**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Hull to host stardust and sparkle spectacular**

**I FEEL LOVE TICKETS ON SALE FROM 23 JUNE AT:** [**WWW.HULL2017.CO.UK/LGBT50**](http://WWW.HULL2017.CO.UK/LGBT50)

**THE FIRST IMAGES FOR A DUCKIE SUMMER TEA PARTY CAN BE DOWNLOADED HERE**

Iconic queer performance collective **Duckie** is taking its brand of **homo-social stardust and sparkle**to Hull this summer to commemorate the 50th anniversary of sexual freedom in the UK.

Coinciding with Hull’s status as UK City of Culture 2017, the 50th anniversary of the start of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK will be marked in Hull with **LGBT50*,*** aweek-long (**22 – 29 July**) festival of music, dance, theatre, comedy, film, photography and more.

***Pride in Hull*** will get things started in exuberant style on Saturday 22 July, hosting the first ever ***UK Pride.*** Featuring a parade of ***50 Queers for 50 Years***, the day will culminate with a concert featuring Britain’s Got Talent judge, solo star and member of Mis-teeq **Alesha Dixon;** chart-topping girl-band **Atomic Kitten;** 90s hit-makers **Cleopatra**; 80s sensation **Sonia;** and the legendary **Marc Almond**. The festival will close on Saturday 29 July with afternoon tea with a difference followed by a concert broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 presented by Scissor Sisters’ front woman **Ana Matronic** and **BBC Radio 1’s Scott Mills.**

Duckie took up residence in Hull from June, operating its own shop and collaborating with Pride in Hull. A team of designers has been working with LGBT groups to create *50 Queers for 50 Years* – 50 handmade and oversized icons of British queer favourites from Dusty Springfield to Freddie Mercury, Clare Balding to Quentin Crisp and a myriad of other stately homos of England.

All are welcome to Hull’s Queen Victoria Square on 29th July for *A Duckie Summer Tea Party*. An afternoon of socialising and dancing for all generations and genders of the LGBT community to celebrate their freedom in the city. A variety of entertainment awaits including fancy waiters in black tie serving tea and cake, a new work by **Gary Clarke** and **Yorkshire Dance** celebrating five decades of queer culture with a cast of 50 performers, a cake-making contest, dancing to the **London Gay Big Band**, and a whole host of performers soon to be announced.

As the tea party comes to a close, the doors to City Hall will open for ***I Feel Love****,* a celebratory night of music and performance from LGBT culture past and present. The concert, which is part of the BBC’s *Gay Britannia* season, will be presented by Scissor Sisters’ front woman and Radio 2 presenter Ana Matronic and BBC Radio 1’s Scott Mills. It will feature a stellar line-up of artists including **Will Young, Bright Light Bright Light, Tom Robinson** and stars of the West End stage. More to be announced. Expect an evening of anthems, torch songs and celebration. The concert will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 and Red Button.

Throughout the week there will also be exhibitions, socials, debates and more, offering an opportunity celebrate Hull's LGBT+ community and heroes past and present, freedoms gained, and to show solidarity with continuing struggles for LGBT equality in the UK and around the world.

Humber Street Gallery will host ***The House of Kings and Queens*** (27 July - 24 September), a specially commissioned exhibition of photography by Lee Price. Captured in Sierra Leone, where homosexuality remains illegal, Price’s powerful images offer a glimpse into *The House* where inhabitants can live without oppression, exposing what it means to be gay in Hull’s sister city Freetown.

The Hull LGBT+ community have also been getting involved in an exhibition of their own during the week-long celebrations. Titled **A Moment in Time**, the exhibition uses publicly-submitted photographs to tell the LGBT+ story before the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 and in the 50 years since.

Martin Green, Director Hull 2017 said: "As the host of the first ever UK Pride, Hull will be at the forefront of the national celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of sexual freedom in the UK. With everything from a sinfonia orchestra to 80s diva Sonia, from a bake-off to poignant photography, it promises to be both classy and camp, offering something for everyone.”

Graham Jenkinson, Pride in Hull Trustee, added: "We’re delighted to be kicking off Hull 2017’s LGBT 50 celebrations in spectacular style with our biggest Pride event to date. We’re sure that everyone will have a great time with headline performances from each of the last five decades on the main stage, along with additional stages and tents with performers and activities. Most importantly though, Pride will be a place where everyone is welcome and free to be themselves."

**ENDS**

For press information, please contact: Alix Johnson at Hull 2017, alix.johnson@hull2017.co.uk / 07718 100784

**LISTINGS**

**22 July: 50 Queers for 50 Years, presented by Duckie and Pride in Hull**

*12noon Starts at Hull College*

Duckie will take part in Pride in Hull’s presentation of the 1st UK Pride parade featuring 50 handmade and oversized LGBT icons from Dusty Springfield to Freddie Mercury, Clare Balding to Quentin Crisp and a myriad of other stately homos of England. The parade will end with a Pride concert in Queen’s Gardens and a headline performance by Marc Almond.

**22 – 29 July: A Moment in Time**

*Various venues across Hull*

A photography exhibition uses publicly-submitted photographs to tell the LGBT+ story before the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 and in the 50 years since.

**24 July: Lads ‘n’ Lasses**

*Fruit*

*Time TBC*

New piece of theatre written and performed by local young people’s theatre group Aposarts, around the topic of homophobia in school

**25 July: Pride in Hull Film Festival**

*Kardomah 94*

*Time TBC*

**26 July: Comedy Night**

*Kardomah 94*

*Time TBC*

**27 July: Polari**

*Kardomah 94
Time TBC*

Paul Burston’s peerless LGBT literary salon.

**27 July – 24 September: The House of Kings and Queens**

*Humber Street Gallery*

A specially commissioned exhibition of photography by Lee Price. Captured in Sierra Leone, where homosexuality remains illegal, Price’s powerful images offer a glimpse into *The House* where inhabitants can live without oppression, exposing what it means to be gay in Hull’s sister city Freetown.

**29 July: A Duckie Summer Tea Party**

*Queen Victoria Square*

*From 1pm*

A Summer tea party by the inimitable Duckie features a 50 performer dance show by Gary Clarke and Yorkshire Dance, a cake making contest, special performances and dancing to the London Gay Big Band. Fancy waiters in black tie will be serving tea and cakes to hundreds of patrons while others dance the square into vibrant life.

**29 July: Into the Light, A Gary Clarke Dance Project***Queen Victoria Square*Yorkshire Dance and Duckie present a new work by Gary Clarke celebrating 50 years of queer culture involving participants from Hull LGBT community and friends.

**29 July: I Feel Love***Hull City Hall*

*8 - 9.30pm*

BBC Radio 2 presents *I Feel Love*, a live concert from Hull City Hall broadcast on Radio 2 and Red Button which is part of the BBC’s Gay Britannia season. Presented by BBC Radio 1’s Scott Mills and Scissor Sisters’ front woman and Radio 2 presenter Ana Matronic, and will feature a stellar line-up of artists including Bright Light Bright Light, Will Young, Tom Robinson and stars of the West End stage. More artists to be announced. Expect an evening of anthems, torch songs and celebration.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**UK Pride**

This will be the first time all of the UK's 70 Pride festivals have come together to plan a single national event highlighting the issues affecting the LGBT+ community. The unanimous decision to pick Hull as a host city for UK Pride was taken at the last year’s UK Pride Organisers' Conference.

**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, 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.

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.

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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