

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Under Embargoed until 10.30am, Thursday 31 August 2017**

**HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017 UNVEILS DETAILS OF**

**SEASON 4: TELL THE WORLD**

* **Brand new theatre commissions from Maxine Peake and James Graham**
* **Major literary strand includes Will Self, Melvin Bragg, Kathryn Williams & Laura Barnett, Cosey Fanni Tutti, Ben Okri, Jenny Éclair, Simon Armitage, Tracey Thorn & Ben Watt, Monica Ali, Alex Wheatle, Sara Pascoe**
* **Spectacular public art installations include the RIBA backed *A Hall for Hull* and Jason Bruges Studio's *Where Do We Go From Here?***
* **World Premiere of Tanika Gupta's adaptation of *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* at Hull Truck Theatre**
* **John Godber, Opera North, Northern Ballet and National Theatre at Hull New Theatre**
* **Radical, innovative work as Slung Low's *Flood* and Blast Theory's *2097: We Made Ourselves Over* reach their climaxes**
* **Technology features in new work from Marshmallow Laser Feast and curious directive**
* **Turner Prize at Ferens Art Gallery and Martin Parr and Olivia Arthur's photographic study of Hull in new Magnum exhibition at Humber Street Gallery**
* ***Substance* weekender examines Hull and the North's future as dynamic cultural powerhouse**

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 today announces details of its fourth season ***Tell the World***, which runs from October to December. The city's thrilling journey as host to the nation's cultural quadrennial continues with a programme that includes theatre and live performance, literature, visual art, festivals, spectacle and more.

Working with a host of partners, including **Hull City Council**, which successfully bid to secure the title in 2013, season four features events and activities across the city to entertain, challenge and bring people together, cementing Hull's reputation as a cultural destination, with a profile that is growing nationally and internationally.

*Tell the World* builds on the city's strong literary heritage with an unprecedented number of nationally renowned as well as local writers, poets and spoken word artists coming together for a variety of events to suit all tastes and ages. This new commissioned festival, ***Contains Strong Language***, produced by the BBC alongside Hull's own **Wrecking Ball Press** and the annual **Humber Mouth** festival that is celebrating 25 years, plus many other partners, straddles the *Freedom* and *Tell the World* seasons.

Running alongside this exciting new event is ***Out of the Word***, a month-long showcase of top writers, poets, playwrights, artists and musicians from across the UK, being presented by Hull 2017 Principal Partner, **The East Riding of Yorkshire Council**. In November ***Hull Noir*** will celebrate the best of British and international crime fiction and also host the prestigious ***Iceland Noir*** from Reykjavik.

Theatre and performance includes a site specific commission penned by the award-winning actor **Maxine Peake**, inspired by the life of Lillian Bilocca, and a brand new play by acclaimed writer **James Graham** (*This House*, *Ink*, *Privacy, The Vote*), a behind the scenes comedy about the City of Culture year, which is due to open in 2018. **Hull Truck Theatre**'s programme includes the world premiere of **Tanika Gupta's** adaptation of the best-selling *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, whilst the newly opened **Hull New Theatre**'s first season includes work from **Opera North**, **Northern Ballet** and **National Theatre**, plus a world premiere from **John Godber**. **Hull Jazz Festival** celebrates its 25th anniversary with a star-studded line-up, whilst **Hull Comedy Festival** marks ten years with its biggest ever programme.

Hull 2017's commitment to innovative and experimental new work sees the culmination of epic year-long projects, **Slung Low**'s pioneering multi-format ***Flood***, **Blast Theory**'s landmark, app-adventure ***2097: We Made Ourselves Over***, plus new commission **curious directive**'s VR based project ***Frogman***, which has garnered rave reviews in Edinburgh.

Also embracing technology are VR wizards **Marshmallow Laser Feast**, whose ***A Colossal Wave*** is a major partnership commission with the **British Council** and **Partenariat du Quartier**, Montreal, andthe world renowned **Jason Bruges Studio** work their innovative light-based magic in Hull's Old Town with ***Where Do We Go From Here?****,* a new art installation that runs into January 2018.

Visual art includes **Turner Prize 2017** at **Ferens Art Gallery**, which runs until 7 January 2018, with awards night on 5 December. A partnership with international photography co-operative **Magnum** sees **Martin Parr** and **Olivia Arthur**'s photographic study ***Hull, Portrait of a City*** at **Humber Street Gallery**. **British Council** and **Royal Institute of British Architects** are partners on the spectacular *Look Up* public art installation, ***A Hall for Hull***, in historic Trinity Square. **Brynmor Jones Library** at Principal Partner the **University of Hull** presents works from the Government Art Collection in ***An Eyeful of Wry***.

Returning and continuing events include ***Back to Ours***, the popular festival of music, performance, film and art brought to the heart of local communities; the ***Creative Communities Programme***, which has seen 60 projects across the city; and the ***No Limits*** learning programme, which has ensured that every school child in Hull has had the opportunity to take part in the City of Culture year.

*Tell the World* also reflects on how Hull is redefining itself, celebrating the qualities that make it a fabulously unique city. In December ***Substance*** brings together artists, thinkers, commentators and creative mavericks and visionaries for a weekend of art, performance and debate that focuses on Hull and the North's future as a dynamic cultural and creative powerhouse.

**Martin Green**, Director of Hull 2017, said: "2017 has by any measure been a revelatory time for Hull and with season four, the thrilling journey continues. We've an outstanding programme to take the UK's first cultural quadrennial into 2018, which will challenge as well as entertain, ask questions and bring people together. The city's new found confidence and its growing reputation for culture and creativity help lay the foundations for Hull to take its place as at the heart of the North and in the nation's cultural future."

MINISTERIAL QUOTE TO COME

**Rosie Millard**, Chair of 2017, said: "As UK City of Culture Hull has hosted an extraordinary number and variety of cultural events that have excited and entertained residents and visitors alike and there is more to come in season four. With nine out of ten residents taking part and national and even international attention on the city, the response to the year continues to exceed all our expectations. The increased confidence is palpable and now is the time to shout loudly, to tell the world."

**Councillor Steven Brady**, Leader of Hull City Council, said:

**Visual Art and installations**

Perhaps the most anticipated exhibition comes to **Ferens Art Gallery** when it hosts the ***Turner Prize***, one of the best-known prizes for visual art in the world and one of the UK’s most exciting and high profile awards (26 September - 7 January 2018).The four shortlisted artists are **Hurvin Anderson, Andrea Büttner, Lubaina Himid** and **Rosalind Nashashibi** and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Hull on 5 December.

The ***Look Up*** programme of public art installations continues with ***A Hall for Hull*** (1 October - 11 November). The **Royal Institute of British Architects** (RIBA) and Hull 2017, supported by the **British Council** and **Wedge Group Galvanizing Ltd**, have jointly commissioned Chile-based architects **Pezo von Ellrichshausen** and Swiss artist **Felice Varini** to design an ambitious temporary outdoor structure in response to the historic heart of the city. *A Hall for Hull* will transform Trinity Square with sixteen galvanized steel columns arranged in a grid formation in front of Hull Minister to highlight the symmetry of its facade.

Another *Look Up* installation sees a further collaboration with **The Deep**, inspired by Terry Farrell's iconic building (8 - 10 December). Created in response to the architect's vision for this expressive building, this new commission will transform it and the riverside setting, through light, sound and digital media.

Hull 2017 has partnered with international photography co-operative **Magnum Photos**, commissioning **Martin Parr** and **Olivia Arthur** to create the exhibition ***Hull, Portrait of a City*** *for* **Humber Street Gallery** (13 October – 31 December). The exhibition explores the culture and creativity of Hull and the qualities that have made the city stand apart in an unforgettable year of culture. ***Hull, Portrait of a City*** owns the discussion about where, what and how. How might we de ne Hull? How has culture changed our landscape and regenerated our city? What impact has it had on everything from economy to civic pride? How do we record it?

**Jason Bruges Studio,** which has become internationally renowned for producing artistic intervenisions in environments that are innovative installations, and ground breaking work that sits between architecture, site specific art and interaction design, will create a new light art installation that responds to the city's unique geometries and its history in navagation. ***Where Do We Go From Here?*** playfully puts Hull's Old Town under an illuminating microscope, accompanied by new soundscapes, propelling us into Hull's as yet unknown future (December to January 2018).

The dazzling immersive virtual reality experience, ***Colossal Wave*** from VR innovator's Marshmallow Feast comes to Hull as part of the ***Substance*** festival, in a commission with the **British Council**, **Hull 2017** and **Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles**. Virtual reality may appear to be a solitary affair, but this is an immersive experience to be shared with others, as an explosion of colour is created after a real ball is thrown from a great height to create a huge virtual wave (7-10 December).

Other exhibitions include ***An Eyeful of Wry: Government Art Collection*** at **Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull** (20 October – 26 November). From droll 18th century caricatures by James Gillray to satirical prints and Simon Faithfull's video of an impossible journey, explore the relationship between artist as joker and viewer as sharp-eyed observer offering fresh insight into the Government Art Collection. ***Turner and the Whale*** at the **Maritime Museum** unites Hull's own whaling collections with works from JMW Turner, including three rare whaling scenes and one maritime scene on loan from Tate. In partnership with the University of York and Tate, supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund. (7 October – 7 January 2018).

***Square Peg***, ***Artlink****'s* year-long disability and diversity arts programme supported by Hull 2017 presents ***Centre of Attention*** and also hosts Artist in Residence **Jason Wisher-Mills**, will be working with different communities in the city to create a selection of new work, which will form part of his exhibition to be launched in January 2018.

**Theatre and Performance**

Major new work at **Hull Truck Theatre** includes ***The Last Testament of Lillian Bilocca***, written by award-winning actor **Maxine Peake** and directed by **Sarah Frankcom** and **Imogen Knight**, with an original live score by **Adrian McNally** and folk's finest **The Unthanks** (3-18 November). This site-specific production will take you on an unforgettable journey using music, storytelling, movement and performance to celebrate an inspirational period in Hull's history and a force for change that resonated far beyond the city. Audiences will follow Hull hero Lillian Bilocca and her crew of head-scarfed women through The Guildhall, joining them in 1968 as they dare to speak out and take action to improve the safety conditions for their men at sea.

Adapted by award-winning playwright **Tanika Gupta** from the best-selling novel by **Marina Lewycka**, ***A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*** has its world premiere at Hull Truck, directed by **Mark Babych**. This modern family drama tells the story of Nikolai, a retired Ukrainian engineer and tractor historian, his daughters, Vera and Nadezhda, who haven't spoken since the death of their mother, and 36-year-old bombshell Valentina whom Nikolai become instantly besotted with. The sisters unite in horror to defend their father and what remains of his pension. As Valentina's dreams of Western prosperity begin to shatter, things take a darker turn. Nadezhda and her shaken family must face the ghosts of their past, confront their heritage and rediscover relationships (22 September - 14 October).

A major theatrical highlight for 2017 has been **Slung Low**'s year-long epic, ***Flood***, part tree of which was recently shown on BBC Two. This politically charged, hugely ambitious four-part parable for our times concludes with the return of part two and concludes with part four, both staged, against the backdrop of people's homes and the Humber and people in Hull's **Victoria Dock**. *Flood* asks: 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. In ***Flood Part* Four: *New World***the world is begun again, anew. The wave has struck. The world as we know it has ended. Gloriana, the girl from the sea, is missing. Can the shattered survivors of the flood build a new world? For more information and to catch up go to [www.hull2017.co.uk/flood](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/flood) (26 September - 8 October).

***2097: We Made Ourselves Over***, a co-commission between Hull 2017 and **Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017**, from the internationally renowned **Blast Theory**. On 1 October at 2pm, every phone box across the city will ring and you are invited to begin an unforgettable journey into the future. At the end of the line, a voice asks who you are and a character from 2097 asks for your help. Featuring pop-up screenings of new sci-fi films that have been shot in Hull and Aarhus, *2097* is informed and inspired by residents in both cities as well as experts in different fields, including climate change, smart cities and community activism. A brand new app is being launched by Blast Theory, which allows people to have conversations with the rulers of the future hybrid city, Aarhull.

Double Fringe First winners **curious directive** bring their new show ***Frogman*** to Hull in November (1-11 November) as the finale of a nationwide tour. Set on the Great Barrier Reef in 1995, this multi-sensory coming-of-age thriller is a ground-breaking, world-first piece of theatre that fuses live theatre with Mixed Reality and immersive film techniques, blurring the lines between reality and fiction, the physical and the virtual. It is performed to an audience of 30 who are each given a Virtual Reality headset to experience new ways into storytelling in a theatre environment. As coral reefs face extinction by 2057, *Frogman* will enable audiences to experience the reefs in a uniquely immersive way and see the damage taking place with their own eyes. *Frogman* is a co-production from **curious directive**, **Hull 2017**, **The Deep** and **The Old Market**, in association with **Brisbane Powerhouse** and with guidance from T**he Great Barrier Reef Foundation**.

Following their success at the Edinburgh Fringe, Hull 2017 supported productions **Bellow Theatre**'s ***Bare Skin on Briny Waters*** (VENUE 6-7 October) and **Pub Corner Poets**' ***Little Sad Man*** (Hull Truck Theatre, 27-28 October). Hull creative company **Ensemble 52** are bringing the second instalment of this year's always lively ***Heads Up*** theatre festival, with a packed programme that is sure to entertain as well as being thought-provoking (11-22 October).

Other theatre and performance taking place during *Tell the World* includes **Hull New Theatre**'s opening season following its £16 million rebuild, including the **National Theatre** productions of Charlotte Brontë's ***Jane Eyre*** (18-23 September) and Ibsen's ***Hedda Gabler*** (13-18 November); the **Opera North** residency ***The Little Greats*** (26-28 October); **Northern Ballet**'s new ***The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*** (18-21 October); and the world premiere of **John Godber**'s ***The Kings of Hull*** *(27 September to 7 October)*.

**Festivals**

Thought-provoking new festival ***Substance*** (7-10 December) follows in the footsteps of *WOW – Women of the World*, Neu Reekie's *Where Are We Now* and the *Freedom Talks*, to get artists, thinkers, commentators and the general public talking and thinking about key issues of the day. With the acknowledged success of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 locally and nationally, this weekend mixes debate, music, art, film and performance to reflect on the future of Hull and the North as a dynamic creative and cultural powerhouse. ***Substance Future Forum*** (7 December) will bring together a wide and diverse range of cultural influencers including artists, creative industries, businesses, digital pioneers and social commentators.

Celebrating its silver anniversary is the **Hull Jazz Festival** (11 – 18 November) with a special nine day edition. Headlining is Grammy award-winning guitarist **Pat Metheny** in Hull as part of his world tour. Other highlights include **GoGo Penguin** performing their new live score to Godfrey Reggio's acclaimed film ***Koyaanisqatsi***, and many other stars from the jazz world.

**Hull Comedy Festival** (2 – 22 November) rings in a decade of entertaining the city with the laughs coming from **Greg Davies, Katherine Ryan, Ken Dodd** and many more to be announced. And Hull's popular ***Back To Ours*** festival (27 October – 5 November) will entertain the wider community for one last time in October.

**Literature**

Major new poetry and performance festival ***Contains Strong Language*** (28 September - 1 October) will begin on National Poetry Day, bringing 50 events to the city, including spoken word sensations **Kate Tempest** and **John Cooper Clarke**. Celebrating new and existing literary excellence in Hull, the festival features world premieres, special gala readings, events and concerts.

At the heart of ***Contains Strong Language*** is ***The Hull 17***, a collective of 17 artists who will be resident in the city to create new work, including: **Imtiaz Dharker, Kate Fox, Joe Hakim, Harry Giles, Helen Mort, Bohdan Piasecki, Jacob Polley, Louise Wallwein, Fred Voss** and **Dean Wilson.**

***Contains Strong Language***leads into Hull's annual ***Humber Mouth*** literature festival (2 – 8 October) which celebrates 25 years of hosting the authors, poets, spoken word artists and musicians to the city, including the likes of **Will Self, Melvin Bragg, Kathryn Williams & Laura Barnett, Monica Ali, Alex Wheatle** and **Sara Pascoe.** For its 25th anniversary edition, **Humber Mouth** is creating an innovative new digital project ***How Was Your Day***, which will document the daily lives of inhabitants across Hull's twin cities.

Other highlights from **Humber Mouth's** programme include **Neil Astley**, of influential poetry imprint **Bloodaxe Books**, exploring poets from around the globe; and acclaimed author **Laura Barnett** (*Version of Us*) and Mercury-nominated **Kathryn Williams** discussing their innovative collaborative novel and album ***Songs from the Novel Greatest Hits***. **Humber Mouth's** non-fiction line-up will include a panel discussion with the **Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize**; and comedian and writer **Sara Pascoe** will discuss her part-science, part-memoir book ***Animal***.

Part of the new wider **East Riding Lit Up Festival**, ***Out Of This Word***(28 September - 21 October) will celebrate language and literature by inviting leading writers, poets, playwrights, artists and musicians to Hull. Headline minds for ***Out Of This Word*** will include **Cosey Fanni Tutti, Ben Okri** and **Jenny Eclair;** and dramatist **John Godber** and a collection of young playwrights will tour the region's libraries with reinterpretations of local tales in ***DiscovERstories***.

***Hull Noir*** (12 - 19 November) celebrates the best of British and international crime fiction and also hosts the prestigious ***Iceland Noir*** from Reykjavik. Highlighting Hull’s crime fiction heritage from *Get Carter* author Ted Lewis through to the current crop of writers working in the city. Leading writes taking part include **Martina Cole**, **Mark Billingham**, **John Connolly**, **Nick Quantrill** and **Nick Triplow**, whose book ***Getting Carter*** on the life of Ted Lewis has recently been published.

Supported by the **BFI** and **Film Hub North, Hull Independent Cinema** will Hull Noir also features critically acclaimed films ***Get Carter, Point Blank*** and ***Dead Man's Shoes*.** Theatre company **Ensemble 52** also preview**s** writer **David Mark's *Dark Winter*** in a stage adaptation by **Richard Vergette** and **Nick Lane.**

Renowned poet and Yorkshire native **Simon Armitage** (12 December) will round off Hull's literary programme for 2017 with a journey through God's Own Country. Discussing the rich literary heritage and culture of Hull and Yorkshire, Simon will also discuss his latest collection of poetry ***The Unaccompanied.***

The University of Hull's exploration of Philip Larkin's legacy ***Larkin: New Eyes Each Year*** (5 July - 1 October) will continue throughout the autumn.

[**www.hull2017.co.uk**](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/) **/ @2017Hull / #Hull2017**

**ENDS**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017**

**Hull UK City of Culture** 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

**Divided into four seasons**, starting with **Made in Hull**, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have contributed to the development of art and ideas.

Hull 2017's second season, **Roots and Routes** (April to June) explored the city's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city and this season also celebrated Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown. **Freedom** runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, Freedom will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, **Tell the World** will run from October to December.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** – Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** –Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk) Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture