**PRESS RELEASE**

**Embargoed until 00:01 19 June 2017**

**LGBT 50 concert *I Feel Love* tickets out this week**

**Will Young, Alison Moyet and others to perform at LGBT 50 concert broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 from Hull City Hall**

**TICKETS ON SALE FROM 10am, 23 JUNE AT:** [**WWW.HULL2017.CO.UK/LGBT50**](http://WWW.HULL2017.CO.UK/LGBT50)

**IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED** [**HERE**](http://thecornershoppr.com/downloads)

**USERNAME: LGBT50 | PASSWORD: LGBT50**

Tickets for the closing concert of a week-long celebration in Hull marking the 50th anniversary of sexual freedom in the UK go on sale on Friday (23 June).

Coinciding with Hull’s status as UK City of Culture 2017, the 50th anniversary of the start of decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK will be marked with **LGBT50*,*** presented by Hull 2017 in association with Sewell Group and supported by Spirit of 2012.

The week-long festival of music, dance, theatre, comedy, film, photography and more kicks off on Saturday 22 July with ***Pride in Hull*** hosting the first ever ***UK Pride*** and culminates on 29 July with ***I Feel Love,*** a special concert to be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 and Red Button on TV. Tickets for the concert cost £10 and will be available from [www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50) from 10am on Friday, 23rd June.

On 29th July *A Duckie Summer Tea Party* in Queen Victoria Square whenopen 7.00pm at **, Noah Stewart, and West Yorkshire’s LGBT choir Gay Abandon** from 8pm – 9.30pm.

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**LGBT 50 begins on 22nd July when *Pride in Hull*** gets things started in exuberant style with a parade featuring iconic queer performance collective Duckie’s ***50 Queers for 50 Years***. Duckie artist Robin Whitmore has taken up residence in Hull, alongside Hull based costume designer Terry Herfield and artist Patrick Bullock to help LGBT+ groups and members of the public create 50 handmade LGBT+ icons. These range from stately homos Freddie Mercury and Clare Balding to Hull favourites including a 3D replica of Hull gay pub Frankies Vauxhall Tavern. Those who wish to join in the making of the icons can visit the Duckie Shop, 95 Jameson Street, afternoons from Thursday to Sunday.

Pride in Hull events will culminate on 22nd July with a concert headlined by the legendary **Marc Almond.** The line-up also features 80s sensation **Sonia,** 90s hit-makers **Cleopatra,** X-Factor stars **Sean Miley Moore** and **Blonde Electra**, and includes Hull drag performer, **Bobby Mandrel**.

The festival closes on Saturday 29 July. ***A Duckie Summer Tea Party*** at Queen Victoria Square begins at 1pm offering a mix 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, the Sugar Dandies, a new work by **Gary Clarke** and **Yorkshire Dance** celebrating five decades of queer culture with a cast of 50 performers, Liz Carr, Victoria Sin, a cake-making contest and dancing to the **London Gay Big Band**.

Duckie wind everything up in raucous manner with the official LGBT 50 after party at Fuel from 10pm – 2am that night. Everyone at home can party the rest of the night away by listening to Ana Matronic broadcasting her *Disco Devotion* show live from Hull at midnight on BBC Radio 2.

Throughout the week there will also be exhibitions, socials, debates and more, offering an opportunity to 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. This is one of a series of a series of cultural and educational projects between the twinned cities spanning the year supported by British Council

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.

In partnership with **Hull Independent Cinema**, Pride in Hull will be screening LGBT films as part of British Film Institute’s **Gross Indecency** programme exploring the pioneering – and sometimes problematic – depictions of LGBT life in British film and TV in the 50s, 60s and 70s. The wider film programme includes Queerama, Tom of Finland, 52 Tuesdays, Who’s Gonna Love Me Now?, Girls Lost and more at Kardomah 94, Vue Cinema and Hull Truck Theatre. The Pride in Hull Film Festival is part of ***Transformative Film Culture for Hull*** funded by the **BFI** with National Lottery funding and led by its partner **BFI Film Hub North**.

Martin Green, Director of 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**

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**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*

*7.30pm*

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
8 – 10pm*

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 Will Young, Alison Moyet, Marc Almond, Bright Light Bright Light, Noah Stewart, Tom Robinson and Gay Abandon. Expect an evening of anthems, torch songs and celebration.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

[**Duckie**](http://www.duckie.co.uk/)

Duckie are purveyors of progressive working class entertainment, combining vintage queer clubbing, LGBT heritage and social archaeology and quirky performance art shows.

[**Yorkshire Dance**](https://yorkshiredance.com/)

Yorkshire Dance is a charity which champions the value of dance and its development in Yorkshire by raising standards, increasing knowledge and understanding and fostering creativity and innovation.

**[Pride in Hull](http://prideinhull.co.uk)**

Pride in Hull is an annual event, with the aim of providing a platform for every part of Hull and East Yorkshire’s LGBT+ community in order to raise awareness of LGBT+ issues. By holding Pride events, the organisation hopes to campaign for equality and challenge discrimination by creating opportunities for engagement while celebrating LGBT+ life

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

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.

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**British Film Institute**

The BFI is funding ‘Transformative Film Culture For Hull', as part of its National Lottery-funded BFI Film Audience Network and led by its lead partner BFI Film Hub North. Delivered through Hull 2017 and by Hull Independent Cinema and a unique partnership of film festival, educational and archive partners from across the north, the film programme will bring a packed programme of more than 400 screenings, one-off events and film festivals throughout the year to Hull and the region.   The programme reflects the BFI’s activities across the UK to bring film to audiences where there is less opportunity for them to experience and engage in film, and to support local film networks and audience initiatives. There will be much to explore, celebrate and enjoy.