

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 28 March 2017

***Where Are We Now?***

As Britain prepares to exit the European Union,Neu! Reekie! bring artists to Hull 2017 for state of the nation festival

Provocative and mischief-making gathering will include

hip hop, music, film, poetry, dancing and more

**Events now on sale at** [www.hull2017.co.uk/wherearewenow](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/wherearewenow)

**Trailer available** [here](https://youtu.be/zYRjh6lRTlQ)

As Britain gets set to begin negotiations to exit the European Union, full details have been announced for ***Where Are We Now?***, a new festival bringing hip hop, music, film, poetry, dancing and more, which promises to be as thought-provoking as it is entertaining.

Produced by avant-garde art collective and cultural rabble-rousers Neu! Reekie!, *Where Are We Now?* takes place at venues around Hull from 2-4 June. Especially commissioned for Hull UK City of Culture 2017, this new festival sees musicians, artists, writers, film-makers and thinkers coming together from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland for an urgent state of the nation appraisal.

Award-winning dub poet **Linton Kwesi Johnson** and radical magazine collective **gal-dem** have been added to the eclectic line-up, which includes Mercury Prize winners **Young Fathers**; singer and campaigner **Charlotte Church**; rappers **Akala** and **Chester P**; artistic maverick **Bill Drummond**; and Japan-residing pop oddball **Momus**.

Also heading to the city for the event are ***A Love From Outer Space*** with DJs **Andrew Weatherall** and Hull-born **Sean Johnston**; artist and punk pioneer **Jamie Reid**; poet Hollie McNish; hip hop band **The Four Owls**; acclaimed film-maker **Mark Cousins**; poet and playwright **Sabrina Mahfouz**; and director and cinematographer **Anthony Baxter**.

*Where Are We Now?* is about bringing people to have a good time and getting them excited, but also getting them thinking, exchanging ideas and enthusiasms and harnessing the potential of their collective energy. Events are taking place at a variety of venues around the city.

The Neu! Reekie! manifesto for the festival*:*

*"Where Are We Now?' will be a summer festival like no other: a gathering of time-served trouble-makers, spoken word rebels, artistic mavericks and leftfield music pioneers. We'll be converging on the city of Hull to ask of today's counter-culture the soaring, searching question with which David Bowie kissed us goodbye.*

*"The UK has reached a crossroads. Where it goes next is anyone's guess. Dark divisive forces of racism and prejudice are stirring across the UK (and Europe) in the wake of Brexit and across the Atlantic following the election of Donald Trump. We need to ask our artists, musicians and writers where they stand.*

*"For detached hipster unicyclists or stay-at-home clicktavists this may not be your time or place for we promise to ruffle feathers, take to the streets, challenge the dominant narratives, and counterpose Love to Hate.*

*"Convening the radical fusion will be one of the UK's most acclaimed and exciting artistic collectives. With counter-cultural roots going back through the last 25 years - to the legendary Rebel Inc publishing house - Neu! Reekie! intend to take the pulse of the cultural resistance across the UK and its four nations. And have some fun involving the good people of Hull.*

*"Come together. Ask questions. Listen and watch. Dance. Shake things up."*

[www.hull2017.co.uk/wherearewenow](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/wherearewenow)

**Events on Friday 2 June:**

Artist **Jamie Reid**, famed for his work with the Sex Pistols and Pussy Riot, will present a site-specific wall collage foraged from his forty-five year career. Reid’s wall collages are nominally unplanned but will be done with flintlocks cocked and one eye on the exit.

Singer-songwriter and artistic provocateur **Momus** will present his tribute to David Bowie, one of the inspirations for *Where Are We Now?.* Momus is bringing *Dybbuk*, his cabaret show, which explores Bowie’s early career through film and visual art.

**gal-dem**, a magazine and creative collective made up of women of colour, will host a female-only *gal-dem bedroom: what’s in a safe space*? at Früit. gal-dem was created by Liv Little who, frustrated with the lack of diversity at her university, wanted to reach out to women of colour like herself. Recently gal-dem have launched their first print publication, with plans for a second, and have curated a V&A Friday Late. Receiving plaudits from across the publishing industry, their Opinions Editor Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff was recently awarded with the Georgina Henry Women in Journalism Award for Innovation.

On Friday evening, **Hull City** **Hall** will host *Where Are We Now? #1* in which Neu! Reekie! will welcome Mercury Prize winners **Young Fathers**; pop and political powerhouse **Charlotte Church**’s *Late Night Pop Dungeon*; and spoken word sensation **Hollie McNish**.

Joining the line-up for *Where Are We Now? #1* on Friday night will be award-winning dub poet **Linton Kwesi Johnson**. Highly political and at the forefront of counterculture since the 1970s, when Race Today published his first collection of poetry, he has gone on to have four more books published and in 2002 become only the second living poet to have his work included in Penguin’s Modern Classics series.

The evening will also include a formidable short film showcase featuring: UK BAFTA winning animators **Will Anderson** and **Ainslie Henderson**; and Bristol-born but Hull-based **Michael Barnes-Wynters** who founded the influential ‘doodlebug’ arts platform.

The first day of the festival will draw to a close at Früit with internationally renowned club night ***A Love From Outer Space,*** which was created by acclaimed DJs **Andrew** **Weatherall** and Hull-born **Sean Johnston**. A club night which breaks boundaries and sells out internationally, *A Love From Outer Space* will provide ‘an oasis of slowness’ for the first evening of *Where Are We Now?.*

**Events on Saturday 3 June:**

Saturday’s events will focus on UK hip-hop culture, a genre-defying art-form that is constantly evolving and reacting to contemporary culture.

Throughout the day, *Where Are We Now?* will host a set of free hip-hop workshops on MCing, breakdancing, graffiti art, turntablism and music production led by Yorkshire and the North of England’s leading practitioners. Workshops will be hosted by: the founders of Leeds-based **Breakin’ Rawgina** and **Beanz**; **King Monk** who regularly delivers workshops in illustration, pottery, sculpture and history related to hip-hop culture; members of Sheffield’s **Smash Proof Movement Trik9** and **Kisk**; six-time Turntablist Champion **DJ Rasp**; one of the UK’s most exciting new producers **Agent M**; and Liverpool’s most accomplished MC’s **Nikki Blaze**.

UK hip-hop legend, **Rodney P** will present his film ***The Hip-Hop World News,*** which discusses hip-hop’s place in world events. The film reveals a fascinating alternative reality seen from the perspective of a culture that came out of the black and Latino ghettos of 1970s' New York and has evolved into a world-dominating cultural powerhouse. Including interviews with Public Enemy’s Chuck D, Def Jam’s Russell Simmons, New York rapper Rakim, *The Hip-Hop World News* is an urgent film which addresses the world’s major political issues through hip-hop. The screening will feature a live performance from Scottish rapper, Loki.

Following the workshops, **Stage @ The Dock** will host a two-hour ***Hip-Hop Jam***, a whirlwind of hip-hop culture featuring some of the most significant voices of UK hip-hop. Representing the country geographically as well as across elements of hip-hop featuring Hip-Hop Jam will feature: **Chester P 5 Work Freestyle Challenge**, **Scorzayzee,** **Amy True**, **Booth Boxers**, **The Flow 500 UK Cypher**, **DJ Rasp** and a B-boy battle between **Leeds the Way** and **Hard Knox Crew**.

**Vue Cinema at Princes Quay** will host a screening of **Mark Cousins’** stunning film ***I Am Belfast***. The film portrays a dreamlike evocation of Belfast and has won global acclaim and was recently awarded The Stanley Kubrick Award for Bold and Innovative Filmmaking. A former resident of the city, Cousins’ documentary takes audiences to a city, which is so often disregarded and creates a sensory portrait of Northern Ireland.

Saturday will end with ***Where Are We Now? #2,*** showcasing some of the most influential and exciting hip-hop artists in the UK.. Curated by Neu! Reekie! and Hull music promoter **Altu 'Flowrex' Collingwood** at **The Welly**, the line-up includes **Akala**, **The Four Owls**, **Eva Lazarus** and **Stanley Odd**. The leading lights of Hull’s hip-hop scene **Chiedu** and **DeezKid**, **Redeye**, **Clarksman**, **PlayaOne** and **DJ Fast T** are also set to appear, with additional DJ sets from **Steg G** and **DJ Toots & The Don**.

**Events on Sunday 4 June:**

Hull will welcome award-winning playwright **Sabrina Mahfouz** and spoken word sensation **Hollie McNish** for a discussion on poetry and the sex industry. Sabrina has recently published a collection *How You Might Know Me* which explores four women’s lives, connected through their experience in different areas of the UK’s growing sex industry.

One of the UK’s premier artistic provocateurs **Bill Drummond** will take up residency throughout *Where Are We Now?*, working as a shoeshine boy in the city. In ***The Bill Drummond Lecture*** on Sunday afternoon, he will share his findings on the UK City of Culture.

Writers **John Andrews**, **Will Burns**, **Martha Sprackland** and **Adelle Stripe** will take look back at ten years of influential DIY collective in ***Caught By The River Revue***. Collectively, each Caught By The River event, essay or publication sees disparate strands of creativity coming together, creating an outlook on the world which is full of endless discovery, innovation and joy.

*Where Are We Now?* will screen Anthony’s Baxter’s ***You’ve Been Trumped Too***, the follow-up to his 2011 documentary. Exploring Donald Trump’s battle with Aberdeenshire residents over his golf course, this new documentary follows elderly widow Molly Forbes after Trump’s building workers cut off her water supply.

*Where Are We Now?* will come to a close with a party at the Adelphi, hosted by Edinburgh DJs **FiniTribe**, a chance for festival-goers to toast the ghosts of the festival.

*Where Are We Now?* is part of the Hull 2017 Roots & Routes season and is one of four weekend festivals due to take place this year that focus on contemporary political, social and cultural issues. The first was *WOW (Women of the World) Hull* (10 – 12 March), which focused on gender equality in a politically turbulent world; Freedom and Freedoms in a global context (1-4 September) including Bob and Roberta Smith’s summer takeover of Hull School of Art and Design as a ‘Centre for Freedom of Expression’; and ***Substance*** (8-10 December), which will focus on the significance of the North framed within a cultural context.

**EVENTS PROGRAMME – TICKETS ON SALE FROM TODAY AT** [**WWW.HULL2017.CO.UK**](http://WWW.HULL2017.CO.UK)

Friday 2 June

Jamie Reid – Where Are We Now? Wall Collage

Venue to be announced

Free

Momus on David Bowie

Kardomah94, 94 Alfred Gelder Street, HU1 2AN

1pm – 2.30pm

Ticket Price: £5/£3 concessions

gal-dem bedroom: what’s in a safe space?

Früit, 62 – 63 Humber Street, HU1 1TU

3.30pm – 5.30pm

FREE, drop-in

Neu! Reekie! presents Where Are We Now? #1

City Hall, Queen Victoria Square, Hull, HU1 3RQ

Doors 6pm

Ticket Price: £20/£17.50 concessions

A Love From Outer Space

Früit, 62 – 63 Humber Street, HU1 1TU

10pm – 2am

Ticket Price: £10/£8 concessions

Saturday 3 June

Hip-Hop Workshops

Creative and Cultural Studios 3, Princes Quay, HU1 2PQ

10am – 11.30am

Free

Rodney P presents *The Hip-Hop World News*

HIP Gallery, Princes Quay, HU1 2PQ

11.30am – 2.30pm

FREE, ticketed

Mark Cousins presents *I Am Belfast*

Vue Cinema, Princes Quay, HU1 2PQ

3pm – 5pm

Ticket Price: £5

Where Are We Now? Hip-hop Jam

Stage @ The Dock, HU1 1UU

2.15pm –5pm

FREE, drop-in

Neu! Reekie! presents Where Are We Now? #2

The Welly Club, 105-107 Beverley Road, Hull, HU3 1TS

Doors 5.30pm

Ticket Price: £15/£12 concessions

Sunday 4 June

Sabrina Mahfouz on Poetry in the Sex Industry – with support from Hollie McNish

Kardomah94, 94 Alfred Gelder Street, HU1 2AN

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Ticket Price: £5/£3 concessions

The Bill Drummond Lecture

Kardomah94, 94 Alfred Gelder Street, HU1 2AN

2pm – 3pm

Ticket Price: £5/£3 concessions

Caught By The River Revue with Jeff Barrett and special guests – 10 years of Caught By The River

Kardomah94, 94 Alfred Gelder Street, HU1 2AN

3.30pm – 4.30pm

FREE, ticketed

*You’ve Been Trumped Too* – Special Event Screening

Kardomah94, 94 Alfred Gelder Street, HU1 2AN

6pm – 8.30pm

Ticket Price: £5/£3 concessions

Where Are We Now? Closing Party

Adelphi

8.30pm – midnight

Ticket Price: £5/£3 conc

**ENDS**

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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 made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

Hull 2017’s second season, Roots and Routes, runs from April to June and explore Hull’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; this season of work will also celebrate 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 will run 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. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making the National Lottery the largest single funding body of Hull 2017.

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

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