



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bowie and Ronson rock musicians to play alongside young performers in 'Turn and Face the Strange' for Hull 2017**

Legendary rock musicians who played with David Bowie and Hull-born Mick Ronson will reunite as members of a band performing in a new multi-media show about the life of the Spiders From Mars guitarist.

**Turn and Face the Strange** will feature a stellar line-up of musical talent including Keith 'Ched' Cheesman on guitar, John Cambridge on drums, and John Bentley on bass. They will be playing alongside a group of young performers forming a classically trained string quartet, led by 17-year-old Wyke College student Elliot Jarvis.

The show will tell the story of an extraordinary talent, whose music played an influential part in countless people's lives.

As well as the special live band, there will be archive film footage and memories told by friends, fans and fellow musicians.

An accompanying exhibition of photographs and rare memorabilia will also be on display.

The show will run at the Freedom Centre in Hull from Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 August.

Rupert Creed, co-writer of the show with Garry Burnett, said: "This is going to be a great live show. We have put together a group of musicians who span two generations of performers.

"We have skilled rock musicians who played with David Bowie and Mick Ronson back in the 60s and 70s, and young performers who are classically trained in piano, violin, cello, clarinet and viola.

"Mick Ronson is best known for his virtuoso guitar work in the Spiders from Mars, but throughout his career he was adept at string arrangements and producing albums for up and coming younger musicians.

"He gave them tremendous encouragement and support. This line-up means we can recreate the full Mick Ronson music experience from driving rock to melodic piano and strings, and do justice to his achievement and legacy as a mentor for the next generation of young musicians."

**Turn and Face the Strange** is part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017's Creative Communities Programme.

Garry Burnett said: "We have put together a band who not only played alongside David Bowie and Mick Ronson, but have amazing stories to tell about their times performing together. Many of these stories have never been told before, and they put Hull and Hull's music talent at the centre of our show.

“Ched Cheesman is leading the rock band and Wyke College student Elliot Jarvis is composing and arranging the piano and string quartet elements. Together they are re-creating the full Mick Ronson sound spanning his amazing career and achievement. This is going to be a memorable show of live music and storytelling.”

Tickets for the show are available online at [Hull 2017](#), [Hull Box Office](#), and in person at Freedom Centre, Preston Road, Hull.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: “This will be an incredible celebration of one of Hull’s greatest and most influential musicians - it’s simply unmissable.”

*Turn And Face The Strange* takes place at the Freedom Centre, Preston Road, Hull, from Tuesday 15 August to Saturday 19 August, at 7.30pm, with an additional matinee performance on Saturday at 2pm.

Tickets for the show are available online at [Hull 2017](#), [Hull Box Office](#), and in person at Freedom Centre, Preston Road, Hull.

This is a Hull 2017 Creative Community Programme (CCP) project.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS ON MUSICIANS

Hull born **Ched Cheesman** played with Mick Ronson in the 60’s band ‘The Rats’, with the band’s line-up including at various times John Cambridge & Woody Woodmansey on drums and Trevor Bolder on bass. Mick, Trevor & Woody then went on to become Bowie’s famous backing band The Spiders from Mars. Ched played at the Mick Ronson memorial concert at Hammersmith Odeon in London in 1994. Having shared guitar licks with Mick Ronson during their time in The Rats, Ched is tasked with recreating the guitar virtuosity of ‘Ronno’ live onstage in the show.

Beverley resident & drummer **John Cambridge** played in Bowie’s bands Junior Eyes and The Hype which pre-dated The Spiders from Mars. John lived in the early 70s at David Bowie’s house Haddon Hall in Beckenham London, and was instrumental in persuading Bowie to recruit Mick Ronson as his lead guitarist firstly in The Hype and then the Spiders from Mars. John played with Bowie & Mick Ronson at the Roundhouse London in March 1970 in what has been dubbed ‘the first ever glam-rock gig’. John also played drums on Bowie’s first hit single ‘Space Oddity’

**John Bentley** grew up in Hull in the 60s and as a teenager took on the Hire Purchase payments acquiring Mick Ronson’s Telecaster. John formed the local band ‘Nothineverappens’, played in bands such as Quintessence, then in 1979 became the bass guitarist in **Squeeze** playing alongside Jools Holland and later touring Japan. John has played all over the globe at Festivals and Venues including: Glastonbury, Coachella, Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, the Royal Albert Hall. During a long and dangerous career John has worked alongside many amazing musicians including: Elvis Costello, Sting, Paul Carrack, and Keith Emerson

The band's lead singer is **Kristian Eastwood**. Son of David Eastwood who was a drummer back in the day with Hull bands such as The Roustabouts and Nothineverappens, Kristian also performed on demos alongside Trevor Bolder, performed in the band Mr Mojo, playing festivals such as Glastonbury, Leeds and Reading, before forming the band JoKeRz. Kristian is a singer-songwriter and sings regularly with the band The Tsars

**Bobby Joyce** - guitar and vocals. Bobby has been on the Hull music scene for around 20 years, singing and playing in various bands as well as doing solo acoustic sets. Bobby's songs combine well-crafted melodies and thoughtful lyrics with a powerful, soul influenced vocal.

**Rachael Jarvis**- vocals. Rachael's love of music and performance started at a very young age. She went on to play many instruments and performed throughout her school days which continued into her adult life as she studied Theatre Studies at the University of Hull. Rachael has performed at venues and public events around Hull and further afield and writes: "I didn't want to miss out on the opportunity to be a part of my home town celebrations and I'm proud to come back to Hull to support the City of Culture 2017, particularly in a show that is honouring one of the most influential musicians of our time".

**Elliot Jarvis** is a 17yr old student at Wyke College Hull. He is a classically trained pianist and violinist with a long list of experience playing and performing classical repertoire with orchestras such as the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra. He regularly performs for theatre shows as a pit musician and as a Musical Director. His professional work has included Musical Director of a performance of "Little Shop of Horrors", Musical assistant director and Stage Manager of Wyke College's "Your House" and Musical Director of a Hull New theatre performance of the acclaimed "Blood Brothers".

**The String Quartet** features the young Hull musicians: Emily Tomlinson (violin), Grace Burnett (clarinet), Paula Bowes (viola), Bethany Nicholson t.b.c (cello)

#### **Emily Tomlinson (violin)**

Emily is currently working towards her Grade 8 violin with Rachael England, at Yorkshire Young Musicians. She started playing the violin when she was 7, and is now 16. Emily is the current leader of the East Riding Youth Orchestra and is also a member of the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra. She has just sat her GCSEs and is hoping to go on to study music at a conservatoire in the future.

#### **Grace Burnett (clarinet)**

Hull born Grace Burnett attended Hull Collegiate School where she learnt the clarinet and then went on to study Music A level at Wyke Sixth Form College. She currently plays in several ensembles including the Culture: Music clarinet choir, Hull Youth Symphonic Wind band and 5th Hull Boys' Brigade Band. She sings with Hull Choral Union Hull Freedom Chorus and sang on the official city of culture song, 'Not Forgotten Town'. She is a Hull 2017 City of Culture volunteer and featured in the third episode of The Culture Show and was a cast member of Flood: Part 2. Grace writes: "I have really enjoyed the variety of different opportunities that City of Culture has offered look forward to seeing what more exciting things the year has in store for Hull. Playing in 'Turn and Face The Strange' really excites me as I will be involved in an unique show whilst playing alongside some fantastic musicians".

#### **Paula Bowes (viola)**

Paula started playing the viola at the age of 12 and now enjoys a busy performance schedule across many different genres of music. Paula has attended the Purcell School's Chamber Music Academy for two seasons and has worked with many renowned classical musicians such as Levon Chilingirian and Garfield Jackson. She is currently principal violist

of the East Riding Youth Orchestra and before completing her A-Level studies held the same position in many school ensembles at Hymers College. Paula has spent the last few years performing regularly with the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra and has recently performed at the Royal Festival Hall in a performance of Mahler's fifth symphony with the Duet Philharmonic Orchestra. Paula has recently become involved with the Culture: Orchestra taking up the position of Principal Viola. The orchestra has participated in many Hull 2017 events including the filming of the official single of Hull 2017 *The Christians' Not forgotten Town*. The orchestra is also looking forward to headlining UK Pride 2017 in which Paula will be playing many well-known tracks from the 1980s up until now. Paula also has experience in playing in ensembles for musicals including hit musical *Oliver!* and is also taking part in *We Are The Future!* - a collaboration between the City of Hull Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Academy of Performing Arts. Although performing takes up the vast majority of her time, Paula finds time to compose and arrange in a variety of styles and genres including classical, blues, and pop. Her growing collection of compositions and arrangements include quartet arrangements, pieces for viola and piano, and pieces for viola and orchestra.

#### **Bethany Nicholson** (cello)

Beth has finished her final year at the University of Hull studying a Bachelor of Music. She is currently studying with Alfia Nakipbekova. In the past year, she has played backing tracks for the Bootleg Beatles and Nightports. She has also broadcast on BBC Introducing Humberside, BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. She was part of the premier of '6000 Pipes' composed by Sir Karl Jenkins for Hull UK City of Culture 2017. In July Beth will be going to China, where she will be playing and singing with the Hull Confucius Institute. Beth currently performs with the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra and the Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra. She has started to expand her horizons to contemporary music and plans to follow this further by studying a masters degree at the University of Hull.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS on the project**

**Rupert Creed** has lived and worked in Hull for over 40 years as a playwright and theatre director. He was the writer of 'Made in Hull', the opening event for Hull's City of Culture 2017. He was founder director of Hull based Remould Theatre Company (1981-97), has written and directed 30 professional stage productions including documentary plays such as 'The Northern Trawl' about Hull's fishing community. He also wrote and directed large cast community plays in Howden, Bridlington, Dorchester, and Hull including 'Vital Spark' (1993) and 'No Surrender' (1996). He was BBC Producer on the Hull digital community storytelling project 'Telling Lives' and Regional Broadcast Co-ordinator in Manchester for the BBC 'Peoples War' project. He has written and presented several Radio 4 documentary features. He is an Associate Artist with Hull Truck Theatre running their Act 111 company for the over 55s. His recent production of 'Turning the Tide' about Hull's 1968 trawler tragedy and the wives campaign for safety played to capacity audiences at Hull Truck.

**Garry Burnett** is a published author, storyteller and musician, born and bred on Greatfield Estate with close connections to the Ronson family. He has worked as a teacher and Head of English in several Hull secondary schools, and as a Learning Advisor and School Improvement Support across the country and abroad. He is Principal Tutor at the Gordon Giltrap Guitar Academy, performed as a storyteller for Freedom Festival 2015 & 2016, and his work has been translated into several languages. His prose and poetry publications include 'Mrs Ockleton's Rainbow Kite and Other Tales', 'Parents Too' & 'Barbie and other Unlikely Tales'

**Turn and Face the Strange** is one of 60 new projects to receive funding through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme, which is being delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017.

A total of £750,000 is being invested in the programme, which was set up to celebrate, nurture and support local talent and develop opportunities for emerging artists.

In addition to cash from Hull 2017 and the Big Lottery Fund, the projects will receive staff support to build capacity in the arts sector, helping to create a legacy. The Creative Communities Programme is also being supported by Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust.

The projects - which range from photography exhibitions to music and food festivals and choral and orchestral concerts to audio-visual installations - will see local artists, community groups, cultural and other organisations in the city working with local people of all ages to create new artistic work, events, installations and other activity throughout 2017.

For a full list of projects visit: <https://www.hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/sixty-community-projects-inspire-creativity-across-hull-2/>

### 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](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

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### About Big Lottery Fund

- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.

- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it invests over £650 million and awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

#### **About Hull & East Riding Charitable Trust**

The Hollingbery Family founded the business in 1933 with the first Comet superstore opened in Hull in 1968. The business was subsequently sold to Kingfisher and in 1985 the charity was established with the defined purpose of donating funds to help and support charities, both national and local, and other deserving causes, provided that direct benefit was forthcoming for people who live in Hull or the East Riding of Yorkshire.

For more information, including on how to apply for funds, see <http://hullandeastridingtrust.org.uk/>