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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DARING DOCUMENTARIES TO ‘SHAKE THINGS UP’ IN FESTIVAL**

Rebellion and acts of defiance are coming to the screen as one of Hull’s latest culture instalments.

Hull Independent Cinema is partnering with Hull 2017 to bring another season of documentary films to the city in the lead up to the Where Are We Now? festival.

The summer festival, which is being led by artistic collective, Neu! Reekie!, will see a host of films, performances, exhibitions and workshops invite audiences to question where we stand at a time of political upheaval and uncertainty.

The film screenings feature Oscar nominated I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO, narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, political comedy, WHERE TO INVADE NEXT, and the daring and explicit British drama, CHEMSEX.

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO which kicks off Hull Independent Cinema’s triple screening for the festival, takes a look at the race divide in America. The film has been praised for its up-to-the-minute coverage of #BlackLivesMatter, drawing on the history of the Civil Rights Movement to examine black representation in a country facing challenges for racial equality.

James Russell, Head of Trustees at Hull Independent Cinema, said: “Documentaries play a huge part in society’s understanding of the wider world. We rely on film makers to bring the issues and stories of people everywhere to our attention, and we’re excited to have the opportunity to present some of these to our audiences.

“At Hull Independent Cinema we’ve been fortunate enough to bring some incredibly relevant and thought-provoking films to people over the years. This collection goes a long way to delivering a global agenda to local audiences, and carries a really diverse set of themes perfect for the Where Are We Now? festival.”

The festival comes at a particularly relevant moment in political times, launching just a week before the UK takes to the voting booths for a general election.

XXX, xxxx at Hull 2017, said: “Where Are We Now? is a fantastic illustration of what Hull 2017 is all about. We don’t want people to simply attend events this year, we want them to really engage with what they see and experience too.

“The films which HIC is going to be screening will provide a unique contribution to the festival. Each documentary is completely different and should bring a wide appeal to audiences, whether the themes are familiar to them or raise new ideas to think about.”

Where Are We Now? runs from 2-4 June and hosts a multitude of music, spoken word performances, visual art and DJ sets in a collection of events which promise to ruffle the feathers of audiences and challenge dominant narratives.

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO will be shown at Hull Truck Theatre on 16 May. Tickets can be purchased at hullindependentcinema.com from £6.

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**Notes to Editor:**

The full April – June film programme for Hull Independent Cinema can be found at [www.hullindependentcinema.com](http://www.hullindependentcinema.com)

Hull Independent Cinema (HIC) is a registered charity which works to bring independent, art and world cinema to new audiences. HIC has been screening films in a range of venues across the city since July 2014, and is working towards a long-term goal of creating a new independent cinema in the city. HIC is the key local delivery partner for the Transformative Film Culture for Hull Project.

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 through Hull 2017 and by 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 local film networks and audience initiatives. There will be much to explore, celebrate and enjoy.

Trustees are available for further comment or quote on request. Please contact HIC’s Chair James Russell on 07908 227582 or by emailing james@hullindependentcinema.com for comment.

**Screenings:**

**I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO**

Dir Raoul Peck | 2016 | USA | 93 mins | Cert 12A

16 May, 7:00pm, Hull Truck Theatre

Narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, with unprecedented access to James Baldwin’s original work and flood of rich archival material. The documentary is a journey into black history, that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter.

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO Screening Hosted by:

**Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff, writer, journalist, gal-dem editor**

Charlie works as a freelance journalist as well as helping to edit gal-dem. She's recently finished a Newspaper Journalism MA at City University via the Guardian, and tweets @CharlieBCuff.

**Douglas Field, Co-founding Editor of the James Baldwin Review and author**

Douglas Field is senior lecturer in twentieth century American Literature at the University of Manchester. He is the co-founding editor of the James Baldwin Review & author of several books on Baldwin, including 'All those strangers: the art & lives of James Baldwin' (OUP, 2015).

**WHERE TO INVADE NEXT**

Dir Michael Moore | 2015 | USA | 118 mins | Cert 15

21 May, 3:00pm, Kardomah94

Academy Award®-winning director Michael Moore is back! WHERE TO INVADE NEXT is a provocative and hilarious comedy in which Moore will stop at nothing to figure out how to actually make America great again.

**CHEMSEX**

Dir William Fairman, Max Gogarty | 2015 | UK | 83 mins | Cert 18

27 May, 7:00pm, Kardomah94

In hidden basements, bedrooms and bars across London, CHEMSEX is a documentary that exposes frankly and intimately a dark side to modern gay life. Traversing an underworld of intravenous drug use and weekend-long sex parties, "Chemsex" tells the story of several men struggling to make it out of 'the scene' alive - and one health worker who has made it his mission to save them. While society looks the other way, this powerful and unflinching film uncovers a group of men battling with HIV, drug addiction and finding acceptance in a changing world.