## **Flood – Community Cast Focus Group**

## **Discussion Guide**

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| **Topic area** | **Comments / Questions** | **Timing** |
| **Welcome** | * Welcome, thanks for taking the time to come to this discussion | 5 minutes |
| * My name is Catherine Alexander and I’m a Research Fellow from the University of Hull, CPPI, undertaking independent research on behalf of Hull 2017 into the Flood project |
| * There’s lot to get through and the group will last for around 1.5 hours in total |
| * The session will be recorded to enable accurate reporting, though all comments will remain anonymous |
| * Please speak up and try not to interrupt each other |
| * Please be honest and open – there are no right or wrong answers and it’s okay if you disagree with one another |
| * Refreshments / housekeeping, e.g. toilets, fire exit |
| **Icebreaker** | Everyone to give their first names and answer the following question:  **QUESTION:** Prior to taking part as a community cast member in Flood, what were your experiences of performing?  *Probe: If they had previous experience, what sort of performances had they been in? To what extent were these amateur vs. professional productions? What sort of locations had they previously performed in?* | 5 minutes |
| **Motivations to attend** | **QUESTION:** What made you decide to take part as a member of the Community Cast for Flood? *Probe: What was it about what they were told, read, or what they saw that made them decide to get involved?*  **QUESTION:** What were your hopes and expectations for the experience, when deciding to take part in Flood?  *Probe: Were there any personal outcomes you wanted to achieve?* | 10 minutes |

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| **Overall experience of taking part** | **QUESTION:** Which Parts of Flood did you each appear in?  **QUESTION:** To what extent do you feel your Flood experience met the hopes and expectations you had for it? *Probe: What did you enjoy the most about taking part in Flood, and what did you enjoy the least?*  **QUESTION:** To what extent did taking part in Flood challenge you?  *Probe: What were the physical challenges of taking part? What other challenges were there to taking part and how were you able to overcome these?*  **QUESTION:** What were the main emotions you felt taking part in Flood? *Probe: What did you feel during the live performances? How did you feel at the end of the project?* | 15 minutes |
| **Overall experience with Slung Low** | **QUESTION:** How did Slung Low and the wider team support you as Community Cast members? *Probe:*   * *What were the strengths and weakness of the support provided by Slung Low and the wider team?* * *How did their communications and support affect your overall experience on the project?*   **QUESTION:** Do you feel that you received sufficient training and rehearsal time in the lead up to the live performances? *Probe:*   * *What training was provided and how did it help?* * *How could the training and rehearsal time provided have been improved?* | 10 minutes |
| **Overall experience of site-specific nature of Flood** | **QUESTION:** How did the site-specific nature of Flood, being outdoor and within Victoria Dock, affect your overall experience? *Probe: What were the strengths and weakness of this from both from a production point of view, and the experience of being a cast member?*  **QUESTION:** To what extent did Flood challenge your understanding of theatre? *Probe: How did the multi-platform delivery method of online film, mixed with live play and live broadcast work? What were the strengths and weaknesses of this from their point of view?* | 10 minutes |

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| **Themes in Flood** | **EXERCISE:** I’m now going to give you all 5 minutes to write down on these post-it notes the different themes you feel were explored by Flood?After 5 minutes ask each person to read theirs out and stick them up.  **QUESTION:** Have your thoughts and feelings about any of these themes been challenged by taking part in Flood?  *Probe*:   * *Has it caused you to think and reflect on wider issues and events happening in the world*? * *Has it made you think about these things in a different way?* | 15 minutes |
| **Personal Outcomes** | **QUESTION:** In what ways, if any, are you proud of the personal contribution you made to Flood?  **QUESTION:** In what ways, if any, has your Flood experience inspired you to think differently about yourself and your life?  *Probe: confidence; self-esteem; capabilities; future relationship with Hull*  **QUESTION:** What skills, if any, have you developed through your participation in Flood?  *Probe: How likely is it that you’ll take forward and further develop these skills?*  **QUESTION:** What relationships did you develop whilst taking part in Flood and will these connections continue?  *Probe: Whether friendships or professional connections were formed with fellow cast members; Victoria Dock residents; and members of the production team, etc.?* | 15 minutes |
| **And finally** | Has your experience of attending Flood affected how you feel about the Victoria Dock area of Hull?  *Probe: Do they have connections to area? What were their previous perceptions of the area and how have these been changed, if at all?* | 5 minutes |