



PRESS RELEASE

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Virtual reality transports audiences to Great Barrier Reef in supernatural thriller as part of Hull 2017

Virtual reality will transport audiences to the depths of the Great Barrier Reef in supernatural coming-of-age thriller *Frogman*.

Following previews at Edinburgh Festival Fringe as part of the #HullTakeover, the ambitious show, which fuses live theatre with 360 film in Virtual Reality, is coming to C4DI from 1 to 11 November.

The co-production between curious directive, Hull UK City of Culture 2017, The Deep and The Old Market, in association with Brisbane Powerhouse, sees renowned theatre makers curious directive bridge the space between science and art.

Frogman centres around Meera, an 11-year-old Australian coral enthusiast. It is the summer holidays and three friends are having a sleepover as they await their first day at high school. The high school bully goes missing - presumed dead. Donning virtual headsets for key parts of the evidence, the audience play along as members of the jury in the ensuing murder trial.

Blending youthful nostalgia with a dark sense of haunting unease, the show captures that yearning to return to more innocent days, real or imagined and the pain at the realisation that those days are gone forever.

The show has been three years in the making with Artistic Director Jack Lowe working alongside specialists in marine biology from The Deep, as well as guidance from The Great Barrier Reef Association.

Katy Duke, CEO at The Deep said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Curious Directive and Hull 2017. *Frogman* has the potential to engage and inspire a generation of youngsters, blending theatre and technology with a story based on the other side of the world."

The creation of *Frogman* has included underwater film shoots in Australia and Indonesia and was made in close collaboration with schools from Hull and Backbone Youth Arts, Brisbane, a leading Australian experimental youth theatre.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: "We are very excited to be bringing this multi-sensory show to Hull. Audiences will be able to experience a new form of storytelling which blurs the lines between reality and fiction, the physical and the virtual.

“*Frogman* is the latest in a series of commissions throughout the year which recognise Hull’s relationship with the sea. *Frogman* uses the latest technology to explore the impending coral reef bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef, enabling audiences to experience the reefs in a uniquely immersive way, seeing the damage taking place with their own eyes.”

Founded in 2008, curious directive is widely recognised for risk taking and genre-pushing theatre. The company are double Fringe First winners and their previous work includes *Pioneer*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, *After the Rainfall*, *Olfactory*, *Binary*, *Exoplanets* and *Your Last Breath*.

Tickets start from £12.50 and are available from www.hull2017.co.uk/events/frogman-by-curious-directive/

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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, 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.

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.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture