**CIRCUS and HULL 2017**

**Hull 2017’s ambition for circus in programme is driven by the desire to host 3-4 circus shows of quality in the city supported by a circus engagement and participation programme throughout the year.**

**The Circus engagement and participation programme involves three factors:**

1. **Local participation in show performance**
2. **Community engagement (with a particular focus on older people or intergenerational work)**
3. **Professional circus skills training for up to five Hull participants with the intention of building the local circus sector and delivering a legacy in circus skills.**

**FRAMEWORK**

The programme will cover the entire year framed around up to 4 shows.

DEPART (Routes and Roots season)

Bedtime Stories (as part of Back To Ours, probably October)

A third (to be defined)

The circus programme will enhance each of the shows through community engagement or participation at their core.

The circus training programme will be informed by the participation programme and focus on interested local gymnastics club coaches, begin with involvement in DEPART, involve training at NCCA, and continue with mentorship throughout the year and continued involvement in subsequent shows.

The community engagement programme will focus on older people, potentially involving a project that could inform the third show but be developed through active involvement of older people and older people in care.

**CIRCUS PLAN**

MARCH - APRIL

Engage and identify circus training individuals from local gym clubs (Circus Leaders programme)

NCCA Training for Circus Leaders

Identify, engage and development with DEPART local participants – choir and others

MAY

DEPART by Circa/LIFT

TIPPING POINT by Ockham’s Razor (Back To Ours)

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

Mentors identified and appointed to Circus Leaders

Circus leaders return to clubs

Circus Leaders participate in Freedom Festival Circus programme

Room for circus interventions on city streets, over a weekend?

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

BEDTIME STORIES by Upswing (Back To Ours)

Community engagement with older people or intergenerational project by Upswing

Final Mentor meeting with Circus Leaders

Final show?

**Circus Programme Budget**

Total = £150k

Breakdown:

Depart = £68k

Other shows = £42k

Engagement and Participation = £40k

**Other sources:**

Bedtime Stories = £10k commitment from Back To Ours budget

**THE SHOWS**

**Depart**

A show by Circa, co-commissioned by LIFT and Hull 2017

When: 18-21 May 2017

Where: Western Cemetery, Chanterlands Avenue.

**Tipping Point**

A show by Ockham’s Razor

When: As part of Back To Ours May mid-term break season

Back to Ours Budget

**Bedtime Stories**

A show by Upswing, touring production.

When: As part of Back To Ours October mid-term break season

Where: TBC but outside centre

How: TBC either full show with satellite smaller shows or smaller shows in unusual spaces.

**A final wow moment for circus performance**

Options:

Race Horse Company (at Roundhouse 2016) – Meet The Super Humans, or Super Sunday programme?

A circus season around Depart (May)? Around Old fair (October)?

MIMBRE?

Or, a show developed from Upswing’s work with older people.

**PARTICIPATION**

Participation in the circus programme focuses on two outcomes:

1. Direct participation by local people where required in the performance of shows
2. The skills development of local Circus Leaders

The opening show DEPART requires the involvement of a choir and other performers in its delivery. DEPART will also form the backdrop and trigger point for further engaging and training the circus leaders identified for the training programme.

Participation will inform conversations with those partners delivering: Bedtime Stories, Tipping Point and any other show that is secured or developed.

Participation in the circus programme will be enhanced by identifying up to 5 circus leaders in Hull who will be supported to attend training at the NCCA (National Centre for Circus Arts) in preparation for involvement in DEPART and future shows. These ‘circus leaders’ will likely be identified from a variety of sources, most likely amongst interested gymnastics coaches in local clubs.

Initial training will be further enhanced by identifying professional mentors in the national circus sector, most likely from those partners involved in delivering shows for the Hull 2017 programme.

Mentorship will assist in further developing those circus leaders and a circus sector in Hull in the hope of securing an enhanced circus legacy for the city.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The entire programme of shows will be supported by the Hull 2017 circus programme to increase community access and participation in the delivery of shows in the programme.

A specific focus on older people and/or intergenerational work through circus will also be made.

A community engagement programme for older people in circus could involve work with older people in circus skills and creativity, delivery of circus participation workshops for older people in care and possibly a circus show looking directly at age and the body.

Another focus is on access and participation by families in circus shows delivered by the programme.

**OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS:**

DEPART

Identify schedule for development of local participants in DEPART – choir and others.

Agree with LIFT instigation of circus leaders training programme.

Identify costs associated with the above.

Licensing costs and road closures

BEDTIME STORIES

Define where circus leaders programme, community engagement and participation fits with show.

Define budget cost to Circus programme in addition to Back To Ours commitment of £10k

TIPPING POINT

Happening? Part of circus programme? Any costs to circus budget?

OTHER

Ability to deliver additional show of scale or weekend of street activation with individual circus acts (in partnership with Freedom festival)?

What about disability access and circus arts?

Process for identifying circus leaders?

**INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS:**

Freedom Festival (Mikey/Lindsay) with particular interest in Stage @ The Dock

Hull Truck (Rowan)

James Maguire in Hull CC = Engagement Officer