**Hull Independent Producer Initiative (HIPI)**

**Background**
Hull’s independent theatre sector is expanding – there are over 30 companies based in the city – many of them young theatre-makers taking up residence in the city with Hull being a welcoming, creative and affordable environment in which to be based and make work. The leading and most established companies are Middle Child, Silent Uproar, Ensemble 52, Apus Productions, Roaring Girls, She Productions and Pub Corner Poets. There are very new outfits including Bellow Theatre and Broccolily. They are commissioning and producing new work in Hull for a range of Hull audiences; the work is available in conventional venues, on the street, pop-up and site specific spaces. Some are taking their productions to Edinburgh Festival and to London Fringe venues. They are ambitious, productive and diverse.

In the city there are a number of festival initiatives, either completely or partially focused on theatre including the independent theatre street festival on Newland Avenue, Assemble Fest**,** Ensemble 52’s Head’s Up Festival at Kardomah and other locations, part of BAC’s contemporary tour network, as well as Hull Truck’s Grow Festival and Freedom Festival.

The common factor for all the companies and festivals is that they need producer capacity, bringing fundraising and marketing expertise, organizational planning and national network contacts, to realise their potential.

When Rash Dash graduated from Hull in 2007 (?), they wanted to stay in the city, but after one year, they moved to be based from Leeds.

In 2017, Hull will be UK City of Culture. The HIPI will offer an enterprising individual producer the opportunity to work with the creative entrepreneurs of the Hull Independent Theatre Sector. The city will retain more companies, will raise new investment for developing and producing work and build its reputation for being an incubator and go-to location for the future of British theatre.

The HIPI Role

* A 12 month initiative rolling out to 24 months
* A skilled and experienced theatre producer with strong track record of producing theatre for independent sector; developing new work; touring productions; project management and commercial and future exploitation of work across all platforms.
* Current working knowledge of fundraising for theatre; trusts & foundations; lottery distributors; ACE and
* Current working knowledge of business operations; finance and accounting; contracts; marketing & communications.
* Live networks in the UK in theatre sector and cross arts.

HIPI Objectives

* To provide services of theatre producer to Hull independent theatre sector.
* To access funding streams, write and submit bids, attract investment for projects and companies.
* To advise on setting up future company.
* To support emerging artists and companies.
* To support established companies to grow, develop, commission and produce work.
* To act as agent and representative for new companies.
* To be active member of trade association bodies eg ITC, UK Theatre.
* To collaborate with Hull Truck, City Arts, University and independent venues Fruit, Gulbenkian and Kardomah and Network Neighbourhood Venues to build intra-city networks.
* To collaborate with new MA in Theatre Making at University of Hull
* To mentor and transfer knowledge and expertise.
* To develop sustainable business model with funding for HIPI.

Partners

* Hull 2017
* University of Hull
* Hull Truck
* City Arts
* Goodwin Trust?
* British Council?
* The Space?
* BBC?
* Freedom Festival

Location & Governance

* HIPI will be hosted by Hull Truck Theatre.
* HIPI will have access to be a satellite member of the Programming & Delivery team at Hull 2017 for the duration of the project.
* HIPI will have access to resources at Gulbenkian Theatre at University of Hull.
* HIPI will be supported by City Arts team.
* HIPI will report to a steering group made up from Partner representatives.