**Neu! Reekie! - Hull UK City of Culture 2017**

**Project Plan**

**Background Neu! Reekie!**

Neu!Reekie! is a writers, musicians & artists collective, DIY record label and indie publishing house. Neu!Reekie! showcase a unique fusion of spoken word, animation, film and music at regular events within Scotland and the world over. They book acts of an international repute as well as Scotland‘s homegrown talent and up-and-coming performers. Having developed a collective of core artists Neu!Reekie! has become a fertile breeding ground for collaboration and one of the fastest moving grassroots arts organisations in the U.K.

Neu!Reekie! events can include pop-up exhibitions, interactive art, specially curated promotions, absurdist raffles and commissioned one-off shows within major gallery spaces.

Co-founded in December 2010 and co-curated by poets Michael Pedersen and Kevin Williamson,

Neu!Reekie! have produced over 90 shows, each 2-3 hours in length, conceptualised from scratch, never repeating the same show twice.

Past participants include: Irvine Welsh; Primal Scream; Liz Lochhead; The Pastels; Alasdair Gray; BMX Bandits; Jackie Kay; Momus; Jenni Fagan; Frightened Rabbit; Vic Godard; Ciaran Carson; Admiral Fallow; John Giorno; Aidan Moffat; Malcolm Middleton; Stanley Odd; Hollie McNish; Luke Wright; Kei Miller; Norman Blake / Teenage Fanclub; Bill Ryder-Jones / The Coral; Stevie Jackson / Belle and Sebastian; RM Hubbert; Rachel Sermanni; Young Fathers; Salena Godden; Andrew Weatherall; Honeyblood; Fini Tribe; King Creosote; John Hegley; TeenCanteen; and many more.

Their film showcases and brand design have involved Turner Prize nominees (David Shrigley, Jim Lambie), BAFTA winners (Will Anderson, Ainsley Henderson, Iain Gardner, Clare Lamond, Ross Hogg) and more.

**Introduction**

A core part of the programming idea for Hull Uk City of Culture 2017 is four separate multi-arts festivals that really explore the themes of the different seasons, different aesthetics and different identities. During Season two; Roots and Routes the festival will be a meticulously-curated and eclectic kick-ass weekend of art and culture aiming to showcase a sample of all that's vibrant, cutting edge, challenging and provocative within the parameters of the UK's four great nations.

For the first weekend in June 2017 noisemakers Neu! Reekie! will bring together a convergence of artists, musicians and producers in the centre of Hull who in one way or another are working creatively on the margins, or outside the dominant mainstream narrative.

The festival will draw upon Hull's fascinating history and culture to situate a programme of attractive events for the 2017 City of Culture that will be both celebratory and accessible – with populist appeal - while sustaining a ferocious leftfield onslaught of music, hiphop, spoken word, poetry, literature, film, animation, visual art, performance, theatre, publishing, debate, dancing and all that blurs the boundaries in between.

The festival will utilise the civic buildings, cultural spaces and the cityscape of Hull itself, to showcase the city to the people who live and work there, as well as those we foresee traveling to participate and enjoy the weekend's programme of events.

Throughout the festival artists and public alike will be stimulated, provoked and encouraged to explore two of the most pressing questions facing the people of Britain at the beginning of the 21st Century: Who are we? Where are we going?

The festival will run from Thursday-Sunday in various locations in Hull, indoors and outside, for the duration of the weekend. At its centre will be 2 large attractive Neu! Reekie! style showpiece events in Hull City Hall on the Friday and Saturday evenings. These will be music-led whilst cross-cultural, with headline acts (of international repute while remaining boundary breakers) who are capable of filling the venue as well as complementing the ethos associated with the guiding lights of Larkin (Friday) and Wilberforce (Saturday).

These will be supplemented by an outdoor spoken word slam and music event on the Sunday afternoon beside the waterfront; a combined music/literature/arts fair on the Saturday afternoon; and running for the whole weekend, utilising various cinemas and venues, a popup programme of documentary film-focussed events, debates and panels exploring the relationships between identity and arts across the four nations of the UK.

**Programme Plan**

**Thursday**

To open the festival Neu! Reekie! will host an informal launch party so that a gathering of artists, producers, and friends of 2017 Hull City of Culture can meet, network and find more about the weekend's festival. This will be held in a central city centre location in Hull, Neu! Reekie! are looking at a potential headline DJ of Andrew Weatherall.

**Friday**

The first of the two centre piece showcases will be a large scale Neu! Reekie! style event featuring the underground culture of the four nations represented in poetry, music, visual art, film, dance, performance art. It will be in a Neu! Reekie! style with a cultural cross-pollination of words, film, sounds and ideas.

This event will take place in Hull City Hall, utilising the main space and the Mortimer suite as well as smaller breakout spaces. The main stage will have two headline acts whose reputation and name will be known through the UK. Neu! Reekie! will be looking at artists such as The Proclaimers, The Fall, Charlotte Church or Anna Calvi. These would be complemented by two headline writers whose reputation will be known beyond literary circles and whose work is outside the mainstream such as Irvine Welsh or Kate Tempest.

The style of the event is straight from the successful Neu! Reekie! template of the last 5 years where the emphasis is on keeping the entertainment coming at all times with shorter than usual live sets (no more than 30 minutes even for the headline acts) and no recognisable breaks.

Between the live acts will be commissioned short films and non-mainstream animations, some as short as 30 seconds, with none of them longer than 10 minutes long. Audiences will be standing in the main auditorium and encouraged to come and go as they please between sets and between the different areas. It will encompass the feeling of a roaming festival within the various spaces of City Hall. Neu! Reekie! will consider guest comperes known to be provocateurs within mainstream comedy and television.

The Mortimer suite will be a breakout space curated by invited cultural producers and thinkers for an evening featuring short films and acoustic music associated with their work. Neu! Reekie! are considering indie publishers and alternative media, with popup booths around a seated auditorium. The aim is to create an intellectual chill out salon.

Neu! Reekie! will invite groups and individuals associated with the visual, kinetic and performance arts to work with them to utilise the many smaller spaces around the venue. Neu! Reekie! want to create a sense of anarchic creation within Hull City Hall – curation of collective ownership.

The guiding ethos for the day is Philip Larkin.

**Saturday**

The second of the two showpiece events at Hull City Hall will be a convergence of hiphop and street artists and the associated producers involved in or around the scene. This will incorporate rappers, musicians & DJs to spoken word & beatbox, from filmmakers to street dance and graffiti artists – also encompassing elements of experimental street theatre. The day will have a theme of beyond hip-hop and will promote the deconstruction of the genre to explore both the pop sensibilities and the poetry pervasive throughout it.

In the main auditorium the format will be similar to the Friday night except with hiphop culture at the heart of everything. Neu! Reekie! will aim to have two headline hiphop/rappers whose reputation and name are known through the UK. The style of the event again will emphasise keeping the entertainment coming at the audience relentlessly, again with shorter than usual live sets and no recognisable breaks. Between the live acts there will be commissioned short films and non-mainstream animations, some as short as 30 seconds, with none of them longer than 10 minutes long. Audiences will be standing in the main auditorium and encouraged to come and go as they please between sets and between the different areas.

Two key artists that Neu! Reekie! will be approaching for the main show will be Scotland's Mercury Prize winning Young Fathers and Linton Kwesi Johnson.

In the Mortimer suite Neu! Reekie! will work with producers, collectives and record labels aligned or associated with hiphop culture to create a more informal space which features curated films from the hiphop community with popup showcases of hiphop, beatbox and spoken word performers, all curated by the invited producers.

Neu! Reekie! will be seeking out organisations, collectives and individuals interested in utilising smaller breakout spaces in the building on the night. Neu! Reekie! are considering Big Dada as a Keynote Speaker.

The guiding spirit for the day is William Wilberforce

**Saturday afternoon:**

In a large central venue Neu! Reekie! will create a convergence of cultural producers. This will be a place where the producer can meet, discuss and purchase cultural products from popup shops run by invited record labels, visual artists, alternative media and indie publishers: it will be a Hull City Of Culture Record & Arts Fair. At the fair there will be popup screenings of short films, demonstrations and workshops.

**Sunday**

In the afternoon Neu! Reekie! will hold a vibrant outdoor Slam competition. Using a Gladiator-style arena space they would host a major competition, open mics and third party curated slots. Neu! Reekie! are looking at artist to host and perform such as Kate Tempest, Luke Wright and Hollie McNish.

Neu! Reekie! will build upon the foundations of a new bands and acoustic music showcase along the waterfront – inviting established bands from the northern stronghold to play alongside the brightest rising stars.

They will work with an independent label to incorporate into this a single release and / or recording award. Equally with the slam they will look at offering a prize encompassing a string of live performances and a unique chapbook publication and/or digital track release.

As an accompaniment to this Neu! Reekie! will host a coffee, food and beer fair – inviting micro-breweries and independent or collective producers of quality food and drink to purvey their products and showcase their ethos. Neu! Reekie! will talk to brewers and distilleries about making bespoke blends to crown the occasion – they have a precedent of this is launching the Neu! Reekie! Whisky (a single malt, single cask with bespoke design).

**Hull Indie Doc Film Festival**

In partnership with Hull Independent Cinema Neu! Reekie! will invite indie publishers, alternative media, arts collectives, record labels and DIY indie film-makers to curate standalone events around a feature-length documentary film which explore the ideas of identity and creative thinking though the medium of art and culture. Neu! Reekie! are planning to approach Sheffield’s DocFest as a candidate partner on this.

This would run across the city from the Friday to the Sunday in as many interesting and unusual venues as they can utilise – also exploring the options of outdoor screenings or host your own screenings. This arm to the festival will encourage participants from within Hull and throughout the four nations to put together intriguing, idiosyncratic or provocative events which they'd run themselves.

Neu! Reekie! hope curators would draw on everything from Mark Cousins' personal essay I Am Belfast to the recent London gay men's hard-hitting Chemsex doc.

**Delivery**

Neu! Reekie! will be responsible for the delivery of this commission and Sam Hunt is the project lead from Hull 2017. Hull 2017 will work closely with Neu! Reekie! to identity and introduce them to local artists, community groups, production companies and our volunteers. Neu! Reekie! will be responsible for recruiting any additional staff they need to deliver the event. Hull 2017 will provide marketing support for the event.

**Timelines**

**April- May 2016**

Project Plan and budget finalised

**May 2016**

Neu! Reekie! contracted by Hull 2017

**June - Oct 2016**

Neu! Reekie! to confirm and contract Artists

**June- Oct 2016**

Neu! Reekie! to research local artists, collectives and independent makers based in Hull supported by the Hull 2017 team.

**June- Oct 2016**

Neu! Reekie! to approach Hull Independent Cinema about Hull Indie Doc Film Festival

**Oct 2016**

Marketing deadline (exact date tbc)

**Jan 2017**

Announcement within season two announcement (exact date tbc)

**June 2017**

1st June- 4th June - Festival