

# FLOOD: TO THE SEA

## Media coverage



Media coverage:  
Annoucement, June



Hull prepares for “ground-breaking” BBC Two theatre production



By [Stephen Chapman](#) — 23 June 2017

Rehearsals are currently taking place in Hull for a major theatre production, which will be aired on BBC Two.

*Flood: To The Sea* has been commissioned as part of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 celebrations and will be broadcast in August.

Made by theatre company, Slung Low, this is the third instalment of *Flood*, a story which is being told across an entire year, online, live in the city and on BBC television.

Directed by artistic director Alan Lane, and written by James Phillips, it's presented on a floating stage in Victoria Dock – mixing live performance, SFX, film and digital.

It will be shown as part of the BBC Arts strand, Performance Live.

"We've been overwhelmed by how the first half of *Flood* has been received by audiences live and digitally this year. The chance to take a part of the epic to the rest of the country through Performance Live is something we're incredibly excited about," said Lane.

"For an adventure to be made here in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen throughout the nation is one of the many opportunities that Hull's City of Culture has delivered."

The television production will include 10 professional actors and 11 community cast members.

"It's incredibly exciting to be working with Hull 2017 and Slung Low to bring *Flood* to network TV. This ambitious production challenges the audience and asks some important questions, and I'm proud that the BBC is enabling audiences around the UK to experience it," added Emma Cahusac, BBC executive producer

[Read more](#)



**BBC reveals next stage of Hull City of Culture coverage**

# YorkshireLife

## Third instalment of Hull 2017's Flood to be shown on BBC

PUBLISHED: 19:07 27 June 2017



Flood - Hull 2017 Flood (c) Perry Curties

### BBC2 to broadcast ground breaking theatre production in August



A scene from *Flood Part 2 Abundance* (c) Thomas Arran

The third instalment of *Flood*, created and produced by acclaimed theatre company Slung Low, which is being told across an entire year, online, live in Hull and on BBC TV.

Directed by Slung Low's pioneering artistic director Alan Lane and written by award-winning playwright James Phillips, *Flood* is the Leeds-based company's most ambitious and experimental project to date. This epic story, told in four compelling parts, began at the start of the year with a girl being raised from the depths of the sea, ahead of an approaching apocalyptic event that will see England engulfed by water.

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Presented on a floating stage in Hull's Victoria Dock, *Flood* mixes live performance, special effects, film and digital elements to tell a story across an entire year. Each part of this unprecedented piece of storytelling can be experienced as a stand-alone piece, whilst linking to the other parts.

Having begun as an online presentation in February, the first live performances of *Flood* took place in Hull's Victoria Dock in April.

The TV production *Flood, Part Three: To the Sea* in August takes the action forward and asks a simple question: what if the fleeing masses from our TV screens and Twitter feeds, in their boats and their orange lifejackets, had English accents? Because displacement is like disease: deep down we think it only happens to other people.

## Ground-Breaking Theatre – 'Flood: To The Sea' Coming To BBC Two!

7 Comments [General](#) [News](#)



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'Flood: To the sea' to be broadcast live on BBC Two!

**Flood: To the Sea** has been commissioned by Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and will be broadcast on BBC Two in August.

It is the third instalment of *Flood*, created and produced by acclaimed theatre company Slung Low, which is being told across an entire year, online, live in Hull and on BBC TV.

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*Flood Part Three: To the Sea*, is being shown as part of the BBC Arts strand, Performance Live. Following the broadcast, audiences will be able to see the next live instalment, when *Flood* returns to Victoria Dock in October.

The television production features a cast of 10 professional actors and 11 community cast members and stars Nadia Emam as Gloriana, Marc Graham as Sam, Oliver Senton as the captain, Yusra Warsama as Zeina. Joining them are Emma Bright, Sally Ann Staunton, Joanna Nicks, Naveed Khan, Sarah-Louise Davies and Tony Hind.

*Flood Part Three: To the Sea* was commissioned by Emma Cahusac for BBC Two. It is executive produced by Emma Cahusac from the BBC and produced by Joanna Resnick from Slung Low. For Hull 2017, the team is led by CEO and Director Martin Green, Producer Lindsey Alvis and Head of Production Gareth Hughes.

## Hull UK City of Culture brings Flood: to the Sea to BBC Two

June 23, 2017 No Comments Broadcasting Doug Lambert

Rehearsals are underway in Hull for a ground-breaking theatre production that will be broadcast on BBC Two.



"We are very excited to be working with the brilliant Slung Low and the BBC on the latest instalment of *Flood*, which is one of the most ambitious commissions for Hull 2017. Slung Low have a reputation for asking searching questions about society and the state of the nation and having the BBC on board means many more people across the country will be able to experience it. There are no simple answers, but I hope that as well as an exhilarating theatrical event, it will get people watching it reflecting and debating." – Martin Green, Director Hull 2017

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*Flood: To the Sea*, is being shown as part of the BBC Arts strand, Performance Live. Following the broadcast, audiences will be able to see the next live instalment, when *Flood* returns to Victoria Dock in October.

said: "It's incredibly exciting to be working with Hull 2017 and Slung Low to bring *Flood* to network TV. This ambitious production challenges the audience and asks some important questions, and I'm proud that the BBC is enabling audiences around the UK to experience it." – Emma Cahusac, BBC Executive Producer,

*Flood, Part Three: To the Sea* will broadcast on BBC Two in August.



Media coverage:  
Set visits, June



# Floodgates open as BBC reveal a battle of survival

Expect plenty of drama as third installation of Flood will be broadcast on BBC Two in August

By Hannah Robinson

[hannah.robinson@hulldailymail.co.uk](mailto:hannah.robinson@hulldailymail.co.uk)

What if the fleeing masses from our TV screens and Twitter feeds, in their boats and their orange lifejackets, had English accents?

After all, displacement is like a disease – deep down we think it only happens to other people. This controversial question is being asked through the performances of Flood, and rehearsals are underway for their BBC Two broadcast in August.

The first installation of Flood, curated by Leeds-based company Slung Low, was a six-minute short film on the Hull 2017 website, where fishermen find a woman surrounded by life jackets in their fishing net.

The second was a live performance in Hull's Victoria Dock, where spectators were invited to watch as the cast and crew put on a spectacular show about a giant wave crashing into the country.

The third part is currently being set up again in Victoria Dock, with Hull being shown on national television.

Alan Lane, artistic director of Slung Low, said: "This is the moment after the wave has just hit. We see people desperately trying to survive.

"In part two of Flood we saw people wiped out, but there are always people who survive and this is the story of that. This is the end of the world, so we have to make sure it looks amazing.

"It is a 28-and-a-half minute production, we have to be very precise, and it will have a presenter introducing it on the night.

"We've been overwhelmed by how the first half of Flood has always people who survive and this is the story of that. This is the end of the world, so we have to make sure it looks amazing.

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"We've been overwhelmed by how the first half of Flood has



EPIC PORTRAIT: Alan Lane, director of Flood installation for BBC Two. Picture: Kate Woolhouse

"For an adventure to be made here in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen by the nation is one of the many opportunities that Hull's City of Culture has delivered."

Rehearsals are currently taking place in the dock, ready for the real performance, but there have been received by audiences live and digitally this year. The chance to take a part of the epic to the rest of the country through Performance Live is something we're incredibly excited about.

"For an adventure to be made here in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen by the nation is one of the many opportunities that Hull's City of Culture has delivered."

Rehearsals are currently taking place in the dock, ready for the real performance, but there

won't be much to see from the ground.

The BBC will use close-up cameras to capture the intensity and detail of the performance, meaning anyone looking to catch a glimpse of the performance beforehand will only see ropes and wires instead of the previous stage show events

The television production features a cast of ten professional actors and 11 community cast members and stars Nadia Emam as Gloriana, Marc Graham as Sam, Oliver Senton as the captain and Yusra Warsam as Zeina.

Joining them are Emma Bright, Sally Ann Staunton, Joanna Nicks, Naveed Khan, Sarah-Louise Davies and Tony Hind.

Following the broadcast, audiences will be able to see the next live instalment when Flood returns to Victoria Dock in October.

## Hull City of Culture production Flood will be broadcast on BBC Two this August

The 30 minute-long programme will show Hull during the end of the world - so expect some drama

BY HANNAH ROBINSON  
16.11.2017



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Alan Lane, director of Flood installation for BBC Two. (Image: Kate Woolhouse)

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HDM ERM NEWS \*\*HANNAH ROBINSON\*\* 23.06.17 The new Flood installation for BBC is at the Tidal Dock on Victoria Dock, Hull. Pictured is the set. Pictures: Kate Woolhouse Prints can be ordered from [www.thisisphotosales.co.uk/hulldailystriding](http://www.thisisphotosales.co.uk/hulldailystriding) or call 08444 060 910 (Image: Kate Woolhouse)

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"For an adventure to be made here in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen throughout the nation is one of the many opportunities that Hull's City of Culture has delivered."



The new Flood installation for BBC Two involves submerged cars and caravans. (Image: Kate Woolhouse)

Rehearsals are going on for the next week or so in the dock, ready for the real performance, but there won't be much to see from the ground.

The BBC will use close-up cameras to capture the intensity and detail of the performance, meaning anyone looking to catch a glimpse of the performance beforehand will only see ropes and wires instead of the previous stage show events.

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Media coverage:  
Previews, August



## TV CHOICE

### Performance Live Presents **Flood: To the Sea** BBC2, 10pm

This short post-apocalyptic drama constitutes the third instalment of a year-long epic commissioned for Hull UK City of Culture 2017. It's a reimagining of the Great Flood myth set in an England engulfed by a tsunami. Created by Leeds theatre company Slung Low and written



by James Phillips, it is enacted at night on a floating stage in Hull's Victoria Dock to great effect. It forms a moving meditation on the plight of migrants everywhere: "these now homeless minds that don't know themselves because who we are seems linked to where we are". To describe it in detail would be to baffle the resonance of a simple miniature whose raw emotion benefits from the all-round ambience it possesses, a wonderful quality which makes the message contained in its big central speech all the more poignant. Well worth watching. **Mike Bradley**

The Observer  
**THE NEW  
REVIEW**

**SATURDAY 12 AUGUST**

CRITICS' CHOICE

## The tide is high

### Performance Live: Flood — To The Sea (BBC2, 10pm; BBC2 Scotland, 12.15am)

Given some of the rain in the past month, it is not hard to imagine the scenario of tonight's presentation coming true: Britain is facing an aquatic apocalypse. Written by James Phillips and produced by the Slung Low theatre company for Hull's year as City of Culture, Flood has been unfolding over the course of 2017 in four separate segments – the first part was a short film you can watch online – and the actors are now into the third act. If

you want more, the final part begins in Hull in October.

  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**  
**CULTURE**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 12**

## PICK OF THE DAY

### Performance Live – Flood: To the Sea BBC2, 10pm

Hull's tenure as the UK's City of Culture has been a resounding success so far, peppered with numerous amazing events, exhibitions and performances.

The latest is being broadcast live from a floating stage in the port's historic Victoria Dock. It's a post-apocalyptic drama set in the immediate aftermath of a massive flood that has left huge swathes of England under water.

The performance has been designed as a re-imagining of the flood myth found in Judeo-Christian scripture, but it also has a bigger question to ask about our



responses to the current refugee crisis – what if the masses seen on social media as they attempt to escape from death, destruction and devastation in their home countries had English accents? Would we feel more sympathetic towards them?

Watching this production may provide viewers with a very uncomfortable answer.

**Daily Mail**  
**EVENT**



# Saturday



Surviving the apocalypse

## Flood: To the Sea

● DRAMA / 10.00pm / BBC2

**NEW** Commissioned for Hull UK City of Culture 2017, this year-long multimedia drama explores what might happen if England was destroyed by an epic flood. Staged live from Hull's Victoria Dock, this third instalment brings the refugee story to our shores. It's the post-apocalyptic story of those left fighting for survival. ★★½ NA

## Today's pick



### Performance Live: Flood – To The Sea

**BBC2, 10pm** A thought-provoking parallel to the refugee crisis, this performance, recorded as live from a floating stage in Hull's Victoria Dock, asks the question: what if it was us on those inadequate boats coming to our shores? Set in the aftermath of a tsunami and global flood that has inundated the UK, it tells the story of three girls who discover a phone (above) containing the story of Gloriana, 'the girl from the sea', a sad story of hope and loss.

## SATURDAY'S TV

### CHOICE



Nadia Emam

### Performance Live – Flood: To the Sea

**BBC2, 10pm** A chance to see a performance of the groundbreaking drama To the Sea, the third instalment of James Phillips' epic four-part multimedia narrative Flood, which explores what might happen if England was destroyed by a global flood. The first part of Phillips' tale took the form of a short online film. The second part, Abundance, was presented as a live open-air play at Victoria Dock in Hull earlier this year, and tonight's third instalment asks a simple question: what if the masses of refugees had English accents?

## FIVE OF THE BEST SHOWS THIS WEEK

**1** Performance Live presents Flood: To The Sea, Saturday, BBC Two, 10pm

**2** Trust Me Tuesday BBC One 9pm

Set in the aftermath of an apocalyptic event, which has seen England engulfed by water, this play asks a simple question: what if the fleeing masses from our TV screens and Twitter feeds, in their boats and their orange lifejackets, had English accents?



Deeply buried in her stolen identity Ally finds herself falling for Andy. But how can she keep hold of the perfect man when she is living a lie? Ally Sutton is played by Jodie Whittaker, Dr Andy Brenner is played by Emun Elliott and Dr Brigitte Rayne is played by Sharon Small.



### 50x regional newspapers:

Hull Daily Mail, Rochdale Observer, Hemel Gazette, Staffordshire Newsletter, Welwyn Times, Leek Post and Times, Stockport Express, Macclesfield Express, Folkestone & Hythe Express, Manchester Weekly News, Heywood Advertiser, Middleton Guardian, The Bath Chronicle, Shoreham Herald, Docklands and East London Advertiser, Dudley Chronicle, Brighthouse Echo, Todmorden News, Corby News, Bridlington Free Press, Manx Independent, Sandwell Chronicle, Worcester News, Bristol Post, Northampton Chronicle and Echo, Hackney Gazette, Ham & High, Wolverhampton Chronicle, Leicester Mercury, Gloucester Echo, Grimsby Telegraph, Guernsey Press and Star, Burton Mail, Plymouth Herald, Newark Advertiser, Southwell Advertiser, Cleethorpes Chronicle, Lowstoft Journal, Rotherham Advertiser, Wood & Vale Express, Romford Recorder, Rossendale Free Press, Cannock & Rugeley Express, West Somerset Free Press, Accrington Observer, Halesowen Chronicle, Leamington Courier, Whitby Gazette, Western Daily News.

### 4x regional newspapers:

Portsmouth News, Sunderland Echo, Shields Gazette, Wigan Evening News.

# TV Times

# Total TVguide

# 3

## Performance Live: Flood - To the Sea

Hull's tenure as City of Culture includes epic theatre project Flood from Leeds-based company Slung Low, and accompanying TV offshoots. Part three focuses on the pertinent theme of displacement at the hands of disaster, recalling chaos both natural and man-made.

Sat, 10pm, BBC2



## Performance Live: Flood - To the Sea 10pm, BBC2

The third part of James Phillips's multimedia epic, Flood, staged at Victoria Dock in Hull as part of its stint as the 2017 City of Culture. It's a reimagining of one of the oldest stories in mythology: that of the cleansing/destroying flood washing away the world. Phillips's telling demonstrates a dual modern-day relevance, alluding both to the possible effects of climate change and the issue of refugees fleeing one variety of disaster or another. **AM**

## Performance Live: Flood — To the Sea

BBC Two, 10pm

Hull's landmark year as the UK City of Culture continues with the third part of an epic production from the theatre company Slung Low. Set in the aftermath of an apocalyptic flood and tsunami, it reimagines the biblical story and plays with the idea that our attitudes towards migrants and refugees would be transformed if they had English accents. It should be a genuine televisual and theatrical event, broadcast live from a floating stage in Hull's Victoria Dock. **GT**

## Performance Live - Flood: To The Sea 10pm, BBC2

A live performance from the Victoria Dock of James Phillips' wildly ambitious and rather portentous post-apocalyptic centre-piece for Hull's year as City of Culture. Here, a North Sea fisherman raises a girl in his net who's miraculously still alive. Is she one of the migrants now washing up on English shores – or perhaps someone sent for some higher purpose?

## What to watch



Ambitious: Joanna Nicks, Sally Ann Staunton, Emma Bright

Performance Live - Flood: To the Sea  
BBC Two, 10.00pm; Scotland, 12.15am

The latest in this strand of live performances is an ambitious project indeed. Commissioned as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017, this is, in fact, the third of four parts of *Flood*. The first can only be seen on YouTube, and the second was performed live at Hull's Victoria Dock in April, with the final live play following in October. Each instalment is designed to work as a stand-alone story, as well as an entire series – so you're not entirely missing out if this is the first you've heard of it.

This pre-recorded play is also set at the dock and performed on a floating stage, at night and in lashing rain. It's based in the future, after a giant

flood has wiped out much of England, and sees three members of a strictly regulated community discover a washed up mobile phone – and find something on it that they weren't supposed to see.

It's an epic project; the scale of ambition shown here is something to be applauded. But the overall effect places it somewhere between theatre and a TV drama – and doesn't convince as either. As a TV show it looks poorly acted, with amateurish camera work and an ill-matched soundtrack. The second part drew praise, but when watching this third section on TV, rather than live, the immersive atmosphere is lost. *Catherine Gee*

the guardian  
**guide**

THE GUARDIAN TIMES  
**saturday  
review**

**i**

**review**  
Our Daily Telegraph

Television & radio  
The 10 best TV shows in  
the UK this week

## The best TV this week: Nadiya's back baking on the Beeb

The kitchen champ's new show aims to pick up where *Bake Off* left off. Meanwhile, *The Defenders* kick quite a lot of bottom on Netflix



📺 Remotes at the ready ... (left to right) Robert Leming (Rory Kinnear) in *Quacks*; Nadiya Hussain, one of the new hosts of *The Big Family Cooking Showdown*; Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke) in *Game of Thrones*; Steve Green (Steve Stamp) in *People Just Do Nothing*. Composite: Todd Anthony/Lucky Giant/BBC; Andrew Hayes-Wadkins/Vantage TV/BBC; Jack Barne/ROUGHcut/BBC; Sky Atlantic/HBO

### The Big Family Cooking Showdown

The *Bake Off*-shaped hole in the Beeb's schedule is finally filled this week with a new cookery show fronted by Nadiya Hussain, Zoe Ball and chefs Giorgio Locatelli and Rosemary Shrager. Fans of tweeness - and anyone baffled by Channel 4's strange *Bake Off* trailer - will be in for a treat as foodie broods face off.  
*15 August, 8pm, BBC2*

### Performance Live: Flood - To the Sea

Hull's tenure as City of Culture includes epic theatre project *Flood* from Leeds-based company Slung Low, and accompanying TV offshoots. Part three focuses on the pertinent theme of displacement at the hands of disaster, recalling chaos both natural and man-made.  
*12 August, 10pm, BBC2*

theguardian

TELEVISION

## What's on TV

August 12

The Sunday Times



Water, water, everywhere: drama in Hull's Victoria Docks tonight

The Sunday Times, August 6 2017, 12:01am

Share   

### CRITICS' CHOICE

#### The tide is high

**Performance Live: Flood – To The Sea** (BBC2, 10pm)

Given some of the rain in the past month, it is not hard to imagine the scenario of tonight's presentation coming true: Britain is facing an aquatic apocalypse. Written by James Phillips and produced by the Slung Low theatre company for Hull's year as City of Culture, *Flood* has been unfolding over the course of 2017 in four separate segments – the first part was a short film you can watch online – and the actors are now into the third act. If you want more, the final part begins in Hull in October.

THE  TIMES

Media coverage:  
Interviews and features, August



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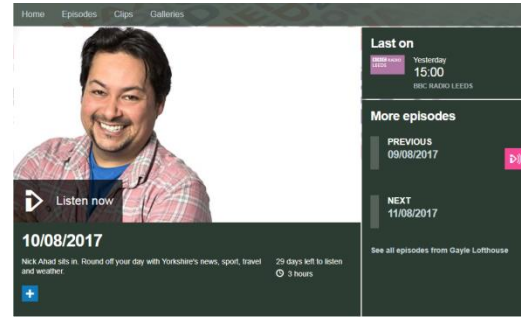
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# THE GUIDE

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## THEATRE

### Leeds theatre company's epic four-part Flood

with NICK ARAB

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**Things I find difficult:** Boiling eggs to the correct consistency. Praising Leeds theatre company Shing Low highly enough.

It was over a decade ago that I first met Alan Lane, the leader of this innovative, inspirational really quite extraordinary theatre company. Under the name Shing Low, Lane and his cohorts staged an immense piece of work in an abandoned shop in Bradford in 2002. A year later they were in Bradford's Lister Park with *Tinos*, staged outdoors at the park's beautiful Highgate Gardens. It was in 2008 when I saw the company's work *They Only Come at Night*, a wondrous story performed in a Bradford multi-storey car park, that began to understand what they, and Lane, were doing. They were creating, and this isn't to overstate things, a new kind of theatre. It was a theatre in which the audience is part at the heart of the action. Each time I think the company has reached its apotheosis – blowing up a tanker in a car park outside the Lowry in Salford needed a pretty high high point – Lane takes them over the top of a higher peak. Throwing actors of huge build into Hull, bringing Moby Dick to dock in the centre of Leeds, each time Lane and Shing Low up the stakes and increase the spectacle. This year the company reaches what is surely its personal Everest with *Flood*, a Shing Low created response to Hull winning the title of UK City of Culture.

A story in four parts, Lane has spent huge chunks of his past year in the East of the county creating the different elements that make up the quartet that is *Flood*.

Now, the piece under taking has reached its third quarter: a BBC Two broadcast of play the Saturday at 10pm. It might seem odd that a theatre company has incorporated a TV show into its offerings, but this is the great contingency of Shing Low: now they do what they do is not the important thing; what they do is all, and that is simply telling great stories with more wit, passion, imagination and fire than a hundred literary bestsellers from most other companies out there.

Martin Green is the director of *Flood*. He says: "We're very excited to be working with the brilliant Shing Low and the BBC on the latest instalment of *Flood*, which is one of the most ambitious commissions for Hull 2017. Having the BBC on board means many more people across the country will be able to experience the company's work. I hope it will be an exhilarating theatre event."

Part three of Shing Low's Flood project, *To The Sea*, will be screened on BBC2 as part of the Performance Live strand on Saturday.

we approach the appalling situation in which displaced people find themselves. As Lane says, displacement is like a disease in that deep down we think it only happens to other people.

On Saturday night, Part Three, *To The Sea*, will be screened nationally on BBC2.

Being shown as part of the BBC Arts strand called Performance Live, the TV production is an enormous step for Shing Low and will bring the company's work, deservedly, to a much wider audience. That, I think, is the most significant thing about this project. Lane will say that it is spreading the message at the heart of *Flood* – essentially, what if the refugees we see on TV spoke with English accents? – and that will be his primary drive: the company is about to receive well-deserved national recognition.

"We've been overwhelmed by how the first half of *Flood* has been received by audiences. The chance to take a part of the epic to the rest of the country through Performance Live is something we're incredibly excited about," says Lane. For an adventure to be made here in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen throughout the nation is one of the many opportunities Hull's City of Culture has delivered."



**A poetic life**  
Philip Larkin exhibition in Hull / Page 5

**Stage: Slung Low's epic project Flood / Page 2**



**WATERMARK:** The third part of Leeds theatre company Slung Low's epic project Flood is on BBC2 tomorrow night.

## High tide

Slung Low have reached new heights with their latest project, the epic Flood. Theatre correspondent **Nick Ahad** reports.

Things I find difficult: maths. Boiling eggs to the correct consistency. Praising Leeds theatre company Slung Low highly enough.

It was over a decade ago that I first met Alan Lane, the leader of this innovative, inspirational really quite extraordinary theatre company.

Under the name Slung Low, a reference to the way the young upstarts used to wear their trousers around their backsides in that manner that so aggravates older generations, Lane and his cohorts staged an immersive piece of work in an abandoned shop in Bradford in 2006. A year later they were in Bradford's Lister Park with *Time*, staged outdoors at the park's beautiful Mughal Gardens.

It was in 2006 when I saw the company's work *They Only Come at Night*, a vampire story performed in a Bradford multi-storey car park, that I began to understand what they, and Lane, were doing.

They were creating, and this isn't to overstate things, a new kind of theatre. It was a theatre in which the audience is part of the heart of the action. It was, Lane told me on several occasions, a theatre for a generation who curate their own culture with themselves at the centre of the story. Using headphones, found spaces and epic stories, it has been one of the great joys of my 15 years writing about theatre in Yorkshire



to watch Slung Low fulfil its ambition and seemingly unlimited potential.

Each time I think the company has reached its apothecis – blowing up a tanker in a car park outside the Lowry in Salford seemed a pretty high high point – Lane takes them over the top of a higher peak. Throwing actors off huge buildings in Hull, bringing *Moby Dick* to a dock in the centre

of Leeds, each time Lane and Slung Low up the stakes and increase the spectacle.

This year the company reaches what is surely its personal Everest with *Flood*, a Slung Low-created response to Hull winning the title of UK City of Culture. A story in four parts, Lane has spent huge chunks of his past year in the East of the county creating the different elements that make up the quartet that is *Flood*.

Now, the epic undertaking has reached its third quarter: a BBC Two broadcast of a play tomorrow at 10pm.

It might seem odd that a theatre company has incorporated a TV show into its offerings, but this is the great continuing joy of Slung Low: how they do what they do is not the important thing, what they do is all, and that is simply telling great stories in a more wit, panache, imagination and fire (metaphorical and literal) than most other companies out there.

Martin Green is the director of Hull 2017. He says: "We are very excited to be working with the brilliant Slung Low and the BBC on the latest installment of *Flood*, which is one of the most ambitious commissions for Hull 2017. Having the BBC on board means many more people across the country will be able to experience the company's work. I hope it will be an exhilarating theatrical event." So what is this theatrical event exactly?



**EPIC STORY:** Slung Low's Flood Part Three: To The Sea will be broadcast on BBC2 tomorrow in the Performance Live strand

*Flood* began in early 2017 with Part One, a short film called *From the Sea*. It told the story of a girl raised from the depths of the sea and can be seen online now.

Part Two was *Abundance*, a play performed at Hull's Victoria Dock in April by a vastly talented cast, it recounted the story of the apocalypse approaching the city.

In October, Slung Low will return to Victoria Dock for the grand finale with Part Four, *New World*, a play telling what happens when life begins again.

The overarching narrative of *Flood* is to look, and force audiences to look, at the growing refugee crisis in Europe and across the world and reframe the discussion to bring more humanity into the way we approach the appalling situation in which displaced people find themselves. As Lane says, displacement is like a disease in that deep down we think it

only happens to other people.

On Saturday night, Part Three

*To The Sea*, will be screened

nationally on BBC2. Being shown

as part of the BBC Arts strand

called Performance Live, the

TV production is an enormous

step up for Slung Low and will

bring the company's work

deservingly to a much wider

audience. The executive producer

for Part Three, Emma Cahusac,

says: "It's incredibly exciting to

be working with Slung Low to

bring *Flood* to network TV. This

ambitious production challenges

the audience and asks some

important questions. I'm proud

that the BBC is enabling audiences

around the UK to experience it."

That, I think, is the most

significant thing about this

project. Lane will say that it is

spreading the message at the heart

of *Flood* – essentially, what if the

refugees we see on TV spoke with

English accents? – and that will be

his primary drive for this project,

but what's also very exciting is that

this brilliant Yorkshire company

is about to receive well deserved

national recognition. "We've been

overwhelmed by how the first

half of *Flood* has been received by

audiences. The chance to take a

part of the epic to the rest of the

country through Performance

Live is something we're incredibly

excited about," says Lane. "For

an adventure to be made here

in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen

throughout the nation is one of

the many opportunities **Hull City of**

**Culture** has delivered."

At the start of this article I listed

some things I find difficult. I have

an addition: seeing just where

Slung Low goes next to top this

latest epic achievement. Wherever

it is, they can be sure – and many

more others – will follow.

### EPIC FOUR-PART FLOOD PROJECT

■ **Flood Part One:** *From the Sea*. A short film funded by The Space that supports artists to make the most of digital technology. Available at [www.hull2017.co.uk/flood](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/flood)

■ **Part Two:** *Abundance*. The first live element of the project was performed April 11 to 15 at Victoria Dock in Hull.

■ **Part Three:** *To The Sea*. A story set in the aftermath of an apocalyptic event which sees England engulfed by water. BBC2, Saturday August 12.

■ **Part Four:** *New World*. A play in which the world is begun again performed at Victoria Dock in October.

■ [www.slunglow.org](http://www.slunglow.org)

# Guest Blog: Slung Low's Alan Lane Talks FLOOD On BBC Two

by Guest Blog: Alan Lane Aug 10, 2017



*"No, you don't say his line as well. Just wait, Sirgius, and once you hear your cue you throw the punch like you've been shown."*

I'm stood on a piece of floating steel deck tied to a 16ft fishing boat full of 20 volunteers from the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 volunteer pool. All of which is floating in the 100m sq canal basin in the middle of the Victoria Dock housing estate.

I'm here because we're rehearsing *Flood Part 3*, which at the end of this week will be recorded for the BBC Two Performance Live strand. The strand was designed to give independent theatre companies a chance to make television, thanks to support from the Arts Council and the BBC.

*Flood* is a year-long project by Slung Low for Hull 2017 written by James Phillips. We've left our Holbeck base in Leeds for the year to tell the story of a future great flood, first of people and then a mighty wave. The wave destroys the nation and the second half of the year is the telling of how those who survive try to rebuild the world.

The story has been told so far through short films on the internet and in live shows of sinking, fire-covered sets watched by crowds of people on dry land who wear headphones to hear the action.

And this new *Part 3* is going to be told on the telebox.

It's the height of the flood, and there are three survivors battling in the water. Without giving too much, away at some point one of the three climbs aboard the fishing boat full of survivors and there is a horrible fight.



And Sirgius was the most enthusiastic volunteer keen to throw the first punch. He's learnt all the lines in the scene running up to the punch. Which as preparation goes is impressive, because we only sent the chorus the script yesterday.



Sirgius is one of the community chorus. Each of the parts of *Flood* have a chorus drawn from the Hull 2017 volunteers, working alongside the professional actors who I cast in roles that require more rehearsal than the chorus could ever manage to fit in alongside their 'normal' lives.

*Part 2*, a live show, had a Greek-like chorus who stood under rain machines for 90 minutes every night bearing witness to the horror of a racial apartheid: the city made human. In *Part 4* a different chorus play the more personal roles of survivors of the Flood, each having found their way to dry land, some with their faces projected 20 metres high on huge water sprays.



Slung Low has always had a commitment to working with People's Theatres. Groups of volunteers who share the stage with performers for whom acting is their livelihood - from *Camelot The Shining City* with Sheffield People's Theatre and *Sheffield Theatres to Blood and Chocolate* with York Theatre Royal and Plot's community of citizen performers. More than things on fire and headphones, it's our artistic foundation.

There's been a lot of discussion about the role and status of such performers in the industry, but to me, in large part because of our rigorous company wage which tends to clarify financial matters, it's always been clear: they are philanthropists. Donors of their time and talent. In a theatre world increasingly focused on paying attention to benefactors and VIPs, these are the most V.

Creatively, people's theatre performance companies explode productions. The regular complaint about there not being enough big plays about politics I've always thought must be made by people who don't ever get out to see People's Theatre. The grappling of a central question of a community (in this instance the ebb and flow of people into the city) is changed, made more powerful by the inclusion of that community in those asking the question.

And the overwhelming feedback we get from those who make this work with us is that it is a transformative experience: they walk taller as they fulfil the role of citizen artist in their city's public spaces.

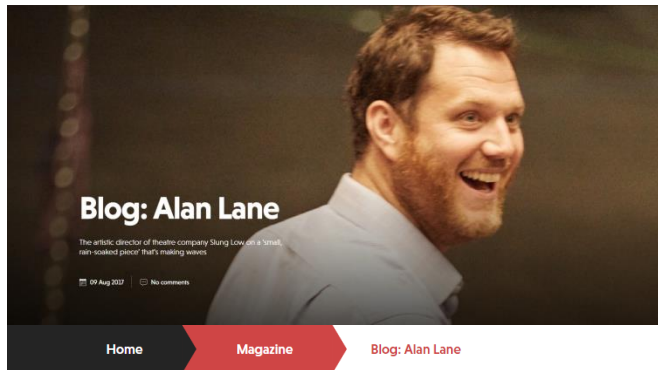
So, if you get the chance to catch *Flood Part 3* on BBC Two, on 12 August at 10pm, know that it's my friend Sirgius who throws the first punch. He is a citizen performer, a philanthropist to the arts, an absolute top lad, and he knew every single line in that scene.

[Find out more about Flood](#)

Picture credit: Malcolm Johnson



# BIG ISSUE NORTH



Standing on a floating platform in the middle of a canal basin in Hull, watching three actors thrash about in torrential rain is not how a lot of television is made – but Flood is not like a lot of television.

A strand of programming on BBC Two called Performance Live is bringing the best of different types of live theatre to a primetime national audience for the next two years. It began in 2016 with Kate Tempest, and there was Paul Mason who performed Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere at the Young Vic. Later this year Manchester's mighty Egg's Collective is up. But next in the BBC's Performance Live series is us at [Slung Low](#) with Flood: To the Sea, the third instalment of our Flood project.

Flood is a year-long project commissioned by [Hull UK City of Culture 2017](#) and written by James Phillips. We've left our Holbeck base in Leeds for the year to tell the story of an apocalyptic flood – first of people and then a mighty wave. The wave destroys the nation and the second half of the year is the telling of how those who survive try to rebuild the world.

The story has so far been told through short films on the internet and in live shows of sinking, fire-covered sets watched by crowds of people wearing headphones to fully immerse themselves in the action.

But the third part has been made especially for Performance Live on BBC Two. It's a part of the story that connects to the whole project but can be enjoyed by those who haven't seen anything that came before.

And that's why the whole Slung Low team, along with a BBC television crew, are standing in the middle of Hull's Victoria Dock on the wettest June day I can remember.



*The wave destroys the nation and survivors try to rebuild the world.*

The action takes place at the height of the flood, and three characters are trapped in the water struggling for survival: that's the premise of the programme and so we prepare with a mighty rain machine and a set that floats and sinks – amongst dozens of other effects. We needn't have bothered with the rain machine because it rained so hard for two solid days. Our biggest problem wasn't making it look apocalyptic but making sure the microphones work as they got drenched through!

It's a different process making this for Performance Live. At Slung Low we're used to being one team that starts and ends a thing together, always working to the moment when an audience arrives to see it and lets us know what they think. This is a world apart from making television, which sees us working with executive producers, editors and a TV crew. As I write this, an audience hasn't even seen Flood: To the Sea yet but we have already moved on to preparing for the next instalment.

The potential rewards of Performance Live are huge; obviously for us, but hopefully for audiences too and especially those who have never even heard of Slung Low. When the piece goes out on Saturday 12 August, it will have a larger audience than all our live shows in the last decade combined. The opportunity to tell this story to many more people through the reach of BBC Two is incredibly exciting.

The discrepancy in arts funding and press attention between London and everywhere else is much discussed – and it has a real impact on art made in the north in terms of reach and audience experience. But there is a real shift afoot. It's partly happening through schemes like the one that saw Hull become UK City of Culture 2017. The amount of talent, energy, attention and funding that has been invested in Hull has meant that its citizens have been enjoying a quality and quantity of arts that they haven't experienced before. And now BBC Arts (along with its partners, Battersea Arts Centre and Arts Council England) has committed to sharing its live theatre with the rest of the nation. That's good news for everyone.

Performance Live and Hull UK City of Culture 2017 are the latest in the slow but steady trend that extends the range of where the nation gets its culture, how it experiences that culture and where it's experienced in the country.

Flood is a small, rain-soaked piece in a long process of change taking hold in the smarter decision-making rooms of British culture – a process that says that a canal basin in Hull is a stage as worthy as any other for a piece of theatre to be shared with the nation.

*Flood: To the Sea will air on [BBC Two](#) on Saturday 12 August at 10pm*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Scarboro' actress on BBC2 show

Scarborough-based actress **Nadia Emam** will be on primetime BBC TV this weekend, as she stars in **Flood: To the Sea**, airing on BBC Two at 10pm. Nadia plays **Gloriana**, a mermaid-like being who was raised from the depths of the sea.



Nadia Emam

**The Scarborough** News

# Victoria Dock drama Flood to be screened on the BBC

30-minute programme will  
be broadcast on Saturday as  
part of City of Culture

By **Craig Jones**  
craig.jones@localworld.co.uk

**V**ictoria Dock is set to feature on TV as part of the Flood project. Earlier this summer, you may have seen filming taking place on the waters ahead of the one-off 30-minute drama being broadcast on Saturday. It will be shown at 10pm on BBC2.

Drama Flood is the story of what happens when the world is destroyed and how those who survive try to make it new again.

It follows the story as one day it starts to rain and no one knows why. Far out on the North Sea, a fisherman catches a girl in his net, miraculously alive from the deep sea.

Flood: To The Sea is the third instalment of an extraordinary year-long epic commissioned for Hull UK City of Culture 2017 that will be told online, live in Hull and on BBC television.

Created by the groundbreaking Leeds-based theatre company Slung Low, it has been directed by Alan Lane and features new talent from a range of backgrounds and disciplines.



It has been written by award-winning playwright James Phillips. For BBC, it has been directed by Ross MacGibbon.

Alan Lane said: "This is the moment after the wave has just hit. We see people desperately trying to survive."

"In Flood part two we saw people wiped out, but there is always people who survive and this is the story of that. This is the end of the world, so we have to make sure it looks amazing. "We've been overwhelmed by how the first half of Flood has

been received by audiences live and digitally this year. The chance to take a part of the epic to the rest of the country through Performance Live is something we're incredibly excited about."

"For an adventure to be made here in Hull's Victoria Dock and seen throughout the nation is one of the many opportunities that Hull's City of Culture has delivered."

We'll be bringing you all the information you need on the fourth instalment of Flood later in the year.



## Victoria Dock drama Flood to be screened on the BBC

The programme is part of a City of Culture project



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COMMENTS

BY CRAIG JONES  
14:21, 8 AUG 2017

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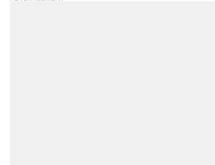
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