**PART ONE: KEY POINTS**

* Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is an event of national significance, bringing a **365 day programme** of transformative cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world.
* Hull 2017 recently announced the programme for the **first season**, **Made in Hull**, celebrating the unique character of the city, its people, history and heritage, plus **selected highlights** for the rest of the year.

* Hundreds of events and activities across the city throughout year, **everyone has chance to experience or participate.**
* **Hull already a city of culture**. Hull 2017 builds on this, bringing together local talent and artists from across the UK, supporting local events.
* Each of Hull 2017's four seasons has a particular theme inspired by the city and its place in the world: **Made in Hull** (January – March); **Roots & Routes** (April – June); **Freedom** (July – September); and **Tell the World** (October – December).
* **Working with local as well as national artists** to celebrate the culture of the city and its place in the wider context of the North.
* **Young people at its heart**– it is this group who will inherit the longer-term benefits as a result of wide-ranging arts and culture, learning and engagement programme. Learning programme sees over 60,000 children and young people across the city have the opportunity to be involved in Hull 2017. This includes working with artists and writers in schools and as part of community residencies.
* **Up to 4,000 volunteers to provide a warm welcome** and help deliver the year's activities. Aim to create an army of volunteers ready and able to work with other organisations after 2017.
* **Working closely with Hull City Council** (Host City), which is investing millions in the public realm, cultural infrastructure and to ensure a long-lasting cultural legacy for the city.
* **Partnerships** with leading national cultural organisations, public and private funders, trusts and foundations, businesses and individuals to deliver a transformational year in 2017.
* 64 partners signed up, after initial £3.6m council investment; £32m raised to deliver programme. 68 per cent of Hull 2017 funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency.
* **For more information and to sign up for regular updates go to** [**www.hull2017.co.uk/signup**](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/signup). Follow Hull on Twitter - @2017Hull #Hull2017.

**SELECTED HULL 2017 HIGHLIGHTS**

**SEASON ONE – OPENING EVENT**

* The first season, **Made in Hull**, begins on 1 January 2017 with a spectacular, free opening event over seven days.
* Also called Made in Hull, it is curated by the Hull-born, award-winning documentary filmmaker **Sean McAllister**, renowned for thought-provoking work, including the BAFTA nominated 'A Syrian Love Story'.
* **Free, everyone invited**.
* Staged across the city centre, Made in Hull will feature large-scale projections and illumination onto buildings and the historic skyline, moving images and live performance, to tell the story of the last 70 years of the city’s life.
* **First night culminates in fireworks display over the Humber, accompanied by a specially created audio-visual soundtrack**. **Free**, but ticketed. Details about tickets at end of October.
* In the first season and throughout the year Hull 2017 will **showcase local talent and the vibrant cultural life of the city** and the ideas and creativity across the North. This includes working with local artists and supporting key events and festivals that already take place in Hull.

**OTHER KEY SEASON ONE EVENTS INCLUDE:**

* World Premiere of **Richard Bean’s *The Hypocrite***, a co-production with Hull Truck Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company. Selling fast.
* Ziggy Stardust and the **Spiders from Mars** played in its entirety, featuring Tony Visconti and drummer Woody Woodmansey, one of the original Spiders, all of whom came from Hull or nearby. Two dates quickly sold out.
* New pop up **Humber Street Gallery** to host first **Coum Transmissions** retrospective, Hull collective, dubbed 'wreckers of civilisation' in early 70s.
* Reopening of **Ferens Art Gallery** after £4.5m facelift including hosting Turner Prize and showing restored Lorenzetti.
* **WOW Hull** comes to city to mark International Women's Day.
* Celebration of the Hull musical visionary **Basil Kirchin.**

**REST OF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE**

* **John Grant's North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay**, a four day celebration of Nordic music and creativity, underpinning Hull's international links.
* **Opera North** transforming the Humber Bridge into a piece of music.
* **LGBT 50.**

**THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

* **Look up** – 20 artists creating amazing new work in public realm including Michael Pinsky, Nayan Kulkarni, Claire Barber, Bob and Roberta Smith, Sarah Barber, Claire Morgan and Tania Kovats (1 January – 31 December).
* Leading exponents of immersive and site specific performance, including **Slung Low** and **Blast Theory**, changing the way people experience the city with work that takes place outside conventional cultural venues.
* **Turner Prize** at the Ferens.
* PRS Foundation's **New Music Biennial**.
* Great music at **Middleton Hall** and art at **Brynmor Jones Library** at University of Hull.
* Classical, pop and rock, plus comedy and live performance at **City Hall**.

**ACROSS THE CITY**

* A host of cultural events and activities in every corner of city, so that **wherever you live in the city you have the opportunity to take part in Hull 2017**.
* Commissioned artists working in and with local communities, transforming neighbourhoods into places of delight and curiosity, fuelling the imagination and leaving lasting memories.
* During the year, **Back To Ours** bringing performances from artists and companies from around the world directly to the doorstep of communities across Hull.
* 60 original projects, bringing together artists and local people to unleash creativity, funded through the **Creative Communities Programme**.

**PART TWO: HULL 2017 IN DETAIL**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 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.
* Divided into four seasons, this nationally significant event hosted in Hull, draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.
* Each of Hull 2017's four seasons has a particular theme connected to the city and its place in the world: **Made in Hull** (January – March); **Roots & Routes** (April – June); **Freedom** (July – September); and **Tell the World** (October – December).
* The first season, **Made in Hull**, begins on 1 January 2017 with a spectacular, free opening event over seven days. Also called Made in Hull, it is curated by the Hull-born, award-winning documentary filmmaker **Sean McAllister**, renowned for thought-provoking work, including the BAFTA nominated 'A Syrian Love Story'.
* **Staged across the city centre**, Made in Hull will feature large-scale projections and illumination onto buildings and the historic skyline, moving images and live performance, to tell **the story of the last 70 years of the city’s life**. The **first night will culminate in a spectacular fireworks display** over the Humber, accompanied by a specially created audio-visual soundtrack.
* **In the first season and throughout the year Hull 2017 will showcase local talent and the vibrant cultural life of the city** and the ideas and creativity across the North. This includes working with local artists and supporting key events and festivals that already take place in Hull.

**LOCAL TALENT AND EVERY CORNER OF THE CITY**

* There is an extensive programme of community engagement, including specially commissioned cultural events in every neighbourhood across the city and up to 4,000 volunteers will take to the streets to welcome neighbours and visitors.
* Hull 2017 is working with local artists and makers and the other established events that make it a vibrant city for culture, including the multi-arts **Freedom Festival**; the **Humber Street Sesh** day of music; the Ensemble 52 curated **Heads Up Festival**, bringing contemporary theatre**; Assemble Fest**, which brings pop up theatre and performance to Newland Avenue; and the **Humber Mouth** commissioning literature festival.
* Throughout the year, 60 original projects funded through the **Creative Communities Programme** will see artists developing projects alongside local people in the heart of communities across Hull. Inspired by local stories, aimed at inspiring creativity and connectedness, it will lead to a wide variety of new work being produced, from site specific installations, to music and performance, to photography and film.
* **Back To Ours** will bring performances from artists and companies from around the world directly to the doorstep of communities across Hull. This ground-breaking initiative features three affordable multi-artform festivals in three neighbourhoods during half terms through 2017, including comedy, music, circus, theatre, cabaret, dance and film. Working with producers China Plate and in collaboration with Hull venue partners, Back to Ours will come to schools, community centres, social clubs and other locations in the heart of neighbourhoods.
* As part of a legacy programme, over 60,000 children and young people across the city will have the opportunity to be involved in Hull UK City of Culture. This includes working with artists in schools and as part of community residencies.

**WORKING WITH HOST CITY**

**Hull 2017 is working closely with Hull City Council** (Host City), which is investing millions in the public realm, cultural infrastructure and to ensure a long-lasting cultural legacy for the city, as well as supporting variety of cultural activity throughout 2017.

**NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

As host to a major event of national significance, Hull is also welcoming the world. It sees **leading cultural organisations from across the UK joining the city in creative partnerships**, including the Arts Council Collection, the Art Fund, BBC, BFI, British Council, the British Museum, Hallé Orchestra, LIFT, London Sinfonietta, National Gallery, National Galleries of Scotland, National Portrait Gallery, Opera North, PRS, Royal Institute of British Architects, Royal Collection, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Shakespeare Company, Serious, Southbank Centre and Tate.

**FUNDING**

* The Culture Company, which was set up to deliver Hull 2017, is an independent organisation with charitable status, funded both publicly and privately.
* After initial investment of £3.6m from Hull City Council, It has raised £32 million to deliver the programme
* Key funding contributions 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, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.
* 68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency.
* More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement.
* £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

**INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

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). Events throughout the year will celebrate the links.

**PART THREE: SELECTED HULL 2017 HIGHLIGHTS BY ARTFORM**

**Visual Art**

The **Ferens Art Gallery** will reopen in January 2017 with the complete redisplay of the gallery’s outstanding permanent collection, which includes highlights by Frans Hals, Canaletto Henry Moore Barbara Hepworth and Mark Wallinger.

A special highlight will be the unveiling of an outstanding new acquisition, Pietro Lorenzetti’s *Christ Between Saints Paul and Peter* (c.1320), which will be revealed for the first time following four years of extensive conservation and research at the National Gallery, London. The painting is the only fully autograph work by Lorenzetti in a UK collection and was saved for the nation after being acquired using the Ferens Endowment Fund, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Art Fund in 2013.

The National Gallery in London is lending a small group of works by some of the most important masters of the period; Cimabue, Giotto, Duccio and Ugolino di Nerio, works which until now have rarely travelled outside of London. These will feature in a special in focus exhibition will place Lorenzetti’s masterpiece in context with his Sienese contemporaries.

Throughout the year, the collection at the Ferens will be augmented by a number of exceptional loans including two standalone masterpieces: Manet’s *Le Déjeuner sur l’Herbe* from **The** **Courtauld Gallery** andRembrandt’s *The Shipbuilder and his Wife* from the **Royal Collection**, both paintings agreed as part of longer term national partnerships.

Also at the Ferens will be an exhibition of works by the internationally acclaimed sculptor, **Ron Mueck** as part of the ARTIST ROOMS On Tour programme (22 April -13 August) and the first showing of **Spencer Tunick’s** photographs from his 2016 Sea of Hull commission featuring thousands of people wearing nothing but blue body paint in a series of images of the city centre, taken on 9 July.

The **Open Exhibition**, founded in 1967, which showcases the creativity of local artists, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 2017. Judges of this special year include **Dr Gabriel Finaldi**, Director, London’s National Gallery, Hull-born actress, **Maureen Lipman** and the leading sculptor **David Mach** (**20 January – 12 March).**

The gallery will also present a fascinating display including five of **Francis Bacon's ‘***Screaming Popes’* (21 January – 1 May).

In association with Tate, the world-renowned **Turner Prize 2017** will be presented in Hull at the Ferens, the fifth location outside of London to host Europe’s most prestigious contemporary art prize since it was established in 1984.

The **Humber Street Gallery**, a brand new contemporary art space for the city showcasing the best contemporary art, will open in January 2017 in the heart of the city’s Fruit Market cultural quarter. From 3 February – 22 March, it will host the first major show to explore the work and legacy of **COUM Transmissions**, which was founded in Hull by artists **Genesis P-Orridge** and **Cosey Fanni Tutti**, a subversive collective that took the art world by storm in the late 1960s, ahead of their later involvement in the industrial musical collective Throbbing Gristle. Featuring materials drawn from their personal archives and curated by Hull born Cosey Fanni Tutti herself, this first retrospective will also feature musical performances, programmed by respected music website The Quietus, and three works by acclaimed artist **Sarah Lucas**.

***Look Up*** is a year-long programme of newly commissioned works by artists made specifically for Hull’s public spaces. Designed to challenge people’s perceptions of the city and offer different ways to experience the city. Look up aims to intrigue and inspire throughout 2017 and is created in partnership with a range of organisations, including The Deep, GF Smith and RIBA. Commissioned artists include **Michael Pinsky**, **Nayan Kulkarni**, **Claire Barber**, **Bob and Roberta Smith**, **Sarah Barber**, **Claire Morgan** and **Tania Kovats** (1 January – 31 December).

**Nayan Kulkarni** has also been commissioned by Hull City Council to create a series of light installations across the city centre in 2017. The council has also commissioned ***The City Speaks***, a series of installations by artist **Michael Pinsky**, award-winning architects **Tonkin Liu** and Hull poet **Shane Rhodes**, which invite people to contemplate their surroundings and what it means to be made in Hull.

The **Brynmor Jones Library** at the University of Hull will host the exhibition, ***Lines of Thought – Drawing from Michelangelo to Now*** which features extraordinary drawings from the British Museum’s collection, including works by **Dürer**, **Michelangelo**, **Rembrandt**, **Matisse** and **Degas**. Arguably the greatest exhibition of its kind ever presented in the city, the UK tour is generously supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation (3 January – 28 February).

**Theatre and Performance**

One of the highlights of the year is the world premiere of ***The Hypocrite*** by award-winning Hull playwright **Richard Bean** (of *One Man, Two Guvnors* fame). This riotous comedy is inspired by the life of Sir John Hotham, a historic Hull figure, who in 1642 played an important role as Hull became pivotal to the start of the English Civil War. *The Hypocrite* launches an outstanding programme of new ambitious commissions at Hull Truck and is a co-commission and co-production with the Royal Shakespeare Company, which will take it to Stratford afterwards (WorldPremiere : 24 February – 18 March).

Other Hull Truck Theatre highlights include ***Richard III***, a co-production with Northern Broadsides, the unique company founded by **Barrie Rutter**, which staged its first production (of Richard III) twenty five years ago in a boatshed on Hull’s marina (4 –27 May); the world première of ***Mighty Atoms*** by Amanda Whittington directed by Hull Truck Theatre’s Artistic Director **Mark Babych** and inspired by the life of Hull’s original ‘Mighty Atom’, world champion boxer Barbara Buttrick (8 June -1 July). In another world premiere later in the year, for the first time in the main house, Hull Truck’s Youth Theatre will produce playwright **Bryony Lavery’s** newly commissioned script based on Dickens’ ***Our Mutual Friend*** (22-26 August).

**TICKETS FOR THE HYPOCRITE ARE ON SALE AND SELLING WELL**

There will be major new commissions at different points during the year from some of the country's leading exponents of immersive and site specific performance, including **Slung Low** and **Blast Theory**, changing the way people experience the city with work that takes place outside conventional cultural venues.

**Blast Theory**, whose work blurs the boundaries between real and fictional, will be inviting residents and visitors to Hull to re-imagine the city 80 years into the future as part of ***2097:* *We Made Ourselves Over***. Blast Theory have been making interactive artworks for over 25 years, bringing together film, installation, gaming and technology. A partnership with Aarhus, European Capital of Culture 2017.

***Flood***, created by Leeds-based **Slung Low** and written by **James Phillips**, is an epic adventure about the end of our world, set in the future, told in many parts. It is their most ambitious and experimental project to date, mixing live performance, special effects, film and digital elements to tell a story across an entire year.

***Depart*** is a spell-binding performance from internationally acclaimed circus artists **Circa**, in a unique and atmospheric location. Led by **Yaron Lifschitz** with a creative team including the electronic musician Lapalux, this ethereal collaboration brings together acrobats, aerialists, choral singers and video artists for a remarkable performance that has been described as a meditation, as a playground for the soulful. Co-commissioned by LIFT, the National Centre for Circus Arts, Spitalfields Music, Hull 2017, LeftCoast and Brighton Festival. Supported by Arts Council England.

***Weathered Estates***, a contemporary retelling of Euripides’ *Women of Troy*by **Zodwa Nyoni** will be brought to life by Hull-based **The Roaring Girls**, a supported company of Hull Truck Theatre in collaboration with the **University of Hull**. The production, which features playful visuals, music and puppetry, tells the story of four women whose homes are no longer safe places. Directed by **Amy Skinner** (15-18 February).

The **University of Hull** will host the **National Student Drama Festival** for the very first time on its Hull campus. The festival has provided a springboard for thousands of theatre makers since it was founded in 1956 with famous alumni including Simon Russell Beale, Mark Gatiss, Meera Syal, Sir Antony Sher, Caryl Churchill, Ruth Wilson, Ade Edmondson and Sir Richard Eyre (8 – 14 April).

**Music**

***Mind on the Run: The Basil Kirchin Story*** is a fascinating journey through the life and work of Hull born musician **Basil Kirchin**, who has been called the founder of ambient music. The three-day festival at City Hall, features brand new commissions and an all-star line-up of today’s sonic visionaries including **Goldfrapp**’s **Will Gregory with members of the BBC Concert Orchestra,** jazz legend **Evan Parker,** the founder of the Specials **Jerry Dammers**, Hull born Fila Brasilia founder **Steve Cobby** and St Etienne's **Bob Stanley**, plus more to be announced. (**17 – 19 February)**. Presented in partnership with Serious (producers of London Jazz Festival), BBC Radio 3, J-Night (Producers of Hull Jazz Festival), Nova Studios and the University of Hull School of Arts.

**TICKETS FOR MIND ON THE RUN ARE NOW ON SALE.**

**The Spiders from Mars** saw local heroes Mick Ronson, Trevor Bolder and Mick ‘Woody’ Woodmansey join forces with David Bowie to become one of Hull’s most important musical exports. The band Holy Holy, featuring the original Spiders drummer Woody Woodmansey, long-time Bowie collaborator and producer Tony Visconti and Heaven 17’s Glenn Gregory, will perform the first ever live rendition of ***The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust*** ***and The Spiders from Mars*** in its entirety at City Hall (25 March).

**TICKETS FOR SOLD OUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, WITH AN ADDED SECOND DATE SELLING OUT IN AN AHOUR.**

Reflecting Hull's links to northern Europe, acclaimed musician and long-time resident of Reykjavik, **John Grant** has created a brand new festival for the city. ***John Grant’s North Atlantic Flux: Sounds From Smoky Bay*** is a four-day festival at the end of April celebrating contemporary Nordic arts and culture which will take place in venues across the city. (**28 April – 1 May).**

In April, the **Opera North** orchestra and chorus will join forces with acclaimed Norwegian composer **Arve Henrikson** and Hull based sound recordist **Jez Riley French** in a unique musical experiment that will turn the iconic Humber Bridge into an epic musical installation, to be experienced in person as you cross the bridge creating a soundscape unique to you, determined by the route you take and the ever changing climate around you.

### The city is hosting the first part of the New Music Biennial 2017, a PRS for Music Foundation initiative, presented in partnership with Hull 2017, Southbank Centre, BBC Radio 3 and NMC Recordings. It features new commissions and a number of residencies planned throughout the year, and a line-up of acclaimed musicians, including Eliza Carthy, Gavin Bryars, Errolyn Warren, Sam Lee, Anna Meredith, Jocelyn Pook, Mica Levi and Go Go Penguin (1-2 July).

The University of Hull’s **Middleton Hall** has undergone a £9.5 million redevelopment, the centrepiece of which is a 400-seat concert hall for classical and popular music performances, along with a surround-sound cinema. The 2017 programme includes acclaimed classical guitarist **Xuefei Yang** (9 February); the celebrated baritone **Roderick Williams** and renowned pianist **Christopher Glynn** performing Schubert's *Winterreise*; and **Mica Levi** conducting her Bafta nominated score for *Under The Skin*, performed by **London Sinfonietta** (16 February)

Actor **Simon Callow** narrates a family-friendly programme of classical music presented by the **New London Chamber Ensemble**. *Telling Tales: Musical Stories with Narration* features the stories of *Opus Number Zoo*, *Peter & The Wolf* and Martin Butler’s *Dirty Beasts* (24 February).

**Hull Philharmonic Orchestra**’s programme features the world premiere of a new work by one of the UK's most popular contemporary composers, **Karl Jenkins**. The work has been written in celebration of Hull and the City Hall, home of HPO for more than 100 years (25 February).

Other music at City Hall includes the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, who will perform the music of **John Williams**, one of the world's most prolific film composers. With more Oscar nominations than any other living person, Williams has scored more than seventy-five films in his career. The orchestra will perform music from *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *E.T.,* *Harry Potter*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Superman* and many more (2 February).

**TICKETS FOR THE RPO JOHN WILLIAMS CONCERT HAVE ALREADY SOLD OUT.**

**Film**

Oscar-winning director, film and television producer and playwright Anthony Minghella is one of the most famous alumni of the University of Hull. For ***Anthony Minghella: A Retrospective***, which will take place at Middleton Hall, Minghella’s former colleagues at the University will chart his academic career as a lecturer through to his first work in television and theatre. There will be discussions and script readings alongside screenings of Minghella’s award-winning films including *The Talented Mr Ripley*, *The English Patient* and *Cold Mountain* (24-26 January).

Tackling themes such as privacy and communication, ***Digital Dystopias: A Cyber Film Festival***at Middleton Hall will explore what it means to be human in the digital age, screening one film per night over five nights, starting with Alex Garland’s *Ex Machina* (10 – 14 February).

Hull, the birthplace of J. Arthur Rank, who founded the Rank Organisation, will host a major conference, ***Hull: City of Cinema*** at Middleton Hall to explore the contribution of Hull and East Yorkshire to British TV and cinema history. Contributors include Jeremy Thomas, award-winning producer, nephew of Carry On Director Gerald Thomas (24 – 26 March).

The **BFI** is funding ***Transformative Film Culture For Hull***, as part of its National Lottery-funded BFI Film Audience Network and led by its lead partner **BFI Film Hub North**. Delivered by Hull 2017, **Hull Independent Cinema** and a unique partnership of film festival, educational and archive partners from across the north, the film programme will bring a packed programme of more than 400 screenings, one-off events and film festivals throughout the year to Hull and the region. The programme reflects the BFI’s activities across the UK to bring film to audiences where there is less opportunity for them to experience and engage in film and to support localised film networks.

**Festivals**

Hull will be at the forefront of celebrations to mark 50 years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK, joining forces with the amazing **Duckie** team to create **Festival** **LGBT 50**. Incorporating Hull's annual Pride festivities, a live event at City Hall and a choreographic commission working with **Yorkshire Dance**, with people of all ages and abilities invited to dance, in celebration of the city's contribution to liberation, tolerance and emancipation around the world.

Each season will host a themed weekend-long festival of events, debate and live music. The first season sees ***WOW*** (***Women of the World) HULL*** marking **International Women’s Day** ina festival of talks, debates, music, film, comedy, theatre and activism fuelled by the ideas and issues from the city-wide series of Think Ins. ***WOW Hull*** is part of the global movement founded by **Jude Kelly** six years ago at the Southbank Centre working to achieve equality. With over 33 festivals across five continents, WOW is an open and safe place for women, girls, men and boys to inspire, interrogate and bring about necessary and real change. The weekend includes a special concert celebrating the work of Hull-born pianist, composer and conductor pioneer **Ethel Leginska** who will be recognised in the 2017 edition of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Presented in partnership with Southbank Centre. (10 – 12 March)

In June, **Where Are We Now?** will see Neu! Reekie!, Scotland's cutting edge arts collective bring together a unique gathering of rabble rousers, agitators, thinkers and luminaries from Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England to explore the cultural state of the nations . **Freedom Talks** in September, led by the Wilberforce Institute for Slavery and Emancipation, will explore the contemporary legacy of the life and work of Wilberforce and the wider abolitionist movement. In December, Hull will host **Substance,** following a year-long programme of events across the north, in an attempt to explore the cultural soul of the region and the role arts and culture will play as the north rises again.

**BBC** highlights for Hull 2017 will include a major new spoken word and poetry festival called Contains Strong Language. The four day festival will be held in October 2017 and will be a celebration of both new and existing works. A group of 17 poets, the Hull ’17 will be based in the city for the four days of the festival. **CBeebies**, **Northern Ballet** and Hull 2017 will collaborate to create a colourful new interactive ballet based on the book The Great Blueness and Other Predicaments by Arnold Lobel. The ballet will be choreographed with children in mind to create a family friendly and accessible experience for all.

**British Council**, the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, will co-create with Hull 2017, a range of programmes across arts and education during the Freedom and Tell the World seasons.

Throughout the year, **Back To Ours** will bring performances from artists and companies from around the world directly to the doorstep of communities across Hull. This ground-breaking initiative features three affordable multi-artform festivals in three neighbourhoods during half terms through 2017, including comedy, music, circus, theatre, cabaret, dance and film. Working with producers China Plate and in collaboration with Hull venue partners, Back to Ours will come to schools, community centres, social clubs and other locations in the heart of neighbourhoods.

Also taking place across the year, 60 original projects funded through the **Creative Communities Programme** will see artists developing projects alongside local people in the heart of communities across Hull. Inspired by local stories, aimed at inspiring creativity and connectedness, it will lead to a wide variety of new work being produced, from site specific installations, to music and performance, to photography and film.

Hull 2017 will also be working with local artists and makers and the other established events that make it a vibrant city for culture, including the multi-arts **Freedom Festival**; the **Humber Street Sesh** day of music; the Ensemble 52 curated **Heads Up Festival**, bringing contemporary theatre**; Assemble Fest**, which brings pop up theatre and performance to Newland Avenue; and the **Humber Mouth** commissioning literature festival.