***Neu! Reekie!***

***presents***

***Where Are We Now?***

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 we 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.

‘Where are we now?’

(David Bowie)

‘We are all immigrants’

(Young Fathers)

‘I want my fucking EU back!’

(Charlotte Church)

FRIDAY EVENING

**Event: Where Are We Now #1**

Scotland’s ‘favourite avant-garde noisemakers’ Neu! Reekie! cross boundaries and borders with a one-off Hull happening featuring an eclectic mix of some of the UK counter-culture’s guiding lights and time-served trouble-makers. This unique event will feature incendiary live music from Young Fathers; pop and political powerhouse **Charlotte Church**; spoken word sensation **Hollie McNish**; Jamaican-British dub poet **Linton Kwesi Johnson;** intercut with strange animations and powerful short films. Expect some high profile special guests.

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. We'll mix it up Neu! Reekie! style with a cultural cross-pollination of words, film, sounds and ideas.

Further Info:

* Costs: two headline acts; two headline poets; series of mini slots and screening licenses; marketing and advertising; photo and film crew; runners; riders.
* This event will be spread the Hull City Hall, utilising both the Main Theatre space and the Boardroom space, as well as smaller breakout spaces.
* The main stage will have two headline acts whose reputation and name will be known through the UK. These would be complemented by two headline writers whose reputation will be known beyond literary circles and whose work is outside the mainstream.
* 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, in your face, 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. In essence the spirit of a free roaming festival within the various spaces of the grand old building. We will consider guest comperes known to be provocateurs within mainstream comedy and television.
* Guiding ethos: Larkin.

FRIDAY LATE EVENING

**Event: Andrew Weatherall at Fruit**

SATURDAY DAY

10 - 12 MC, DJ, Graf and Breaking workshops for young people (aged 12-18)

12 - 14.30 Panel event (film screening and discussion)

15.30 - 17.00 Chester P 5 Word Freestyle - amphitheatre

SATURDAY EVENING

**Event: Where are we now #2**

A fast-paced celebration of the guiding lights in UK hip-hop and the counter culture curated for Neu! Reekie! by the mighty Stanley Odd; with Altu ‘Flowrex’ Collingwood programming the strongest local voices.

The night will feature live performances from leadings artists including: **Akala, The Four Owls, Stanley Odd, Eva Lazarus** and many (many) more. Watch this space and move with might.

Theme: the second of the two showpiece events at the Welly 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.

Further Info:

* in the main auditorium the format will be similar to that of the Friday night except with hip-hop culture at the heart of everything. Again we'll aim to have two headline hip-hop/rappers whose reputation and name will be known through the UK. The main act will have the job of lifting the roof of the place to end things with a bang! 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 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.
* Guiding spirit: Wilberforce.

SUNDAY DAY/EVENING

Working Title: Bill Drummond - Twinned With Your Darkest Thoughts

Info: Public reading by Bill Drummond and a discussion / presentation of the results of his project and time in residency at Where Are We Now? Festival.

Running time: 1 hour

Working Title: Heavenly Films present A Scene In Between (film preview with panel discuss and live gig)

Info: Martin Kelly & Paul Kelly (Director / Producer) discuss the film with invited guests (likely Jim Lambie or Bobby Gillespie) followed by a gig by The Pastels.

Running Time: 2 hours (film screening 30 minutes; discussion & q/a 40 minutes; gig 50 minutes).

Working Title: Sabrina Mahfouz - How You Might Know Me: poetry and the sex industry

Info: Reading by Sabrina Mahfouz and a discussion on her research into the sex industry / cultures within it - with invited guests (perhaps other writers who've written about the sex industry and / or sex industry workers).

Running Time: 1 hour

Date/Time TBC

Working Title: Momus on David Bowie - Where Are We Now?

Info: Live show by Momus on David Bowie and his relationship to the counter-culture king/queen, the music and beyond.

Running Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Working Title: Caught By The River with Jeff Barrett & Special Guests

Info: Where Caught By The River came from, where it is now and where's it's going. Presentation by Jeff Barrett with readings from selected guests.

Running Time: 1 hour

Gal Dem suggested: Event/Exhibition – Black Girls Bedroom by Nydia Blas (American Photographer

FILM PROGRAMME