**Where Are We Now?**

A new festival exploring the counter cultures of the different countries that make up the UK.

As the UK lurches into uncharted political terrain, fracturing along geographical and social fault lines, schisms are opening up which suggest increased tension and volatility lie ahead and potentially the end of Britain itself.

Neu! Reekie!, Scotland’s most cutting edge arts collective, pose the question Where Are We Now? to a unique gathering of the UK's freethinking artists and dissident voices. With the current political and social climate as backdrop over a weekend in Hull the disparate counter cultures of Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales will be brought together to perform, agitate and explore their own relevance.

Through the mediums of hip-hop, live music, film, animation, poetry, spoken word, literature, visual art, street theatre, debate and staged happenings Neu! Reekie! intend to take the pulse of the counter-culture, shed some light, and try to find some answers.

A high octane programme of concerts, salons, exhibitions, provocations and lively debates around a radical film festival will light the fuse. These will feature some of the countries most persistent artistic rabble-rousers, agitators, thinkers and luminaries.

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A new weekend festival based around Hull’s City Hall and various venues (TBC)

FRIDAY EVENING

Event: Large Scale Mixed Arts Opening Night Show at Hull City Hall

Theme: 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. Guiding ethos: Larkin.

SATURDAY EVENING

Event: Hip Hop Convergence & Divergence Main Event

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

Guiding spirit: Wilberforce.

SUNDAY

Event: Outdoor Poetry Slam / The New Band Bonanza

Theme: Vibrant outdoor Slam competition with an attractive prize. Using a Gladiator-style arena space Neu Reekie! would host a major competition alongside, open mics and third party curated slots. Ideal candidates to perform and host this event would be Kate Tempest, Luke Wright, Hollie McNish.

Programme of events exploring counter-culture (over all days): Independent film, debates, workshops, staged happenings etc.

GENERAL STATEMENT: Through a series of film screenings, debates, panels, staged happenings and workshops, Neu! Reekie! will explore a range of ideas around:

• Cultures of Hiphop;

• Poetry of Punk

• Bowie's Legacy;

• Digital Download;

• Celebrity & Leaders;

• Filthy Lucre;

• Situationism;

• S-E-X;

• Drugs;

• Underground publishing;

• i-DENTITY.

Many of these events will be developed alongside choice curatorial bodies and organisers.

INDEPENDENT FILM

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.

This would run across the city from the Friday to the Sunday in as many interesting and unusual venues as can be utilised – 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, etc.

PERFORMER OVERVIEW

**Tier One Approach:**

Young Fathers

Andrew Weatherall

Irvine Welsh

Kate Tempest

Linton Kwesi Johnson

Charlotte Church

Bjork

**Tier Two:**

The Fall

Warsan Shire

Anna Calvi

The Proclaimers

George The Poet

Hollie McNish

Cerys Matthews

PJ Harvey

Tim Wells

John Cooper Clarke

Loki

Momus

Roots Manoeuvre