunities in writing development.

The artists and authors participating in this inaugural festival have been confirmed, with:

- **Author talks** from Jeremy Strong, A F Harrold, Steve Cole, Tanya Landman, Jamila Gavin, Nick Arnold, Akala, Julian Clary, David Roberts, Lydia Monks and Annabel Pitcher.
- **Poetry** with Rob Gee, Simon Punrucker, Adisa and Park Bench Poets
- **Puppetry** with Dark Horse Puppetry and Indigo Moon
- **Performances/Storytelling** from Discover Storytelling Centre, Just Soph, Mudpie Arts, Hekima, Broccolily, Settle Stories, Travelling Treasury, Karvan and Mambo Jambo
- **Movement/drama workshops** with Ten Foot Dance Company, Dave Windass
- **Illustration** with Neill Cameron, Calvin Innes, Andy Sanders, Shoo Rayner, Hull School of Art and Design

Hull Culture and Leisure Library Service are establishing the new children's literature festival with the intention it becomes an annual event in the Hull festival calendar.

Ellen Bianchini, The Big Malarkey Festival Director, said: "We want this festival to inspire young people to engage with and celebrate children's literature, in all its forms, to stimulate their own creativity. Our local and regional educationalists are vital in helping to build a lasting literary legacy in the city, so this festival will also offer them the opportunity to participate in professional development. Hull has witnessed so many talented writers, illustrators and performers and we hope this festival, and festivals in years to come, will help to enthuse others to create wonderful stories."

Councillor Terry Geraghty, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure and Chair of Hull Culture & Leisure, said: "We are delighted Hull's first children's literature festival is heading to our very own East Park. With an outstanding line-up and programme it will

offer an array of activities to instigate young people's creativity and imagination and something for the whole family to enjoy. We hope this is the start of something very special as well as promoting the services of what the city's libraries have to offer.

"It is also particularly special as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the hugely successful Children's Book Awards."

Martin Green, Director at Hull UK City of Culture 2017, said: "There is an abundance of talented young people in this city and I think this event is going to be spectacular, not only in terms of what festival-goers will experience, but what impact it will have on the creativity of our young people. We want them to read, write, draw, illustrate, visit their library, tell stories and use their imaginations. Malarkey Park will see all of this and more."

The week-long festival has a programme for both schools and the public.

From Monday 26 to Friday 30 June, a schools programme will feature author talks and hands-on workshops in writing, play-making, illustration and 3D model-making/craft and digital art. Each day will have a different theme: Funny Bone, Cliffhanger, Jeopardy, and Myth and Magic.

The public programme will begin with 'Teatime Tasters', an after-school experience with readings, stories and workshops, taking place from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Each day will have a different focus and festival-goers will be able to meet an author, try their hand at different activities or enjoy a performance. The opening day Teatime Taster session will see the new Waterstone's Children's Laureate, due to be announced on 7 June, take part in a Q&A and book signing in The Big Malarkey Tent.

There will be no Teatime Taster on Wednesday 28 June as the James Reckitt Hull Children's Book Award, now in its 10th year, will bring together 400 children from Hull primary schools to choose the winning author from this year's shortlist. This is a schools-only event, not open to the general public.

The main public programme will be a free ticketed event taking place on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July between 10am and 5.30pm. It will feature drop-in workshops, author talks and book signings, performances and storytelling. Hull Carnival Arts will be there on Sunday to help children make costume/headaddresses for the finale, a StoryBook Ball with a live band.

The festival will see all kinds of tents for all kinds of activities, especially designed and programmed for children, schools and families including:

- **The Big Malarkey** - a large tent for author talks and performances
- **Digi Tent** - with laptops, for digital illustration, creative writing, animation and anything else digital that we come up with!
- **Make it, take it** - for 2D and 3D making activity
- **Live and Kicking** - for smaller performances, talks and workshops
- **Little Larkeys** - Under Fives' area
- **Other assorted elements:** Waterstones bookshop, theatre and storytelling caravans, shadow puppetry and walkabouts

Scrapstore, Hull's play resource centre, is dressing the festival with tantalizing features such as a puppet booth, wacky furniture including a bed with a steering wheel and a poetical piano which has books as its keys.

In the weeks prior to the festival, children are invited to take part in a puppet workshop being run by Oddsocks, one of the UK's best-loved theatre companies, to make a sock puppet to take to the festival. The first workshop will take place on **10 May at 6pm in Central Library**.

The festival is free but will be ticketed for Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July. The weekday Teatime Tasters will not require tickets. Tickets will be available via www.hull2017.co.uk/bigmalarkeyfestival from next Tuesday (16 May). Hull Libraries staff will be able to assist customers who are unable to book tickets online.

Download the full festival programme here: <http://thebigmalarkeyfestival.com>

The Big Malarkey Festival is a family festival with all activities designed to be enjoyed by children accompanied by an adult. Unaccompanied children and adults attending without children will not be permitted to enter the festival.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SCHOOLS	OPEN TO SCHOOLS 10AM - 2.30PM					CLOSED TO SCHOOLS	
PUBLIC	3.30-5.30PM TASTER	3.30-5.30PM TASTER	CLOSED FOR BOOK AWARDS	3.30-5.30PM TASTER	3.30-5.30PM TASTER	10.00-5.30PM FULL DAY	10.00-5.30PM FULL DAY

ENDS

For press information, please contact: Alix Johnson at Hull 2017,
alix.johnson@hull2017.co.uk / 07718 100784

NOTES TO EDITORS

The James Reckitt Library Trust

The James Reckitt Library Trust was established as an independent charitable trust in 1892 by Sir James Reckitt (1833-1924), the pioneering industrialist and philanthropist. Originally intended to support the James Reckitt Library in east Hull, it now helps to develop public library provision throughout the City. The projects and activities which it funds are designed to stimulate a love of reading and learning, particularly among children and young people, to encourage those who might not normally use public library services to do so, and to raise awareness of what modern public libraries can offer. Examples of recent projects funded by the Trust are the annual Children's Book Award, the Summer Reading Challenge, and the redevelopment of the Western Library, the first free library in Hull to be established from the public purse.

James Reckitt and public libraries

Sir James Reckitt (1833-1924) was a pioneer industrialist and philanthropist, one of Hull's greatest citizens. Libraries were among his many philanthropic passions. He campaigned tirelessly for the establishment by the City Corporation of public libraries in Hull, and at his own cost built the first free library in the City, the James Reckitt Library in east Hull. The opening of the Western Library in 1895, the first to be established from the public purse, was a direct result of his campaigning efforts. The James Reckitt Library Trust was established by Sir James in 1892. Originally intended to support just the James Reckitt Library, the Trust now helps to develop public library provision throughout the City.

Hull Culture and Leisure Ltd

Hull Culture and Leisure Ltd is a company limited by guarantee that is wholly owned by Hull City Council. Hull Culture and Leisure operates the city's library services, museums, The Ferens Art

Gallery, Hull City Hall, Hull New Theatre, Leisure Centres, sports development and cafes and catering on behalf of Hull City Council.

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, 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.

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. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

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