**Fur Coat No Knickers: A Duckie Summer Tea Party**

Victoria Square will be transformed into a vintage style afternoon tea party, with about 25 fancy cabaret tables, gold chairs and waiters serving tea and cake. Audiences will be both sat at the tables and milling about.

Duckie & Hull City of Culture 2017 would like to commission Gary Clarke to make a community dance piece with a mixture of professional and community performers for a site outdoors on Victoria Square in Hull on Saturday 29 July.

The management of the project - recruitment, devising, rehearsals, production & budget - will be conducted by Yorkshire Dance.

The piece will be about 20 minutes in length, have a cast of 10 professional dancers and 30 non-professional dancers. Laura Hopkins will design the costumes.

The piece will be performed around this outdoor space – it is to be an environmental/promenade piece that travels through the space, particularly focusing on the round ‘circus’ at the base of the statue of Victoria, and generally around the square.

Formally dressed gender-bending waiters and waitresses will serving tea and cakes to the patrons. Prior to the day there will be a Naughty But Nice 50th Birthday Cake Making Workshop with local WIs, gay groups and the general public making cakes for the party. There will also be a cake parade and judged competition hosted by Amy Lamé.

Here are some relevant themes to inform Gary’s brief (to be developed when Simon meets Gary): same sex couple dancing, intergenerational casting, the post-war austere closet (40s/50s/60s, styling like The Servant), political campaigning, playing with gender: campness & butchness, ideally a mix of races and genders, also looking at poverty & posing against the odds - i.e. Fur Coat No Knickers. The piece should be rooted in the lives of ordinary working class LGBT people from the North in the past 50 years, it should be relatable from this perspective. It should also use ‘rudeness’ as a theatrical and political tool.

Duckie will also deliver a complimentary programme of content (performers/artistic interventions) for the tea party including a band, Le Gateau Chocolate singing an aria on the balcony of Hull City Hall overlooking the Square and Amy Lamé doing a DJ set. Most of the 50 icons from the previous week will also be on display.

In addition to the main piece Gary will choreograph ‘Fur Coat No Knickers Tea Party Pop-Up Go-Go Dancers’ who will dance occasionally on top of Duckie specially adapted cabaret tables in a vintage style (60s, 70s, 80s) to vintage tracks. These will be young LGBT amateur dancers ideally recruited through the local gay clubs - with one token dancer aged 65 + - there will be about 6 of them and they will only have two days rehearsals for this work.

There is a Men’s and Women's public toilet underneath the square. Duckie are planning to turn the Mens toilet into a Gay Disco (with a mirror ball, smoke machine, high energy music, poppers and shirtless muscle marys), and the women's toilet into a Peace Camp (complete with Greenham Common style Womyns Chorus and candles).

**Schedule**

Recruitment by Yorkshire Dance begins in early April.

Rehearsals and devising will take place as follows:

Mon 5 June Gary + Simon + Cian + Kirsty

Tues 6 June Gary + 2 Dancers

Weds 7 June Gary + 2 Dancers

Thurs 6 June Gary + 10 Dancers

Fri 9 June Gary + 10 Dancers

Saturday 10th, Saturday 17th & Saturday 24th June - Gary and another two dancers run workshops for general public / community

Wednesday to Sunday for 4.5 weeks from Weds 28 June until Fri 28 July (That’s 23 days, most of professional company called most days, community participants called at certain times)

This means that in total Gary is working with the team (professionals and community) in a studio for 31 days preparation.

The performance takes place on Saturday 29 July at 6pm.

**50 Queers for 50 Years**

The Parade is on Saturday 22 July and will be produced by Pride in Hull. Duckie are to provide 50 visual interventions / elements of the parade. These will be visual mis-en-scénes or tableau vivant, sometimes just with one person, sometimes with a small group.

Robin Whitmore is to be lead artist / designer delivering a series of community based workshops developing the content with volunteers from the general public. He and two artistic assistants / makers will be based in a rented shop in Whitefriargate for 8 weeks, from 29 May until 21 July. The project will be a drop in, open at the following times: Thursday 12noon - 8pm, Friday 12noon - 8pm, Saturday 11am - 7pm, Sunday 11am - 5pm.

The stories and material for the 50 Qs will be collated by E-J Scott and presented to Robin who will display this in the shop as inspiration. They will be a range of stories and images telling the tales of queer life. E-J will be specifically researching stories from Hull and the North and from the lives of ordinary folk, as well as the big national political and cultural moments and landmarks.

Duckie (with E-J) will produce a fanzine that will act as a programme for the viewers of the parade on 22 July, highlighting the 50 stories behind the images.

**On a Queer Day You Can See Forever.**

A public debate on Thursday 27 July, Fruit Space

On the national anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, we ask how far has LGBTQ culture developed in the struggle for liberation in the past 50 years?

Amy Lamé, Duckie hostess and author of a new book on LGBT history for 14 - 16 year olds called ‘From Prejudice to Pride’, chairs a debate with writers and activists Matthew Todd, Campbell X and Chardine Taylor Stone (TBC, to discuss with Cian). The panel consider British LGBT heritage and set down the challenges for future activism and queer culture.