

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Major commissions and celebrated artists as Hull 2017 unveils details for season, *Tell The World*

- Visual arts include Turner Prize 2017 at Ferens Art Gallery, and Martin Parr and Olivia Arthur in new Magnum exhibition at Humber Street Gallery
- New plays from Maxine Peake, Tanika Gupta and James Graham commissioned for Hull Truck Theatre
- Artists heading to Hull include Will Self, Melvyn Bragg, Kathryn Williams & Laura Barnett, Cosey Fanni Tutti, Ben Okri, Jenny Eclair, Simon Armitage, Tracey Thorn & Ben Watt, Monica Ali, Alex Wheatle, Sara Pascoe, Reece Shearsmith
- Major public art commissions include the RIBA-backed *A Hall For Hull* and Jason Bruges Studio's *Where Do We Go From Here?*
- Technology and radical staging from Slung Low, Blast Theory, Marshmallow Laser Feast and curious directive
- Hull New Theatre brings John Godber world premiere, Opera North, Northern Ballet and National Theatre, following £16 million rebuild
- *Substance* weekend examines Hull and the North's future as dynamic cultural powerhouse

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 today announces details of its fourth season *Tell The World*, which runs from October to December. The response to the year has exceeded expectations and the city's thrilling journey as host to the nation's cultural quadrennial continues with major new commissions and celebrated artists.

Working with a host of partners, including Hull City Council, which successfully bid to secure the title in 2013, *Tell The World* brings theatre and live performance, literature, visual art, festivals, spectacle and more. There are events and activities across the city to entertain, challenge and bring people together, cementing Hull's reputation as a cultural destination, with a profile that is growing nationally and internationally.

New commissions with Hull Truck Theatre include *The Last Testament Of Lillian Bilocca*, written by the award-winning actor and writer **Maxine Peake**, a site-specific commission that will take place at Hull's historic Guildhall, and a brand new play by acclaimed writer **James Graham** (*This House, Ink, Privacy, The Vote*), a behind-the-scenes comedy about the City of Culture year, which is due to open in 2018. Hull Truck Theatre also has the world premiere of award-winning writer **Tanika Gupta's** adaptation of the best-selling novel *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, directed by Mark Babych.

Visual art includes Turner Prize 2017 at Ferens Art Gallery, which runs until 7 January 2018, with awards night on 5 December. A partnership with international photography co-operative Magnum sees **Martin Parr** and **Olivia Arthur's** photographic study *Hull, Portrait Of A City* at Humber Street Gallery. **British Council** and **Royal Institute of British Architects** are partners for the spectacular *Look Up* public art commission, *A Hall For Hull*, in historic Trinity Square. **Brynmor Jones Library** at

Principal Partner the **University of Hull** presents works from the Government Art Collection in *An Eyeful Of Wry*.

Hull 2017's commitment to innovative and experimental new work, supported by Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence, sees the culmination of the epic year-long project **Slung Low's** pioneering multi-format *Flood*, as well as **Blast Theory's** landmark *2097: We Made Ourselves Over* and curious **directive's** virtual reality project *Frogman*, which has just premiered in Edinburgh.

Also embracing technology are virtual reality wizards **Marshmallow Laser Feast**, whose *A Colossal Wave* is a major partnership commission with the **British Council** and **Partenariat du Quartier Spectacle**, Montreal; and the world-renowned **Jason Bruges Studio** works its innovative light-based magic in Hull's Old Town with *Where Do We Go From Here?*, a new art installation that runs into January 2018.

Following its £16 million rebuilding programme, the newly opened **Hull New Theatre's** first season includes work from **Opera North**, **Northern Ballet** and **National Theatre**, plus *The Kings Of Hull*, a world premiere from **John Godber**.

*Tell The World* builds on the city's strong literary heritage with an unprecedented number of nationally renowned - as well as local - writers, poets and spoken word artists coming together for a variety of events to suit all tastes and ages. Kicking it off, on National Poetry Day (28 September), *Contains Strong Language*, produced by the BBC alongside Hull's own **Wrecking Ball Press** and the annual **Humber Mouth** festival, plus many other partners, is the UK's biggest poetry and spoken word festival.

Running alongside this exciting new event is *Out Of This Word*, a month-long showcase of top writers, poets, playwrights, artists and musicians from across the UK, being presented by Hull 2017 Principal Partner, **East Riding of Yorkshire Council**. In November, *Hull Noir* celebrates the best of British and international crime fiction and also hosts the prestigious *Iceland Noir* from Reykjavik.

Returning and continuing events include *Back to Ours*, the popular festival of music, performance, film, art and circus brought to the heart of local communities; the *Creative Communities Programme*, which has seen 60 projects across the city; and the *No Limits* learning programme, which has ensured that every schoolchild in Hull has had the opportunity to take part in the City of Culture year.

*Tell The World* also reflects on how Hull is redefining itself, celebrating the qualities that make it a fabulously unique city. In December, *Substance* brings together artists, thinkers, commentators and creative mavericks and visionaries for a weekend of art, performance and debate that focuses on Hull and the North's future as a dynamic cultural and creative powerhouse.

**Martin Green**, Director of Hull 2017, said: "2017 has by any measure been a revelatory time for Hull and with season four, the thrilling journey continues. We've an outstanding programme to take the UK's first cultural quadrennial into 2018, which will challenge as well as entertain, ask questions and bring people together. The city's new-found confidence and its growing reputation for culture and creativity help lay the foundations for Hull to take its place as at the heart of the North and in the nation's cultural future."

**Arts Minister John Glen** said: "The people of Hull have truly embraced the UK City of Culture and I congratulate everyone for an outstanding year which has helped to elevate the national and international profile of this great and historic city. The programme for season four of Hull 2017 is world-class and will no doubt build on this year's success even further."

**Rosie Millard**, Chair of 2017, said: "As UK City of Culture, Hull has hosted an extraordinary number and variety of cultural events that have excited and entertained residents and visitors alike. With nine out of ten residents taking part and national and even international attention on the city, now is the time to shout even more loudly, to tell the world. Our thanks go to the huge number of individuals and

organisations that have helped make it a success, from the council to our funding partners, and our ebullient and knowledgeable volunteers to everyone living across the city - and of course the fabulously inspiring artists, who have reinforced Hull's status as a centre for culture and creativity."

**Councillor Stephen Brady, Leader of Hull City Council**, said: "We've experienced a remarkable programme of events so far and it is set to continue into season four and beyond. It has had a huge impact on the city and the confidence it has unleashed is phenomenal.

"The way we have all come together as a city has been at the heart of our success as the UK City of Culture. My thanks go to all of you - the 2017 team, local residents, volunteers, businesses and visitors - for the creativity and belief you have unleashed in 2017. I hope you will all continue on this exciting journey into 2018 and beyond.

"We do not hand over the UK City of Culture title to the next city until 2020 and, over the next three years, we have a plan to ensure this fantastic opportunity leaves a lasting legacy, ensuring the city is well placed to be recognised as one of the great UK cities. This not only supports our local economy but attracts more vital investments and jobs, making Hull a great city to live and work.

**Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England** said: "The Hull 2017 programme has so far shown outstanding ambition and creativity. This is continuing and growing in season 4 - bringing us cutting-edge artistic practice, spectacular events and renowned artists. Once again, there are fantastic artistic opportunities for visitors as well as people from Hull, with a range of activities taking place right across the city and region. It's also exciting that people are coming together to discuss and debate arts and culture in the North through events like Substance. There's no doubt that this year Hull has brilliantly redefined itself as a cultural destination. We believe 2017 will be a catalyst year for the arts and cultural sector in Hull, putting it on the map for many years to come."

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## Visual art, installations, exhibitions

Perhaps the most anticipated exhibition comes to **Ferens Art Gallery** when it hosts the *Turner Prize*, one of the best-known prizes for visual art in the world and one of the UK's most exciting and high profile awards (26 September - 7 January 2018). The four shortlisted artists are **Hurvin Anderson**, **Andrea Büttner**, **Lubaina Himid** and **Rosalind Nashashibi** and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Hull on 5 December.

The *Look Up* programme of public art commissions continues with *A Hall For Hull* (1 October - 11 November). The **Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)** and Hull 2017, supported by the **British Council** and **Wedge Group Galvanizing Ltd**, have jointly commissioned Chile-based architects **Pezo von Ellrichshausen** and Swiss artist **Felice Varini** to design an ambitious temporary outdoor structure in response to the historic heart of the city. *A Hall For Hull* will transform Trinity Square with 16 galvanized steel columns arranged in a grid formation in front of Hull Minister to highlight the symmetry of its facade.

Another *Look Up* installation sees a further collaboration with **The Deep**, inspired by Terry Farrell's iconic building (8 - 10 December). Created in response to the architect's vision for this expressive building, this new commission will transform it and the riverside setting, through light, sound and digital media.

Hull 2017 has partnered with international photography co-operative **Magnum Photos**, commissioning **Martin Parr** and **Olivia Arthur** to create the exhibition *Hull, Portrait Of A City for Humber Street Gallery* (13 October - 31 December). The exhibition explores the culture and creativity of Hull and the qualities that have made the city stand apart in an unforgettable year of culture. *Hull, Portrait Of A City* owns the discussion about where, what and how. How might we define Hull? How has culture changed our landscape and regenerated our city? What impact has it had on everything from economy to civic pride? How do we record it?

**Jason Bruges Studio**, internationally renowned for producing innovative installations, interventions and ground-breaking work that sits between architecture, site-specific art and interaction design, are to create a new light installation that responds to the city's unique geometries. *Where Do We Go From Here?* playfully puts Hull's Old Town under an illuminating microscope, accompanied by new soundscapes, propelling us into Hull's as-yet-unknown future (December to January 2018).

The dazzling immersive virtual reality experience, *A Colossal Wave* from creative innovators **Marshmallow Laser Feast** comes to Hull to coincide with the *Substance* festival, in a commission with the **British Council** and **Partenariat du Quartier des Spectacles**. VR may appear to be a solitary affair, but this is an immersive experience to be shared with others, as an explosion of colour is created after a real ball is thrown from a great height to create a huge virtual wave (7-10 December).

Other exhibitions include *An Eyeful Of Wry: Government Art Collection* at **Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull** (20 October - 26 November). From droll 18th-century caricatures by James Gillray to satirical prints and Simon Faithfull's video of an impossible journey, explore the relationship between artist as joker and viewer as sharp-eyed observer offering fresh insight into the Government Art Collection. *Turner And The Whale* at the **Maritime Museum** unites Hull's own whaling collections with works from JMW Turner, including three rare whaling scenes and one maritime scene on loan from Tate. In partnership with the University of York and Tate, supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund. (7 October - 7 January 2018).

*Square Peg*, **Artlink's** year-long disability and diversity arts programme supported by Hull 2017, presents *Centre of Attention* and also hosts Artist in Residence **Jason Wisser-Mills**, will be working with different communities in the city to create a selection of new work, which will form part of his exhibition to be launched in January 2018. Backed by Hull 2017 Principal Partner, Spirit of 2012, which is supporting many key projects throughout the year. Other shows at Artlink include sculptor **Brian Griffiths**, who has invited friends, family and colleagues to make a puppet of themselves for *So He Pulled The Right Levers And You Did The Asking* (October).

Artist **Linda Brothwell's** exhibition *The Tool Appreciation Society* explores the connections between tools and our sense of place. It is inspired by the heritage and workers of Hull and South Korea. It opens at **Hull Central Library** on 27 September and runs until 11 February 2018. The press view is on 25 September when a surprise installation in the public realm will be unveiled. The project is curated by Thirteen Ways, funded by Hull Culture & Leisure Library Service, Arts Council England, the British Council and BBC Four airing a documentary in November 2017.

## Theatre and performance

Major new work at **Hull Truck Theatre** includes *The Last Testament Of Lillian Bilocca*, written by award-winning actor and writer **Maxine Peake** and directed by **Sarah Frankcom** and **Imogen Knight**, with an original live score by **Adrian McNally** and folk's finest **The Unthanks** (3-18 November). This site-specific production in Hull's historic **Guildhall** will take you on an unforgettable journey using music, storytelling, movement and performance to celebrate an inspirational period in Hull's history and a force for change that resonated far beyond the city. Audiences will follow Hull hero Lillian Bilocca and her crew of head-scarfed women through The Guildhall, joining them in 1968 as they dare to speak out and take action to improve the safety conditions for their men at sea.

**Hull Truck Theatre** has the world-premiere of award-winning writer **Tanika Gupta's** adaptation of **Marina Lewycka's** best-selling novel, *A Short History Of Tractors In Ukrainian*, directed by **Mark Babych**. This story, about a lovesick grandfather and two daughters at war, is a must-see dark comedy about a family having to confront its past and rediscover their relationships. Originally co-commissioned with Sheffield Theatres and developed with support from the National Theatre Studio. (22 September - 14 October).

Hull Truck Theatre also presents a co-commission with Hull 2017, a brand new play by acclaimed writer **James Graham** (*This House, Ink, Privacy, The Vote*). This behind-the-scenes comedy about the City of Culture year is due to open in 2018.

A theatrical highlight for 2017 has been **Slung Low's** year-long epic, *Flood*, part three of which was recently shown on BBC Two and can still be seen on [BBC iPlayer](http://www.bbc.com/iplayer). This politically charged, hugely ambitious four-part parable for our times concludes with the return of part two and the first presentation of part four, both staged, against the backdrop of people's homes and the Humber and people in Hull's **Victoria Dock**. *Flood* asks: what if the fleeing masses from our TV screens and Twitter feeds, in their boats and their orange lifejackets, had English accents? In *Flood Part Four: New World* the world is begun again, anew. The wave has struck. The world as we know it has ended. Gloriana, the girl from the sea, is missing. Can the shattered survivors of the flood build a new world? For more information and to catch up, go to [www.hull2017.co.uk/flood](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/flood) (26 September - 8 October).

**2097: We Made Ourselves Over**, a co-commission between Hull 2017 and Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017, from the internationally renowned **Blast Theory**. On 1 October at 2pm, every phone box across the city will ring and you are invited to begin an unforgettable journey into the future. At the end of the line, a voice asks who you are and a character from 2097 asks for your help. Featuring pop-up screenings of new sci-fi films that have been shot in Hull and Aarhus, *2097* is informed and inspired by residents in both cities as well as experts in different fields, including climate change, smart cities and community activism. A brand new app is being launched by Blast Theory, which allows people to have conversations with the rulers of the future hybrid city, Aarhull.

Double Fringe First winners **curious directive** bring their new show *Frogman* to Hull in November (1-11 November) as the finale of a nationwide tour. Set on the Great Barrier Reef in 1995, this multi-sensory coming-of-age thriller is a ground-breaking, world-first piece of theatre that fuses live theatre with Mixed Reality and immersive film techniques, blurring the lines between reality and fiction, the physical and the virtual. It is performed to an audience of 30 who are each given a virtual reality headset to experience new ways into storytelling in a theatre environment. As coral reefs face extinction by 2057, *Frogman* will enable audiences to experience the reefs in a uniquely immersive way and see the damage taking place with their own eyes. *Frogman* is a co-production from **curious directive**, **Hull 2017**, **The Deep** and **The Old Market**, in association with **Brisbane Powerhouse** and with guidance from **The Great Barrier Reef Foundation**.

**Hull New Theatre's** opening season following its £16 million rebuild includes the **National Theatre** productions of Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (18-23 September) and Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* (13-18 November); the **Opera North** residency *The Little Greats* (26-28 October); **Northern Ballet's** new *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas* (18-21 October); and the world premiere of **John Godber's** *The Kings Of Hull* (27 September to 7 October).

Hull 2017's popular **Back To Ours** festival is coming back to entertain the wider community, supported by NHS Hull Clinical Commissioning Group and Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme (27 October - 5 November). The first confirmed shows are on sale now, including **Shaun Ryder's** *Black Grape* playing at North Point Shopping Centre performing tracks from their first new album in 20 years; **Upswing Aerial** present *Bedtime Stories*, a family fable told with acrobatics and projections with the audience tucked up in bed; and *Drip*, a musical comedy based on Tom Wells' book about a boy who signs up for Hull's first ever synchronised swimming team, despite being unable to swim.

Following their success at the Edinburgh Fringe, Hull 2017 supported productions **Bellow Theatre's** *Bare Skin On Briny Waters* (Hull Truck Theatre, 6-7 October) and **Pub Corner Poets' Little Sad Man** (Hull Truck Theatre, 27-28 October) are coming to the city.

Hull creative company **E52** in collaboration with **Battersea Arts Centre** are bringing the second instalment of this year's **Heads Up** theatre festival, showcasing the best in international and locally curated talent that is as entertaining as it is thought-provoking (12-22 October). Productions this include **Motor's Ross & Rachel**, **Likely Theatre's** immersive and interactive show for young children **Almost Always Muddy** and **Kid Carpet** and **Vic Llewellyn's** Edinburgh smash **The Castle Builder**.

One of the lesser known, even secret, successes of the year has been the ground-breaking **Land of Green Ginger**. A series of new artist commissions - "Acts of Wanton Wonder" - united under one central narrative, have infiltrated the neighbourhoods of the city, encouraging residents of Hull to immerse themselves in a magical citywide story. The first three acts - created by **Periplum**, **And Now** and **Joshua Sofaer** - have seen a combined audience of almost 40,000 people and had a significant impact in engaging harder-to-reach communities and inspiring imagination. There are a further three live acts to come, including what promises to be a spectacular culmination in November, an intricate installation from **Davy and Kristin McGuire**, as well as the Galway-based masters of processional performance, **Macnas**. Catch up with the story so far at [www.greenginger.org](http://www.greenginger.org)

## Literature

Major new poetry and performance festival **Contains Strong Language** (28 September - 1 October) starts on National Poetry Day, bringing over 50 events to the city, including **Kate Tempest**, **John Cooper Clarke**, **Simon Armitage**, as well as **Ben Watt** and **Tracey Thorn**, who are making a return to the city. Celebrating the spoken and written word in Hull and further afield, the festival features world premieres, gala readings, events and concerts. At the heart of **Contains Strong Language** is **The Hull 17**, a collective of 17 artists who will be resident in the city to create new work, including: **Imtiaz Dharker**, **Kate Fox**, **Joe Hakim**, **Harry Giles**, **Helen Mort**, **Bohdan Piasecki**, **Jacob Polley**, **Louise Wallwein**, **Fred Voss** and **Dean Wilson**.

**Contains Strong Language** leads into Hull's annual **Humber Mouth** literature festival (2 - 8 October), which celebrates 25 years of bringing authors, poets, spoken word artists and musicians to the city, including the likes of **Will Self**, **Melvyn Bragg**, **Kathryn Williams & Laura Barnett**, **Monica Ali**, **Alex Wheatle** and **Sara Pascoe**. For its 25th anniversary edition, **Humber Mouth** is creating an innovative new digital project **How Was Your Day?** which will document the daily lives of inhabitants across Hull's twin cities.

Other highlights from **Humber Mouth's** programme include **Neil Astley** of influential poetry imprint **Bloodaxe Books** exploring poets from around the globe; and acclaimed author **Laura Barnett** (*Version of Us*) and Mercury-nominated **Kathryn Williams** discussing their innovative collaborative novel and album *Songs from The Novel Greatest Hits*. **Humber Mouth's** non-fiction line-up will include a panel discussion with the **Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize**; and comedian and writer **Sara Pascoe** will discuss her part-science, part-memoir book *Animal*.

**East Riding of Yorkshire Council**, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017, is producing a programme of events called **Out Of This Word**, bringing top writers, poets, playwrights, artists and musicians to the East Riding in a celebration of language and literature.

Central to the programme is the **Lit Up Festival** (28 September - 21 October), combining **Beverley Literature Festival** and **Bridlington Poetry Festival**. The line-up includes musician **Woody Woodmansey** talking about his time with **David Bowie** as a member of the **Spiders From Mars**, punk hero and artist **Cosey Fanni Tutti**, Man Booker Prize-winner **Ben Okri**, comedian **Jenny Eclair**, presenter and author **Gyles Brandreth**, journalist and broadcaster **Peter Snow**, SAS hero **Chris Ryan** and a workshop with Yorkshire author and broadcaster **Ian Clayton**

As part of the festival, dramatist **John Godber** and a group of young playwrights will tour the region's libraries with reinterpretations of local tales in **DiscovERstories** and Hull born artist **Patrick Coyle** will take over East Riding Leisure Haltemprice through writing, performance and sculpture.

**Hull Noir** (12 - 19 November) celebrates the best of British and international crime fiction and also hosts the prestigious **Iceland Noir** from Reykjavik. Highlighting Hull's crime fiction heritage from *Get Carter* author Ted Lewis through to the current crop of writers working in the city. Leading writers taking part include **Martina Cole**, **Mark Billingham**, **John Connolly**, **Nick Quantrell** and **Nick Triplow**, whose book **Getting Carter** on the life of Ted Lewis is published on 26 October.

As part of *Hull Noir* and supported by the **BFI** and **Film Hub North**, **Hull Independent Cinema** is also screening three critically acclaimed films that have a Ted Lewis link, **Get Carter**, **Point Blank** and **Dead Man's Shoes**. Theatre company **Ensemble 52** also previews writer **David Mark's Dark Winter** in a stage adaptation by **Richard Vergette** and **Nick Lane**.

As well as being involved in *Contains Strong Language*, poet and Yorkshire native **Simon Armitage** goes on a journey inspired by God's Own Country. Discussing the rich literary heritage and culture of Hull and Yorkshire, Simon, whose latest collection of poetry is **The Unaccompanied**, will also look beyond the region to larger global concerns.

Following on from the exhibition **Larkin: New Eyes Each Year**, which closes on 1 October, the University of Hull's exploration of Philip Larkin's legacy continues with a number of events, including Larkin Reflections, which features poets **Dean Wilson**, **Joe Hakim**, **Vicky Foster**, plus writers **Martin Goodman** and **Russ Litten** (25 October).

## Music

Celebrating its silver anniversary is the **Hull Jazz Festival** (11-18 November) with a special nine-day edition. Headlining is Grammy award-winning guitarist **Pat Metheny** at Hull City Hall as part of his world tour. Other highlights include **GoGo Penguin** who will perform their new live score to Godfrey Reggio's acclaimed film **Koyaanisqatsi** at the same venue, and many other stars from the jazz world.

**Hull City Hall's Classics Season** offers music from world-class orchestras, including **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Last Night of the Proms**, conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton (5 October), and **Myths And Fairytales**, with conductor Alexander Shelley leading a performance of Tchaikovsky's **Sleeping Beauty Suite** and Rimsky-Korsakov's **Scheherazade** (9 November). **Hull Philharmonic Orchestra** also presents **1917: Revolution!**, an all-Russian programme to mark the centenary of the country's revolution featuring Tchaikovsky's **1812 Overture** and Shostakovich's **Symphony No.12** (25 November). Other musical highlights at the venue are singer **Jake Bugg** (7 November) and another chance to see **Tony Visconti** and **Woody Woodmansey's Holy Holy** perform **The Rise And Fall Of Ziggy Stardust And The Spiders From Mars** (5 December).

**Middleton Hall** at the University of Hull also presents a variety of music, including acclaimed pianist **Yegevny Subdin** (5,6 October), **Nightports with Matthew Bourne**, whose album features multiple pianists and live electronics (12 October) and jazz at the **Whirlwind Recordings Residency**, led by musician and producer **Michael Janisch** (16 November). The venue also features **Hull Chamber Music** presenting **Tell The World**, a recital from the **Ellipsis Ensemble** and internationally renowned tenor **James Gilchrist**, including Bach, Handel and Vaughan Williams (23 November).

## Ideas, debate, talks

Thought-provoking new festival **Substance** (7-10 December) follows in the footsteps of **WOW - Women of the World**, Neu Reekie's **Where Are We Now?** and the **Freedom Talks**, to get artists, thinkers, commentators and the general public talking and thinking about key issues of the day. With the acknowledged success of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 locally and nationally, this weekend mixes debate, music, art, film and performance to reflect on the future of Hull and the North as a dynamic creative and cultural powerhouse. **Substance Future Forum** (7 December) will bring together a wide and diverse range of cultural influencers including artists, creative industries, businesses, digital pioneers and social commentators to discuss the culture, creativity and future of the north.

As a taster ahead of *Substance*, Middleton Hall at the University of Hull is presenting **An Evening With Reece Shearsmith**, who was born and grew up in Hull. Acclaimed for shows including *The League Of Gentlemen*, which is set to return to the BBC, *Psychoville* and *Inside Number 9*, and a host of other television, film and stage roles, the writer and performer will be in conversation with a University of Hull lecturer, exploring his creative influences, particularly the Gothic and grotesque and the relationship between horror and comedy (29 November).

## Comedy

**Hull Comedy Festival** (2-22 November) rings in a decade of entertaining the city with the laughs coming from **Greg Davies, Katherine Ryan, Joel Dommett** and more at **Hull City Hall, Ken Dodd at Hull New Theatre** and many others to be announced. And Hull's popular **Back To Ours** festival (27 October - 5 November) will entertain the wider community again in October.

## Film

The **British Film Institute**, in partnership with **Film Hub North** and as part of the **BFI's Film Audience Network**, continues its year-long programme of support for film activity as part of Hull 2017. This includes **Aesthetica** programming the film element for the **Substance** festival; a **Hull Independent Cinema** programmed horror film festival, **Dead Of Night**; plus a film programme as part of **Hull Noir**.

The lovingly restored 1960s **Vintage Mobile Cinema** is also coming to Hull as part of the **This Way Up** film exhibitors' conference (7-8 November), including documentary shorts from the **British Council/Scottish Documentary Institute Stories** programme, which, since 2011, has trained filmmakers from countries as different as Jordan, Libya, Pakistan and Syria, in the art of creative documentary; **First Acts**: bold, daring expressions of creativity, delivered in short film form by young artist filmmakers. Commissioned by the Random Acts Network for Arts Council England and Channel 4; New Animated **Shorts from the UK**, curated by Abigail Addison; **One Minute**: artists' films, curated by Hull-based artist **Kerry Baldry**; **Flare Films**: from a British Council international touring programme in partnership with BFI Flare.

[www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk) / @2017Hull / #Hull2017

## ENDS

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

**Divided into four seasons**, starting with **Made in Hull**, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have contributed to the development of art and ideas. Hull 2017's second season, **Roots and Routes** (April to June) explored the city'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 and this season also celebrated 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** runs 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.

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) Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture