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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 6 July 2017**

**Local teens star in sci-fi films shot in Hull and Denmark**

**Hull becomes a film set as shooting for the 2097: We Made Ourselves Over sci-fi shorts begins.**

If you see a film crew at work in some unusual places and spaces in Hull over the next week, you’ll be witnessing the creation of a futuristic new city: the setting for a series of sci-fi film shorts being screened in October as part of a year-long interactive art project for Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

The films are part of 2097: We Made Ourselves Over, jointly commissioned by Hull 2017 and Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture, in association with KCOM, one of Hull 2017’s Principal Partners.

The year-long projectasks the people of Hull and Aarhus to imagine their cities 80 years from now – the kind of communities they want to live in, how they think challenges such as climate change might impact on them, and the spaces and places they want to see there.

The films will be produced by BAFTA award winning and Oscar-nominated Bridge Way Films and directed by Matt Adams of the four-times BAFTA nominated interactive art pioneers Blast Theory.

Matt said: “We’re creating the hybrid city of Aarhull, where 2097: We Made Ourselves Over, our sci-fi story of survival, unfolds.”

The ideas for the filming locations came from the people of Hull and Aarhus, as a result of an open call earlier this year.

Matt continues: “We had over 30 suggestions in Hull, ranging from disused quarries, to the Humber Bridge and the Saltend Chemical Plant. It really opened our eyes to the astonishing landscape around the city and we've tried to include the diversity of these landscapes around the estuary into the future city.”

Aarhull will be brought to life using state of the art special effects by August VFX which has worked on blockbuster films such as Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation and Terminator Genisys.

An interactive app and the release of the finished films will unite the strands of this wide-reaching arts project and form the basis of a series of free live events in Hull this October, the details of which will be announced later this Summer.

“What I can say,” continues Matt Adams, “is that it will be an unforgettable journey into a possible future world.”

Three young actresses from East Riding will be playing the leading roles in the sci-fi shorts.

16-year-old Roxanne Waite and Alice Malley from Hornsea and 17-year-old Olivia Wilkinson from Skidby were chosen as part of an open casting call held in May. They will play the roles of Hessa, Vidhiya and Catreus: three young women charged with guiding their community through the demolition of the old city and the building of a new one.

Alice said: “I am in utter shock and disbelief that I got offered this role. It’s amazing to be working with such a great team of people.”

Olivia added: “I played Bagheera from The Jungle Book in Year 5 thinking that was the best opportunity I would ever get! The opportunity to have a role in a film doesn’t just strengthen my abilities in acting but also behind the camera too. I never thought this would happen as I am just a girl from a small city that doesn’t hold many opportunities like this so I feel very lucky.”

Once filming in Hull is complete, the trio will travel to Aarhus, Denmark [15-22 July] where the Danish leg of the shoot will take place.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: “City of Culture isn’t just about bringing award-winning performers to the region but also nurturing talent that is already here and providing a stage to showcase that talent. Not only will Roxanne, Alice and Olivia have the opportunity to work with some of the most highly regarded people in the industry but they’ll get to experience culture in another country and have their skills recognised on a global scale.”

Blast Theory kicked off the project last Autumn by interviewing ‘future experts’ – specialists in the study of climate change, technology, community and economics - to explore the possible opportunities and challenges the future might hold for each city.

Then using these conversations as inspiration – which are being released via a monthly blog at [www.wemadeourselvesover.com](http://www.wemadeourselvesover.com) – in December 2016 young people from the city took part in workshops with young people from Aarhus, in which they were challenged to invent a new skyline for the city; re-imagine everyday life and propose new forms of living.

The project will culminate in pop up screenings of the sci-fi films all across Hull – the locations of which will be decided by members of the public – who are invited to tweet their ideas and suggestions to #Its2097 or email [hello@wemadeourselvesover.com](mailto:hello@wemadeourselvesover.com).

Sign up to be the first to find out about film screenings and other exciting ways to get involved at [www.wemadeourselvesover.com](http://www.wemadeourselvesover.com), or follow us via social media @blasttheory #Its2097

2097: We Made Ourselves Over is one of a series of Blast Theory projects presented during 2017 that invite audiences to envision the future of our society as part of a global dialogue in and around our work. Take part online @blasttheory #envisionthefuture

***For further information, interviews and images, please contact Lauren Burrows, Blast Theory Communications Coordinator, on 01273 413455 or at*** [***Lauren@blasttheory.co.uk***](mailto:Lauren@blasttheory.co.uk)***.***

**About Blast Theory**

Blast Theory has been making interactive artworks that invite you to question your place in society for 25 years. Renowned internationally as one of the most adventurous artists’ groups creating groundbreaking new forms of performance and interactive art, the group has created work for the Venice Biennale and Sundance Film Festival. Led by Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj, the group’s work explores the social and political aspects of technology. Drawing on popular culture and games, the work often blurs the boundaries between the real and the fictional.

www.blasttheory.co.uk

@blasttheory

**About 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 made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

Hull 2017’s second season, Roots and Routes, runs from April to June and explore Hull’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; this season of work will also celebrate 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.

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.

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)

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**About Aarhus European Capital of Culture**

Aarhus and the 18 other municipalities in Central Denmark Region celebrate our year as European Capital of Culture in 2017.

The title European Capital of Culture (ECoC) represents one of the most prestigious and prominent cultural events in Europe. Every year, two EU countries are appointed as host countries for the European Capital of Culture. In 2017 Pafos in Cyprus has also been nominated as ECOC. Copenhagen was the first Danish city to host the European Capital of Culture in 1996, and it will be many years before a Danish city can boast the title again.

European Capital of Culture Aarhus 2017 is deeply rooted in strong regional cooperation across the entire region. Royal patronage: HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Official opening: Aarhus, Denmark, Saturday 21st January 2017

www.aarhus2017.dk/en/

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