**MEDIA CALL NOTICE**

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| Thursday 8 June 2007 6.30pm95 Jameson Street, HullDuckie Shop Sees Launch of 50 Queers for 50 Years Artists Residency |

**Embargoed until 00:01HRS, Thursday 8 June 2017**

 **50 Queers for 50 Years pop-up workshop launches in Hull in build up to city's LGBT 50 celebrations**

The acclaimed arts organisation ***Duckie,*** renowned for award-winning work that ranges from cabaret to performance art to clubbing, have taken up residency in Hull and are inviting members of the public to help create giant figures of leading lights from the LGBT community. The finished work will be carried through the city centre next month as part of the first ever UK Pride.

Duckie artist Robin Whitmore will work alongside Patrick Bullock and a Hull-based artist to lead drop-in workshops at a pop-up shop to create *50 Queers for 50 Years* that will feature in the ***Pride in Hull*** parade on Saturday 22 July.

The parade will kick-start Hull UK City of Culture 2017’s ***LGBT 50*** series of events,a celebration of LGBT+ culture across the arts,which will take place from22 - 29 July to mark the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Duckie producer Simon Casson said: “We’re looking forward to heading back to Hull following our show at Fruit last year – it’s clear that people are enthusiastically throwing themselves into everything 2017 has to offer right across the arts, which is fantastic. We’re hoping for a similar response to our pop-up shop which will give people the opportunity to not only take part in the parade, but create something spectacular that will make Pride in Hull stand out and be remembered for years to come.

“The workshops will be really hands-on and we want people to bring their own ideas of who their LGBT heroes are from the last 50 years to really shape this celebration.

XXX, Trustee at Pride in Hull, said: “We’re absolutely delighted that Duckie are on board and we know that they will make the Pride in Hull parade absolutely fabulous!

“We want to encourage as many people as possible to visit the pop-up shop and take along their ideas. We want a diverse range of LGBT icons, heroes and idols from the last five decades, from pop stars to politicians and everything in-between. Whether you want to depict Sir Ian McKellen or Tom Daley, Ellen Degeneres or Harvey Milk, Laverne Cox or Elton John, we want your ideas!”

The opening event on Saturday 22 July will culminate with a concert headlined by the legendary **Marc Almond**. The week-long festival will close on Saturday 29 July with **A Duckie Summer Tea Party** featuring **Into the Light,** a new work by award-winning choreographer **Gary Clarke** and **Yorkshire Dance** 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.**

**Into the Light** is described as ‘a fast-forward version through LGBT history’ and invites everyone to dance through the decades from 1967. Gary Clarke has created a moving dance celebration of our lives and loves, our challenges and our triumphs. Follow the LGBT community’s emergence from a secret world, in which homosexuality was illegal, and join us for a riotous, family-friendly performance in the bright, open air. Anyone can become part of its cast, to register interest contact Kirsty at kirstyredhead@yorkshiredance.com

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 will reflect 50 years of change in attitudes and lifestyle told through the eyes of the LGBT+ community.

Martin Green, Director of Hull UK City of Culture 2017, said: “It's a special year for the city: not only is it UK City of Culture, but we're hosting the first ever UK Pride. We’ll have the eyes of the LGBT+ community across the country and beyond firmly focused on us, which is why it's really important that the Hull LGBT+ community are at the heart of our celebrations.

"Over the last few weeks, local people have been taking part in Yorkshire Dance workshops to learn choreography for a moving celebration of challenges and triumphs which will be performed at Queen Victoria Square. They have also been sharing their snaps for an exhibition which tells the LGBT+ story before the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967 and in the 50 years since.

"Now they are being invited to play a hands-on role in shaping the parade by coming up with ideas of which icons should be represented and working with artists to help bring them to life."

The shop at 95 Jameson Street will be open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and people are welcome to drop in anytime between (opening hours).

**ENDS**

For press information, please contact: matthew.walton@hull2017.co.uk /07711 439326 or alix.johnson@hull2017.co.uk / 07718 100784

**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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