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## Hull looks ahead to 2018 and another great year for the city

There is plenty to look forward to for people living in and visiting Hull in the first three months of 2018, including visual arts, theatre, music, film and performance. The following is just a snapshot of some of the highlights being presented and produced by the city's cultural organisations.

Continuing into January is *Where Do We Go From Here?*, Jason Bruges Studio's striking installation, bringing robots, light and sound to Hull's Old Town, and the **Turner Prize** exhibition at the **Ferens Art Gallery** (both close on 7 January 2018). Local artists have been responding to *Where Do We Go from Here?*, and the results can be seen at Trinity Market until 7 January, when there will also be performance and conversation from 11am-3pm.

Already announced for January 2018 is *The Culture - A Farce in Two Acts* by in demand playwright and University of Hull alumnus **James Graham**, who has had four acclaimed plays on in London's West End in 2017. A co-production between **Hull Truck Theatre** and Hull 2017, this satirical farce is inspired by Hull's year in the spotlight, and is directed by Hull Truck Theatre's Artistic Director **Mark Babych** (26 January - 17 February).

*Back To Ours* returns in February and once again sees schools, shopping centres and social clubs transformed into cinemas, theatres and big tops. The family festival, which takes music, comedy, theatre, dance, film and circus to the heart of Hull's neighbourhoods, was one of the success stories of 2017, with over 8,000 tickets sold for 85 events across February, May/June and October/November half-term holidays. **Kingswood Academy**, **North Point Shopping Centre**, **Winifred Holtby Academy**, **The Freedom Centre**, **Archbishop Sentamu Academy**, **William Gemmell Club**, **Hymers College** and **Sirius Academy West** continue as venue partners, opening their doors to more world-class performers (13-18 February 2018).

Opening in January are two exhibitions at **Humber Street Gallery** inspired by Hull 2017's celebrated volunteers, who in their distinctive uniforms have been a vital ingredient in the year's success. More than 2,500 individuals from across the city and further afield have already given 33 years of activity - more than 300,000 hours - with dedication, energy and invaluable knowledge. Their contribution is celebrated in *The Big Picture*, a stunning series of photographic portraits by Hull-based photographer **Leo Francis**, who has put them in a range of indoor and

outdoor settings that will surprise and delight the viewer. In association with Chris Fention (20 January - 25 February).

Also at Humber Street Gallery is ***Grains of Scandalous Blue***, a new show by the artist **Julia Vogl**, who has exhibited around the world and is the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 Volunteer Artist in Residence. Both American and British, Julia's practice focuses on community, colour and engagement. For this commission, the artist worked with volunteers to make components for the exhibition and also conducted interviews, did a number of volunteer shifts and collated information from the volunteer team to create two large art installations. The title is inspired by the colour of the volunteer uniforms. Immersive, participatory and fun, the artworks illustrate hard and soft data about the Hull 2017 volunteers' collective and individual experiences (20 January - 25 February).

Humber Street Gallery is also presenting a show by another international artist and photographer **Richie Culver**, who was brought up in Withernsea and had a public art installation celebrating his home town in Hull's Whitefriargate, as part of the Hull 2017 visual arts programme. Inspired by brutalist architecture and youth culture, Richie has exhibited around the world, as well as collaborating with the likes of Topman. More details about the show and other exhibitions at the gallery throughout the year will be announced in due course (16 March - 27 May 2018)

Other exhibitions in the city include the annual ***Open Exhibition*** at the **Ferens Art Gallery**, an exciting opportunity for amateur and professional artists to showcase work in a variety of media, many of which are also for sale. With works selected from a high-profile panel of judges, including the Turner Prize nominee, Hurvin Anderson, Chair of UK City of Culture, Rosie Millard and Deputy Head of The Courtauld Gallery and Daniel Katz Curator of 20th Century Art, Barnaby Wright (17 February - 22 April).

Between 3 March and 3 June the **Hull Maritime Museum** presents ***The Enduring Eye***, Frank Hurley's photographs of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917). Undertaken by renowned explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew and 100 years after the epic expedition, Hurley's photographs remain one of the greatest ever photographic records of human survival. Accompanied by select artefacts from the expedition and a narrative comprised of the logs and diaries of Shackleton and his crew, *Endurance* brings the incredible story of human survival and the drive to explore unreachable territories to life. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Artlink Hull** is presenting ***Unexpected Engagement***, the first solo show by artist **Jason Wilsher-Mills**, featuring work created during his Square Peg Residency there, which was supported by Hull 2017. Jason's approach, inspired by his long history of working with communities, was to engage a wide range of different people in Hull in a series of workshops, to enable them to tell their own stories through art. This in turn has influenced the creation of his own work for the exhibition (12 January - 6 April).

**Hull Truck Theatre's** first three months of the year offer a variety of other productions, including ***Turning the Tide***, inspired by the triple trawler tragedy (6-

10 February); the Royal Shakespeare Company presents *First Encounters: Julius Caesar* (8-10 March); Silent Upoar presents *The Bold Knights of Britain* (20-24 February); *Turn and Face the Strange*, about the life of Mick Ronson, originally supported through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities programme (21-24 February); Josette Bushnell-Mingo mixes story and song in *Nina* (14-15 March); and Bryony Lavery brings her adaptation of Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock* (20-24 March).

Hull-based creative producing company Ensemble 52 is presenting a variety of work, including writer David Marks' *Dark Winter* at Hull Truck Theatre (13-17 March) and the bi-annual *Heads Up* festival, which again features a lively mix of theatre and performance from across the UK and overseas. This season, Heads Up includes Turned On Its Head's soft, bouncy adventure for 4-month to 4-year-olds, *Sponge*, described by Time Out as "a beautifully thought through show for tots" and *Ugly Chief*, the latest comedy from Victoria Melody ("a ridiculously enjoyable show." - The Guardian).

As well as the strong exhibitions programme at the Ferens Art Gallery, Hull Culture and Leisure offers a variety of music and live performance at Hull City Hall and Hull New Theatre. Hull New Theatre's line-up includes the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Hamlet* (13-17 February); *Jersey Boys* (20 February-3 March); the Russian State Ballet of Siberia (23-27 January); *Fat Friends the Musical* (29 January-3 February); *The Band* (6-17 March); and a programme of opera presented by Ellen Kent (27-28 February). Hull City Hall's line-up includes Jason Manford (23 January); Erasure (7 February); City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (8 February); Hull Philharmonic Orchestra (24 February); Saxon (25 February); Suggs' *What a King Cnut* (3 March); Russell Brand (7 March); Russian State Philharmonic (8 March); Sarah Millican (14 March); Stewart Lee (21 March); Jonathan Pie (24 March) and Elkie Brooks (29 March).

The University of Hull's cultural programme also continues, including a series of live music concerts organised by the student union at Asylum: The Cribs (26 January); The Sherlocks (15 February); Rebecca Ferguson (18 February); and Paul Young (3 March).

Hull Independent Cinema goes into 2018 with the team, who work on a voluntary basis, selecting another fine crop of acclaimed films that you are unlikely to see elsewhere in the city and surrounding area. They include: *The Florida Project* (9 January); *Thelma* (18 January); *Manifesto* (23 January); *Jane* (1 February); *Happy End* (6 February); *Blade of the Immortal* (15 February); *Jupiter's Moon* (20 February); *Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri* (8 March); *Phantom Thread* (13 March); and *Lady Bird* (29 March). There will also be a night of the best new European short films in association with Leeds Film City (12 February); documentary *Brexitannia* presented with Sheffield Doc/Fest and sure to provoke debate in the post-film Q&A with director Timothy George Kelly and special guests (3 February); plus a special screening of silent classic *The Lost World*, with live piano accompaniment presented in partnership with Yorkshire Silents (20 March). More details at [www.hullindependentcinema.com](http://www.hullindependentcinema.com).

Martin Green, Director at Hull 2017, said: "We've always said that Hull's journey as UK City of Culture does not end on 31 December. Whilst there has been immense effort put into making this year a truly memorable one, our aim has always been to see these types of events and conversations continue well beyond 2017. The positive response during the last 12 months has underlined Hull's reputation as a great city of culture and creativity and shown the appetite for first class arts, whether produced locally or from visiting artists and companies. The people, places and spaces are ready for more and that's what they're going to get. Here's to 2018."

Councillor Stephen Brady, Leader of Hull City Council, said: "We've had an unforgettable year and everyone has worked together for the same goal. The confidence in the city is at an all-time high and we will build on this over the coming years. 2017 was a catalyst for change and our ambitious plans will carry on with Hull Venue opening June 2018 and plans for the Yorkshire Cruise Terminal are progressing very well. This is the city's renaissance and we will continue to capitalise upon it."

Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England, said: Hull's year in the spotlight has been an unmitigated rip-roaring, awe-inspiring, life-enhancing success. Thanks to the power of sustained strategic investment in art and culture, the next chapter in Hull's rich story is now filled with optimism, creativity, excitement and economic growth."

Professor Glenn Burgess, University of Hull Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Hull 2017 Board Member, said: "Our contribution to 2017 has helped to put the University firmly on the cultural map. As part of the legacy we are building, and as the exclusive academic research partner for the UK's City of Culture 2017, the University is looking forward to hosting a major conference in March next year. It will provide an exciting opportunity to look back and reflect upon Hull's UK City of Culture experience, key achievements and lessons learned; and to look forward, towards shaping policy for the investment in culture in the UK and internationally.

"Furthermore, we are delighted to be bringing the best of British science to Hull next year. Hosting the British Science Festival in September 2018 gives us a fantastic opportunity to ensure that our region's contribution to science is seen and heard across the UK and beyond."

Councillor Terry Geraghty, Hull City Council Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism and Chair of Hull Culture & Leisure Limited, said: "Staff at Hull Culture and Leisure continue to work on innovative and exciting programmes, including the continuation of important loans from the Royal Collection at the Ferens Art Gallery. Our team have done a superb job during this incredible year, demonstrating we can host the very best visual art, exhibitions, learning programmes and events and they will continue into 2018 and beyond."