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| 19.00 doors open | Background music (Spotify playlist)Highlights film in screen plus “This Girl Can” |
| 19.25  | Freedom Chorus on stage |
| 19.30 | WOW event starts with Freedom Chorus “I Can’t Keep Quiet” (dur 3’00”) |
| 19.33 | WOW film – Thinkin Southbank (dur 3’00”)Freedom Chorus leave the stage as the film plays |
| 19.36 | Freedom Chorus leave stage and Martin Green and Kate Fox on stage for WOW Welcome |
| Martin Green (MG) | **Hello and welcome to our Hull 2017 Women of the World Festival. I’m Martin Green the chief executive of the Hull 2017 Culture Company** |
| Kate Fox (KF) | **And I’m Kate Fox, a poet and comedian and I’m delighted to be here in Hull for the city’s first ever WOW festival. WOW is based on the idea that equality is good for everyone. It’s a festival of talks, debates, music, film and comedy. It runs all weekend and we hope you’ll come back tomorrow and Sunday. But for now we’ve got a night of inspirational women lined up for you including Maureen Lipman and Lucy Beaumont in “To Hull and Back” and the extraordinary string quartet BOND.**  |
| MG | **I want to start though by thanking the Freedom Chorus for kicking us off in style. If you didn’t recognise what they were singing it’s a song called “I Can’t Keep Quiet” – it became an anthem for the women’s march in January against Donald Trump which saw millions of men and women across the world take to the streets. Last year when we started out on the WOW journey we could never has predicted any of this, Donald Trump in the White House – nobody believed that would happen. Who would have imagined that gender equality would become such a live issue . As part of our year of culture, we wanted to make moments to reflect and to give people space to debate current issues surrounding our city. It’s been a non-stop year so far in Hull and this WOW weekend is an opportunity to take stock and recognise the achievements of women in Hull. And a chance to ask important questions of our city and our communities – are we achieving and championing equality? Are we raising our children into a social which values equality for all?**  |
| KF | **From an international perspective, now more than ever, it feels like women’s rights are under threat right across the globe and hard won victories for equality are being slowly eroded. Abortion rights have always been a battleground, about of quarter of women in the world still live in countries where there is little access to legal abortions. One of those is our European neighbour, Poland and last year the government proposed legislation that would make abortion completely illegal. It took mass protests and thousands of women going on strike to defeat that plan.****Despite significant progress the world is an increasingly unsafe place for many girls and women. One in three say they’ve experienced some form of physical or sexual violence. Right here in Hull twenty percent of women report they’ve suffered domestic violence.****Women are vilified on social media. Look at Caroline Criado Perez who was in Hull this week for the University’s Mary Wollstonecraft Conference on International Women’s Day. She was repeatedly threatened with rape on twitter - her crime? Suggesting that Jane Austin should be depicted on UK bank notes.** **And women still earn far less than men even though the equal pay act has been around for 45 years. If you are a woman from a black or ethnic minority background then you are likely to earn even less.**  |
| MG(this section times at 3 minutes) | **Like any great festival though, we are here to have fun and to enjoy all the events with a common purpose. Tonight is the start and we hope you will be inspired by the many great stories and ideas that you will experience across the weekend**  |
|  |  |
| 19.42 KF (on stage with MOR) | **Luckily I’ve got somebody with me who knows everything about the festival. Madeleine O’Reilly is the artistic director of Hull’s innovative Assemble Fest and we are very proud that she is also the programmer for WOW Hull.**  |
| MOR | **Hello - I’m Madeleine O’Reilly and I’ve bene working with an amazing team to put this event together. This weekend has been inspired by the people of Hull through the series of Thinkins we held back in October and November. We held sessions in supermarkets, in social clubs and in bars and libraries. We met men and women and they told us what they wanted WOW to be, what they wanted to see and what they wanted to experience. So we have talks on equal pay, women’s leadership in the arts, we look at the impact of domestic violence and consider how unconscious bias dictates our thinking. We welcome the Mighty Atom herself, boxer Barbara Buttrick and look at women in that and other sports. Our own Bee Lady, Jean Bishop joins a panel focusing on the care industry.** **In between there are our WOW BITES, moments of inspiration, conflict and joy.** **And of course there’s always the chance to have some fun with pop up moments of hula hooping, singing and darts whilst your under 10s can become revolutionary makers and feminists. Tomorrow night you can relax with a Mighty Atom cocktail to the unique sounds of Hull’s legendary female DJs tomorrow at Hull Cheese.** **Throughout the festival we have a programme of inspirational film screenings across at VUE, which have been made possible by the BFI. SOLD is an important new film produced by Emma Thompson and Gillian Anderson about child trafficking. We have the first ever feature made by a female Saudi director and five new comedy shorts by British female directors and our finale here in Hull, here in this hall is a special red carpet event and screening of the brand new film, Viceroy’s House accompanied by the film’s director Gurinda Chandh.** **If you haven’t got your Weekend Day Pass already I know you will want to. You can use your ticket from tonight to get your pass at the discounted price of £5 and to make it easy for you we’ve made sure the Box Office is open during the interval.** **We want to thank everyone who’s contributed to the festival and added their voices to the WOW Hull manifesto which we originally created in November. It provided the inspiration for a piece of poetry from Kate Fox. Well today we’ve enjoyed hosting BBC Radio 4.s Women’s Hour at our satellite WOW event with a hundred students at St Mary’s College. And Kate was there for that, so I’m delighted to welcome her back to the stage to perform a new, updated WOW Manifesto.**  |
| KF | **Hull Manifesto** |
| 19.45 MG back on stage and Kate leaves after her poem.  | **Thanks Kate and Madeleine, and it’s time for a unique live performance of Lucy Beaumont’s “To Hull and Back” performed by the original cast including Maureen Lipman, Lucy herself, Norman Lovett, Kerrie Marsh and Sarah Parks. Please welcome them to the stage.**  |
|  | **To Hull and Back****[fade to black and transfer to live camera****Then****Fade to black transfer to WOW holding slide]** |
| 20.15 MG back on stage  | **Ad lib thank you. We’re now going to have a short 20 minute interval just time for a quick wee and even quicker drink at the bar. We’ll see you back here in 20 minutes for the second half of our inspirational Women of the World festival launch when we can look forward to a performance by Bond, with their unique electric take on the classics.**  |
| INTERVAL | **Set Pianoset lectern** |
| 20.35 Errollyn Wallen performs | **[live camera dissolves]** |
| 20.40 Trailblazers films |  |
| 20.43 MC back on stage  | **Thanks to Errollyn for her performance and you’ve just been watching our tribute to Hull’s trailblazers. Let me tell you a bit about why we thought it was important to recognise all of these women. One of the things that can contribute towards women and girls not achieving their potential is a lack of role models, a lack of other women to inspire them. And that’s not because those role models don’t exist it’s because history has largely ignored them. We thought it was time to right that wrong and that’s what the Hull Trailblazers are all about – we uncovered dozens of women who are pioneers, women who dared to challenge the status quo and do things differently. And I’m delighted to say that a handful of those incredible women are here tonight. Please stand up our trailblazers – JEAN BISHOP, BARBARA BUTTRICK, YVONNE BLENKINSOP, NANCY BIRTWHISTLE, KAREN BRIGGS, DIANA JOHNSON MP, ALISON WHITE and VAL WOOD****And I’d also like us to take a moment to remember a trailblazer who we lost this week. Mary Denness, fought for trawler safety in the 1960s and alongside Yvonne Blenkinsop with Lillian Bilocca, and Christine Jensen. Between them those women saved the lives of countless trawlermen.** **We recognise the achievement and difference made by all our Hull Trailblazers. Let’s give them all a big round of applause.**  |
| MG (JP and MG now on stage) | **I’m delighted to welcome Councillor Mary Glew and Lord John Prescott to the stage now to talk about plans to honour another one of the Hull Trailblazers that you’ve just seen in the film – the talented musician Ethel Leginska. (HARD G)** |
| JP | **Thanks Martin. Now if you’ve never heard of Ethel Leginska you’re not alone – she might have been the first woman to conduct some of the world’s greatest orchestras but she’s largely unknown in her home city of Hull. Ethel was born Ethel Liggins in Hull in 1886. Now not only was she born in Hull but she was actually born in Sutton – where I’ve lived for ??? years. I like to pride myself on knowing Sutton and its history but nobody had ever mentioned Ethel to me. So the time has come to finally give Ethel the civil and official recognition that she deserves. And not just Ethel but other women too. Hull City Council has agreed to honour some of the city’s trailblazers not with a blue plaque as happens elsewhere in the country but a cream plaque...cream like the famous Hull phone boxes It’s all the idea of Councillor Mary Glew and I’m going to hand over to Mary to tell you a bit more about the idea.**  |
| Mary G\*\*\*\*are there any more details about the where and when for plaque?\*\*\*\* | **In 2014 I became the one hundredth Lord Mayor for the City of Hull – I took over that title from a woman and when my time in office was over I handed over to another woman. A hundred years ago I wouldn’t have been able to vote let alone become Mayor in my home city. So there has been huge progress but as I look back over our civic history, I don’t see the names of many other women around the city – there’s Alfred Gelder Street, the Ferens Gallery named after Thomas Ferens, Clive Sullivan Way , King Edward Street, Wilberforce Drive and in the past we had the Leo Schultz centre. Now it’s right and proper that these great men should be recognised but women need to take a place alongside them. And that’s why the cream plaques are so important – eventually we will have one hundred of them celebrating the achievements of both women and men. I’m pleased to say that Ethel Leginska will be honoured with a plaque at her home in Sutton.**  |
| KF back on stage | **It’s fantastic to hear that women like Ethel Leginska are going to be officially recognised in the city. And if you want to find out more about Ethel and her music you can do that as part of the WOW festival thanks to the dedicated work of one man, Dr Lee Tsang from Hull University. As well as an exhibition about her life there’s a concert actually featuring Ethel’s own playing. Dr Tsang has digitised her piano rolls to make this happen and he will also be singing while Graziana Pressicce performs some of Ethel’s piano compositions.** **But from classical music we turn now to revolution, I guess Ethel Leginska was a revolutionary of her time so there is a link here. I want to introduce Alinah Azadeh who’s running our revolutionary makers workshops. I’ll let her explain.**  |
| AH \*\*\*\*need Alina’s notes)Kate needs to stay on stage and then Martin joins her\*\*\*\*\*do we need to mention the Thinkins again when Maddy has already covered that?\*\*\*Yes cut Thinkin reference here – not nec.Alinah’s speak to be edited to tighten and shorten – running a bit over here. | **Hello Hull!****I am Alinah Azadeh, and I’m honoured to be the artist leading the Revolutionary Makers project, assisted by Hull Artist Makers Liz Dees, Jess Aylen and Pru Todd, and literally hundreds of people across the city, many of whom may be sitting amongst you!** **This is a project that could only have begun here in Hull, birthplace of resilient, rule breaking, boundary-pushing, humane and socially conscious female activists, creatives and change makers!** **I have researched many of them for this project and been very inspired by them.** **Some of what I am about to say you can read on my giant sash on the pillars outside.** **People across Hull have been working on this project over the last 6 weeks - in public and closed workshops, schools, cafes, universities, community centres, at home, on their own or with family, friends or new acquaintances with a shared purpose ... and its fruits are here, before you - hundreds of wearable pieces crafted in textile, pinned to the columns which run down the sides of this hall. And they will l continue to grow in number throughout this weekend until they are gifted to you the people of Hull on Sunday afternoon!****The seed of the project was inspired by the ground- breaking textile design practice of Shirley Craven of the Hull Revolutionary Traders during the nineteen sixties and also from my own research into the tradition of craftivism - that’s using craft for social and political activism. You can trace it back to at least the suffragette campaigns, where purple , green and white sashes, brooches, badges, bearing powerful and provocative messages became part of an instantly recognisable rallying call for change in the struggle for the vote and other rights, which we are still striving for.****The works you see here have acted and I hope will continue to act- as a device to bring people together, get them making for a cause, reflect individually on what's important to them and how they want to be part of both the conversation this weekend and the broader campaign for gender equality through the city. (This has all been built on the brilliant process that the wow set up across Hull with the series of Think - ins' last year,which you may have been part of, )****I chose craftivism as the shared language for this project because “the creation of things by hand leads to a better understanding of democracy, because it reminds us that we have power.” – that’s from Betsy Greer, who coined the term craftivism.** **The feminist Audre Lorde said : ‘Only one thing is more frightening than speaking your truth, and that is NOT speaking’.** **The ' speaking' of the Revolutionary Makers has happened here through and around materials : quietly, powerfully, in solitary reflection or collectively, as we write, sketch, stitch, sew, knit, crochet, weave and print, making a slow but certain difference.. we value small, creative acts, knowing they create big ripples.** **We confront the often violent and injust world in which we live and use our making to create a new one based on love and care for ourselves and each other. We use our hearts, heads and hands- making things gives us the courage to act differently in the world****So, This project is the 'handmade' part of the WOW campaign and inaugural festival - and my aim was that it would set up a democratic, inclusive and extremely diverse creative platform for whoever wanted to join in** - **and generate cross generational skill-sharing, be fully intersectional and give people a free visual rein within a broad framework of a WOW centred colour palette -so my vision for this space was to come here today and see a sea of red, yellow, black and white, powerful pieces pinned with love and care, made with passionate intention and playful delight, and here it all is!** **There is a whole spectrum of words, quotes and provocations on the work, carefully chosen and finely embedded on each piece - so do take time to read them !so i invite you to take a closer look at the work on the pillars, you have most of the weekend to contribute to it if you wish , through the 4 Rev Makers workshop (state times?) over Saturday and sunday.. whether you have already made a piece and your hands are just itching to keep making ! and your heart and head are responding to what's coming up for you during the festival, or whether you have never touched a needle in your life, we can show you how its done and we invite you to join in.... !** **Also, if you want to me join the open forum on Saturday 3.30 – 4.30 to share and reflect on the impact and value of craftivism as part of social change processes...with your experience on this project as an example, i would love to have you there as part of the discussion, which is what these pieces are designed to create..** **And finally, eye the work carefully and settle on one that speaks to you because on Sunday sometime between 3.30-4pm you will have a chance to unpin it as part of the closing session and take it away as a gift, to be worn as often as you can through the year making you an ambassador for its cause, spirit or message...****Thankyou! Have a great festival !**  |
| MG and KF (Alina has left stage) | **Well we hope you have enjoyed the start of this our first ever WOW festival in Hull.****We hope it’s whetted your appetite for the weekend and inspired to get involved in the festival with some of the fantastic events that we have planned.****We’ll say goodbye and leave you with Bond – Tania Davis, Eos Counsell, Elspeth Hanson and Hull’s very own Gay-Yee Westerhoff.**  |
|  | Dissolve to live camera or BOND graphic TBC |