



PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 18 September, 2017

NAPA Presents Visual Impairment in a Whole New Light

A unique performance showcasing the wide-ranging talent of visually impaired people in Hull and East Yorkshire will take to the stage for the first time this Saturday (23 September).

Do You See What I Mean? has been created by NAPA, with the support of Hull UK City of Culture 2017's Creative Communities Programme.

Saturday's performance at NAPA will be followed by three more performances in September, including one at Hull Minster.

Based on ideas gathered through workshops, the show combines music, song, drama, projections and comedy in an artistic revue from members of NAPA's Visually Impaired Group.

Barrie Wheatley, Visually Impaired Performers Teacher at NAPA, said: "This is the perfect time to demonstrate to the world what visually impaired people in Hull can create.

"The show has been devised to offer a totally different view of sight loss, providing food for thought as part of a very enjoyable event."

Barrie has worked with visually impaired performers at NAPA for some time, helping individuals to learn and develop a range of writing and theatrical skills.

The show aims to offer information into the condition and challenge stereotypes in modern day society.

The show includes a cast of 17, including four helpers who are experienced performers.

Barbara Dawson, CEO at NAPA, said: "Through drama, music, dance and song, we break down barriers to artistic development.

"This is entertainment at its most stimulating and makes for a truly inspiring show."

Do You See What I Mean? will be performed four times in September:

Saturday 23 at 7:30pm at NAPA

Sunday 24 at 2pm at NAPA

Wednesday 27 at 2pm at Hull Minster

Friday 29 at 2pm at NAPA

The show takes the form of two 40-minute acts with an interval in-between. The first three performances are priced at £5 a ticket.

Prior to the Friday show there will be representatives from HERIB, Guide Dogs, Hull City Council's Sensory Team and Hull College offering information, advice and opportunities for visually impaired people and their families.

Entry to the final performance works on a donation basis and people can pay what they decide, with funds going to the local branch of HERIB.

Tickets can be booked via Hull Box Office on 01482 221113 and at www.hullboxoffice.com

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: "Expression through arts and culture shouldn't be limited because of disability. We wanted Hull 2017 to be inclusive and *Do You See What I Mean?* once again proves that there are no barriers to being creative."

ENDS

For more information, please contact:
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NOTES TO EDITORS

Do You See What I Mean? 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, 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.

For information go to 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/>