**Copy for each Substance Event**

**Substance** is a new festival hosted in Hull 2017 UK City of Culture and is a celebration and exploration of the culture, creativity and future of The North. Launched in Hull in 2016 and presented as part of Manchester International Festival Substance aims to provide a platform for artists to define and debate their vision of the North.

Substance is 10 days of new ideas, commissions, collaborations, installations and live performances.

Running from 1st to 10th December Substance has a number of programmes strands

**Humber Street Gallery / Magnum Photos Present Portrait of A City 13th Oct – 31st dec**

Photographers Martin Parr and Olivia Arthur have been commissioned to explore the culture and creativity of Hull. The exhibition highlights the qualities that have made the city stand apart in an unforgettable year of culture.

*Hull, Portrait of a City*owns the discussion about where, what and how. How might we define Hull? How has culture changed our landscape and regenerated our city? What impact has it had on everything from economy to civic pride? How do we record it? As stories merge and new ones begin, we start looking to the future and exploring what’s next.

**Substance film festival in association with Aesthetica Magazine 1st – 10th Dec**

The Aesthetica showcase at substance questions the sense of place. We are looking at the North through a new lense as the globalised world changes definitions of location. In post-industrial cities, we are constantly reinventing ourselves. The Aesthetica Short Film Festival is a BAFTA-recognised event and this showcase presents four curated programmes from award-winning films to narratives that present intimate stories with wider global themes.

Industry. Innovation. Change. The northern landscape is one that has been shaped by a constant sense of motion. From Manchester to Teesside, and from rural to urban, all locations included in this wide-ranging bracket have been a locus for social and political upheaval; its roots run deep. However, with three regions and a combined population of 14.9 million, a collective, singular sense of identity is no longer reflective of the area’s complexities. Its locality is spreading, and its influence is perpetually evolving – entering new realms, crossing borders and inspiring the next generation. Film is a mechanism through which to connect, engage and celebrate with all things northern. From narratives based in inner-city neighbourhoods, to stories that draw parallels with other countries, these unique screenings offer personal perspectives in a universal world. Be inspired by the breadth of emotions, be humbled by each film’s cultural resonance and leave with the notion that land is more than a geographical location; it’s a hive of activity, a platform of creativity and a state of mind. The question arises: what does it mean to be Northern in a globalised world?

**An Evening with Reece Shearsmith**

**Middleton Hall**

**29 November**

**18:00 – sold out**

Writer and performer Reece Shearsmith was born and raised in Hull before ﬁnding fame with the comedy sketch group The League of Gentlemen alongside Mark Gatiss, Steve Pemberton, and Jeremy Dyson, which was the basis of the highly successful BBC television show.
He has written and starred in Psychoville and Inside Number 9, and his many other television appearances include Spaced and Doctor Who. He has also appeared in feature ﬁlms including A Field in England and High Rise, and has performed on stage at the Old Vic, The Royal Court and The Richmond. This evening will take the form of a conversation with University of Hull lecturer Dr Kevin Corstorphine, and will explore Reece’s creative inﬂuences with a particular focus on elements of the Gothic and grotesque, probing the relationship between horror and comedy

**Substance Future Forum 7th Dec**

**9:30am – 19:00**

**Humber Street area**

**£25 Full Price.**

**£20 Concession**

A new one-day symposia exploring how arts and culture are redefining the image of the north, and how the north is leading the way in showing how culture and creativity can provide answers to everything from public health to Brexit.

Substance, Hull 2017 and an array of partners, including The Guardian, Arts Council England, BBC Academy, British Council, The Quietus, Northern Fiction Alliance, University of Hull, Hack and Host, CANVAS and The Space invite artists, creative industries, businesses, organisations, digital pioneers, social commentators, policy makers and change makers of the future to a day of provocations on culture, creativity and future of the north.

Through discussions, keynotes, installations and debate and the release of a landmark research project; Substance will show how the rich creativity and culture of the north is laying foundations for future generations, using regenerated areas of Hull UK City of Culture as a backdrop.

*If you might struggle to pay the ticket price and feel this day will really benefit you, we do have a small amount of bursary places available. Please contact substance@hull2017.co.uk with a short paragraph about yourself and what particular elements of the Future Forum are of interest to you.*

Topics include:

**How the arts are driving political, social and economic change**

The Turner Prize has always been an event that has always been at the centre of controversy and previous Turner Prize nominees have pushed boundaries which have led to social and political change. Hack and Host explore how the creative sector is a vehicle for political, social and economic change.

**Brexit: how the next generation of artists are responding**

When the decision wasn’t yours, but the impact will be lifelong, we discuss the concerns of Brexit with younger people across the north. This group will address the findings of the Next Generation research commissioned by The British Council, addressing the outcomes and recommendations through interviews, spoken word and discussions.

**How arts can save the NHS**

An all-party enquiry this summer showed how a thriving arts and culture scene has a huge impact on the health and well being of any town or city, leading to a fall in hospital admissions. Can arts relieve the pressure on the NHS?

**London calling? Not any more. Why musicians are better off away from the capital.**

The Quietus lead a discussion about whether London is really the best place for musicians and artists.

**What makes a successful city of culture?**

Martin Green (Hull 2017 UK City of Culture), Rebecca Matthews (Aahus 2017 European Capital of Culture) amongst others discuss the differing measures of success of a city of culture. How this manifests and what the reality is in contrast to the planning.

**Culture and business: the benefits of investment in culture**

Hull 2017 has worked with a range of businesses and organisations whose investment in City of Culture have had benefits beyond the obvious. The discussion focuses on the crucial nature of this investment and highlights the benefits to place, people and the local economy when business and culture find the correct synergy.

**Tell The World: how artists reach a global audience**

Opera North, The Hepworth in Wakefield, Daniel Elms (New Sound Collective), Katherine Jewkes (MIF/Space) discuss how work can be broadcast to a global audience and the benefits beyond the obvious this brings.

**Northern Souls**

Northern Fiction Alliance lead a discussion on how independent publishers and new voices are flourishing in the North, and how there has never been a better time to get your voice heard in the North.

**Arts Council Research**

At Substance Future Forum, The Arts Council of England will release the findings of a major new research project into the economic impact of arts and culture in the North of England.

Guardian

C4DI

Hull University: Now and Then

**Marshmallow Laser Feast Present : A Colossal Wave 7th – 10th Dec**

Virtual reality is usually a solitary affair yet here you can share the immersive experience with others. Witness an explosion of colour after a real ball is thrown from a great height and hits the ground to create a huge virtual wave.

A Colossal Wave is co-commissioned by the British Council, Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles to celebrate the creative partnership between Hull and Montreal. With additional support from the GREAT Britain campaign, Canadian High Commission, Phi Centre and the BFI Vision Awards.

**Heinrich and Palmer present The Deep (working Title) 8th- 9th Dec**

A projection mapping project on The Deep, the building of which was conceived as a geological metaphor, rising out of the ground like a crystalline rock formation. Sir Terry Farrell described how he, ‘*Wanted the feeling of a rock coming out of the ground, but how do you make it so it is rising not sinking?’* He also described how the form and external surfaces of the building were conceived to have, ‘*metaphorical associations with wave or glacier-like forms.’.* Apparently, the architect had in mind Caspar David Friedrich’s painting, ‘The Sea of Ice’ (1824) when he initially conceived the form of The Deep. This romantic landscape depicts a shipwreck in the middle of a broken ice-sheet, whose shards have piled up after the impact. The ice has become like a monolithic tomb, whose edges jut into the sky.

Using light, projection and potentially digital and spatial mapping, it is intended that this commission will focus on transforming the external appearance, and sensual experience, of the building at night.

**Substance Live – The Future of the North**

**City hall Hull 9th Dec**

**Jane Weaver, Nadine Shah, Hannah Peel, Lone Taxidermist, The Dyr Sister (more acts TBA)**

**Hosted by Elizabeth Alker**

**Hull City Hall**

**Saturday 9th December from 3pm**

**£8/£10**

**Tickets on sale Monday 23rd October**

Substance Live is a mini music festival celebrating the future of the north through the music of some of our most innovative and forward-thinking artists.

Join us for an afternoon into an evening of music representing a state of the nation in terms of the best northern sounds of now.

From the politically charged post-punk of **Nadine Shah** to psychedelic dream pop of **Jane Weaver** via an electronic/brass band intergalactic odyssey courtesy of **Hannah Peel**, the performance art punk of **Lone Taxidermist** and homegrown freak folk of The **Dyr Sister** all hosted by 6Music’s and Radio 3’s **Elizabeth Alker** this is a celebration of the diverse and ground-breaking talent that The North always has and always will produce.

**Jane Weaver**

<https://janeweavermusic.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H74Ptan4Q1s>

Abusing, evading and obliterating 20 years of whimsical pop trends, Jane Weaver’s experience as a truly independent and resilient female songwriter/ sound carrier commands respect and inspiration on equal measure.

Her latest album Modern Kosmology released in 2017 to critical acclaim is the result of a scientist of popular song gone rouge. A model student of second-hand Kraut-rock, female punk, hard-subbed new-wave, synthesiser skip-finds and unpronounceable worldly feminine pop who’s finally reached her eureka moment!

Six self-penned albums and over two decades into her career, Jane Weaver is just getting into her stride.

**Nadine Shah**

<http://nadineshah.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrFdkPeb2a8>

Armed with a uniquely rich and soulful voice, paired with her effortlessly eloquent and arresting lyrics, Nadine Shah has earned a reputation as a rising, uncompromising talent.

Born to a Norwegian mother and a Pakistani father in the coastal village of Whitburn in South Tyneside life as a second-generation immigrant has shaped her world view and seen her produce one of the most politically astute and pertinent albums of 2017 with Holiday Destination. Covering global concerns from the Calais crisis to the Syrian civil to more personal problems such as mental health and pressures to conform, Nadine is without doubt one of our most vital songwriters and performers working in 2017.

**Mary Casio: Journey To Cassiopeia (Hannah Peel)**

<http://www.hannahpeel.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czuGs8nbJuI>

Hannah Peel helped launch Substance in 2016 with her band The Magnetic North then returned to Hull to perform a section from her most recent release Mary Casio: Journey to Cassiopeia as part of the PRSF New Music Biennale. It is with this project that she joins Substance Live performing the album in its entirety accompanied by the awe inspiring sound of a full brass band supplied by Tubular Brass.

Electronic artist, arranger and composer Hannah Peel’s work combines the tremendously deep, rich power of traditional brass with the uplifting arpeggiated patterns and unearthly sound textures of analogue synthesizers.

Through an intergalactic journey from Earth to the star constellation of Cassiopeia, Peel explores one person's journey through space, time and mortality by telling the story of 86 year old Mary Casio and her lifelong stargazing dream to leave her South Yorkshire home in the mining town of Barnsley and see Cassiopeia for herself.

**Lone Taxidermist**

<https://lonetaxidermist.bandcamp.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kh5z4yfrROs>

Fresh from the twisted machinations and fertile imagination of Cumbrian-born, London-dwelling artist and seer Natalie Sharp has created Lone Taxidermist. A chaotic realm of poisonous cocktails, thwarted lust. 6am dancehalls and a cast of characters standing on the verge of epiphany.

Arriving from a nocturnal word of sex and skulduggery, Sharp’s malicious metier lurks somewhere between the eldritch diva manifestations of Diamanda Galas and the wry reflections of Victoria Wood, yet equally driven by a magpie spirit and conceptual chutzpah redolent of Leigh Bowery and an acidic wit damaged by john Cooper Clark. It’s a stylistic path that has led to her being increasingly over-subscribed as a collective maverick of choice for a dizzying array of artists, including recent work with Jenny Hval and Gazelle twin.

**The Dyr Sister**

<http://thedyrsister.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM_WF3LBfvo>

Hailing from Hull, Sally Currie is The Dyr Sister (pronounced deer, it’s Old Norse) and that most wonderful of things, a true and pioneering individual. As a multi-instrumentalist she conjures up surreal tales with the aid of a violin, a mandolin, her voice and an array of live samples.

Sally performs her catalogue of haunting, modern day folk songs as a one-women band, portraying a fascinating canvas of sound as she goes. Her original and innovative pieces are influenced by a wide range of genres from jungle and dubstep through trip hop and hip hop and ending up somewhere amongst the many varieties of traditional folk music from around the world.

**Elizabeth Alker**

Is a broadcast journalist at the BBC, based in Manchester she is best known for presenting the Music News on Radcliffe and Maconie’s afternoon show and now presents the weekend additions of Radio 3 Breakfast. She also regularly pops up talking about the arts and music on radio 2, 5 Live, Radio 4 and the BBC News Channel and has thrust a microphone in front of everyone Paul McCartney to Steve Reich.

**Chambers**

Chambers are a two piece sister-doom band formed in the summer of 2014 by drummer Ellie Churchill and guitarist/vocalist Aeris Houlihan.

Chambers are big horror film fans which they feel is where their darker, doom-influenced material stems from. However, it’s not just the horror that lends Chambers their otherworldly quality, though. There’s a hint of the mysterious and arcane about everything they do, an embracing of the darker side and the unknown elements of life and death that give them somewhat of an edge when compared to their poppier contemporaries and counterparts.

The name Chambers is in itself a reflection of their desire to peek inside Pandora’s Box. When you think of a chamber it makes you wonder: what’s inside? What does it look like? What’s it for?

Everyone has their own Chambers, full of weird and wonderful thoughts and emotions. It’s this sense of mystery inside the self that lends itself to the pair’s dark themes, bursting as they are with a raw, hopeful energy.

“The concept of sister-doom is sort of like a spirit that drives us to do what we do” the pair finish up “It’s sort of that feeling you get when you’re stood in a dark, empty house with all the lights turned off. A figure suddenly appears in front of you and your eyes try to work out if it's real or not. It’s sort of that adrenaline you get from the unknown. Like something you shouldn’t do but you just want more.”

CHAMBERS are:

Aeris Houlihan - Vocals/Guitar

Ellie Churchill – Drums

**Online:**

<http://www.ukchambers.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ukchambers/>

<https://twitter.com/ukchamberss>

[http://www.imnotfromlondon.com](http://www.imnotfromlondon.com/)

**Quotes:**

***“Like molten silver dripping down onto the engine in God’s favourite car… sleek and mean” – Alternative Press

"Probing, dramatic music coming from a very real place" – Clash Magazine***

***“Hauntingly psychedelic…dark, disjointed and angular”*– Louder Than War**

***“Raring to take 2017 by the horns? This is the angry power anthem for you” – Buzz Feed (Sister-doom single)***

***“Their napalm is derived from a noise-rock sensibility where Girls Against Boys, Deap Vally and Placebo are protecting their favourite bar from horders of hipster vermin and gentrified scum… feels like molten silver dripping down onto the engine in God’s favourite car. It’s sleek mean and will bludgeon your soul if you would just let it.”*** – Jason Pettigrew - Alternative Press Magazine (US & UK)

**Jason Bruges Studio - Where Do We Go From Here? 1st Dec – 7th Jan**

This ambitious intervention will produce a playful manipulation of light, responding to the city’s unique geometries and architecture, revealing unseen spaces and pinpointing unconsidered details.

The work, accompanied by new soundscapes, seeks to propel us into a bright and yet unknown future, engaging everyone in arguably the most important questions of the year for Hull and the nation: What kind of place do we wish to live in? What role should culture play? Where do we go from here?

Jason Bruges Studio is critically acclaimed for producing innovative light installations in site-specific environments across the globe.

**Thunder Clap – Simon Armitage**

Working with the football fans behind the Icelandic Thunder Clap, poet Simon Armitage will be commissioned by Wreaking Ball Press to read poetry within a series of Premier League football matches in lead up to Substance in Hull with interventions happening

Manchester Utd Vs Brighton – 25/11

Liverpool Vs Chelsea – 26/11

Man City Vs Southampton – 29/11

Huddersfield Vs Everton – 2/12

Hull Vs Brentford 8/12

Still TBC

Bill Drummond

Barney farmer

Adelphi Film