**HULL 2017 - Project Proposal**

**Aim**

To create an exciting outdoor intergenerational community dance piece which forms an integral part of the celebration of the legalisation of homosexuality LGBT 50 event.

**Artistic Proposal**

This proposal is part of a wider programme of activities run by Duckie - Fur Coat No Knickers: A Duckie Summer Tea Party. The proposal is for the dance commission as part of this event, which is to be held on Saturday 29th July.

Yorkshire Dance will work with critically acclaimed Choreographer Gary Clarke as the artistic director of the dance commission. Yorkshire Dance will manage the project including recruitment, devising, rehearsals, production and budget management.

The piece will be about 20-30 minutes in length and have a cast of up to 10 professional dancers and 30-40 non-professional dancers aged 16 +. The community cast will be recruited from the LGBT community in Hull and Yorkshire. The professional dancers will reflect a diversity of gender and racial identities and age.

The piece will be performed in an outdoor space in Victoria Sqaure, around cabaret tables, set in the round. The piece is to be a promenade piece that travels through the space, particularly focusing on the round “circus” at the base of the statue of Victoria.

Dancers will weave in and out of tables accompanied by a live band.

The piece will be rooted in the lives of ordinary working class LGBT people from the North in the past 50 years, it will be relatable from this perspective.  As a starting point, the work will explore same sex couple dancing, intergenerational casting and the post-war austere closet (40s/50s/60s, styling like The Servant), popular culture in the 80s and 90s, political campaigning. The work will be playing with gender: campness & butchness, queerness and strive to reflect a mix of cultural backgrounds and gender identities.

The intergenerational aspect of the work will focus on gathering stories from people on how their lives have changed since the legalisation of homosexuality. We will also reference how dance styles have been influenced and changed over the decades.

The project will be delivered in three distinct phases, building momentum and interest in the work, creating relationships with the LGBT communities of Hull and sustaining interest in the work.

**Phase 1: Research and Development (January – March)**

* Yorkshire Dance, Gary Clarke and TC Howard will conduct research with LGBT communities in Hull and beyond. A series of meeting will be set up with relevant groups and individuals.
* Gary Clare and TC Howard to spend 3 days with the professional company and local artists to develop movement material and workshop content
* Create a database of stakeholders, community leaders, key individuals, existing groups
* Form a focus group, who will inform Phase 2 and 3 of the work. This will be made up of local dance artists, gay activists, leaders of established LGBT groups, young people, people who can influence others to take part/ venues.
* Recruit Hull based Project Coordinator
* Recruit professional dancers
* Design social media recruitment campaign/ call outs

**Phase 2: Recruitment - Events and workshops (March –June)**

* Responding to Phase 1 and the contacts we have created: a series of small social engagement events such as workshops, coffee-mornings, talks etc Specifically targeting diverse aspects of the community such as:
	+ Young people./teenagers/students/young adults
	+ Older people
	+ Immigrant communities
	+ Parents and family members
	+ Gay parents
	+ Employment networks such as ASDA, Humberside Police (do a bit of desk top research here
* A minimum of 10 of these recruitment events to be delivered over this period.

**Phase 3: Making /Production (June/July)**

* The dance commission will be created with the groups over a series of weekends and evening session through June and July
* Gary and team will be in Hull for least three weeks in the run up to the event on the 29th July. During this period, Gary will work with the whole cast to create the work. This will build in it’s intensity as it gets closer to the performance date.
* The aspiration is to make the most of the artists’ presence in the city through open rehearsals, open class, connectivity with Duckie’s presence and activity and community building.

**Indoor Proposal**

It is proposed that the work, will be adaptable to an indoor space should the weather permit this and that a relevant venue is secured in partnership with Hull 2017 and Duckie.