1. **Stories**

The initial discussion centred on how the project has gone to date,

Dan voiced some frustrations as a choreographer – and the impact on his engagement with the stories, and the feelings around the current proposed two stories.

Using the comparison of the Blueness – Dan feels that these stories don’t achieve what it did in terms of:

* Celebrating Culture,
* finding a story about real people,
* featuring the community and giving the inspiration to make a difference.
* Neither feel as if they transform the environment or have theatrical expression and weight.

Although these are adequate children’s stories – Dan had been hoping for a story for the whole family. Dan explained that currently he doesn’t feel engage or have a real passion for either of these stories.

Niccy expressed that from Hull2017’s perspective – the idea of a community story that expands the theatrical imagination of a family is important. The age group of is not necessarily catered for elsewhere in the schedule and Hull really wants to bring down boundaries, get rid of divides that exist between East and West Hull, and enable them to work as a whole community.

Tony explained that for CBeebies – these Arts programmes do make a mark with the whole family audience and explore a side of the arts that they might never have been exposed to before. Which all agreed was important.

There was discussion around the process to date – and how that had affected Dan’s involvement. Tony and Angela were keen to stress that that was not a deliberate action, and was by no means intentional.

Mark put the options for how we can move ahead on the table:

Find an existing story that Dan is passionate about

1. Look again at the Native American tale for Dan to work on and broadening out a search whilst also using aspects of maybe the stories that have been developed .Dan to take the two existing stories and rework them
2. The other options outlined by Mark were:
   1. Find another choreographer to work on the project
   2. Northern Ballet to produce The Great Blueness for Hull with no CBeebies involvement (all agreed this was not viable)

The group quickly moved to the option of finding a way to make the project work with Dan as follows:

Dan to take both commissioned stories, and the native American tale and look to fuse them into one story. Additionally, Dan will look at other sources of colour stories – bearing in mind that we cannot in any way touch on the material covered in The Great Blueness in any form as legally we would struggle.

**Stories contd.**

Dan did say he is not confident as a writer, so Tony and Angela will then work with Dan on the 27th and 28th March in Leeds on the story. Niccy has odffered to come to the 27th in Leeds and Dan/ Mark or Angela to let Niccy know next week if it is deemed helpful

It was discussed that this could still lead into the final decision about the project going forward on Friday 31st March.

Once we have the story, Dan will then take this and work on the scenario ahead of the creative workshop with composer and designer, and the creative core team of (Angela, Tony and Niccy) which will move into the first week of April.

Since the meeting – have agreed that Dan will send headline notes on story towards end of next week. For Hull and the BBC to look at prior to the 27th.

1. **Timeline**

We then moved on to discuss the impact on the timeline and focussed on dates that would need to be met if the project moves forward.

Excel spreadsheet version of timeline attached but in brief:

27th / 28th March Story Meeting

6th / 7th April Creative Workshop (due to availability )

10th April week Seating Discussions / Learning Materials agreed

18th April Music Initial Theme delivery for approval

Update the venue regarding state of play and

timings etc.

24th April First Outreach sessions

15th May week Confirm Projection Film Locations for licensing /

and permissions

Agree Set Designs

5th June week Children Performers’ Auditions

17th June week Children Cast and Rehearsal Schedule

confirmed / Licenses application underway

26th June week Music Delivery for part production

Literary festival (26th to the 2nd July)

17th July week Children’s rehearsals start

1. **Casting**

Discussion took place around numbers available for the cast – primarily around the children and young adult performers who would come from Hull. Looking at working with one dance school for the children and another for the young adults / teenagers.

To avoid there being any problems in Hull, we can encourage other dance schools to take part in the Community filming – although we need to mindful of how these filming sessions are run, and what children are asked to do so that we are mindful of licensing procedures.

Angela will talk to Catherine McAllister, BBC Children’s lead on child licensing.

Regarding cast numbers the maximum numbers will be:

8 Northern Ballet Dancers

4 Graduate Dancers / Teenage / Young Adult Dancers from Hull

4 Children ( local to Hull / child dancers )

2 CBeebies presenters / talent

**Casting contd.**

We will look to have 2 groups of young adult and children to work across the productions, providing cover etc 8 per age group split into 2 groups. However we will look to share costumes and think of hygienic ways to manage that ( leotards / t-shirts underneath etc ). Additionally we will look at how to include all in the filmed performance final sections.

Discussions to be had regarding payment for children / young adults and how to manage this.

1. **Additional Discussions**

Brief discussion around Lighting Director who has worked for theatre and television and CBeebies suggestion of Douglas Kuhrt - Dan would be happy with Doug.

We also touched on how the projection is managed – including talking about Nina Dunn who has worked for Northern Ballet in the past. However this needs to wait until we know the complexity of the story and what is needed from the projections.

Outreach Materials for 24th April

Leanne would like stickers for every child – Leanne will confirm the production timescale for this and the costs that they would expect. These stickers should have the title, venue and date of performances. It would be great if it was also possible to have a flyer to leave in schools with more information – eg when tickets are available from.

Angela to stand Graphic Designer by for work from logo.

Performance Schedule

This should include the audio described performances. Northern Ballet use Vocalise. Niccy said she would look at this.

Layouts of the venue and ticketing / performance times:

We also talked about ticketing and layout for the venue. Wilkie has done some work on this and Niccy and Angela to at some point once we have agreed on the story to look at this and ascertain the number and configuration of seats that can then drive when we say tickets will be on sale from and how many performances etc. Niccy to also speak to Hulls digital to see how long it will take to create the ticket manifest and selling on line system etc.