**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Hull 2017 welcome BBC Radio 2 concert as part of LGBT50 celebrations**

A pop concert will be broadcast live from Hull on BBC Radio 2 as part of Hull UK City of Culture’s ***LGBT50*** celebrations in July, it was announced today.

The gig, which will take place on Saturday 29 July and feature major pop artists performing classic hits from across the decades, will close a week-long series of events marking 50 years since the start of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK.

***Pride in Hull*** will get things started in exuberant style, hosting the first ever ***UK Pride*** on Saturday 22 July. 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.

The event will see a new route for the annual parade, which will finish in Queens Gardens and feature a celebration of 50 years of LGBT+ icons led by iconoclastic queer collective ***Duckie*** and made with the help of the LGBT community. It will be topped off with a headline performance by the legendary ***Marc Almond***.

The festivities will culminate on Saturday 29 July with something very special *A Duckie Summer Tea Party* in Queen Victoria Square, featuring surprise performances, dancing, tea, cakes and more before the BBC concert at City Hall. The tea party features a specially commissioned ***Yorkshire Dance*** production by choreographer Gary Clarke. The performance will feature a 50-strong cast of non-professional performers from Hull and the East Riding’s LGBT+ community and its friends alongside professional dancers. If you’re interested in taking part, join Yorkshire Dance’s ***Into the Light*** workshops to become part of the project by email kirstyredhead@yorkshiredance.com.

The LGBT+ community in Hull is also being invited to send in photographs for an exhibition which celebrates the theme for 2017, *Through the Decades.* The exhibition, *A Moment in Time* will look at life before the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 and highlight what has changed in the 50 years since. Email your photographs to amomentintime@prideinhull.co.uk or fill in the form at <http://prideinhull.co.uk/pih/a-moment-in-time-lgbt-photograph-exhibition>.

Martin Green, Director Hull 2017 said: "LGBT50 is a really inclusive event with members of the community being encouraged to take part in the dance performance and photo exhibition, as well as the first ever UK Pride parade. So we are delighted to welcome BBC Radio 2 to the party so people right across the UK will be able to be part of the celebrations even if they can’t be with us in person.”

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. There will also be a celebration of LGBT+ film supported by the British Film Institute with Hull Independent Cinema.

**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. More details about Hull's LGBT 50 programme will announced in due course.

Pride in Hull spokesperson, Graham Jenkinson said: "It's brilliant that Hull is marking LGBT50 with a week of events as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations. We also have the absolute honour of being named the first ever ‘UK Pride’, so we’ll have the eyes of the LGBT+ community across the country and beyond firmly focused on us. There will be something for everyone and we can promise nobody will leave disappointed!"

[www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/LGBT50)

[www.prideinhull.co.uk](http://www.prideinhull.co.uk)

**ENDS**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**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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