

BBG CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE

POETRY & PERFORMANCE 28 SEPT - 1 OCT 2017

THE UK'S BIGGEST POETRY AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL COMES TO HULL AS PART OF THE UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017 CELEBRATIONS.
BRINGING OVER 50 EVENTSTO THE CITY OVER 4 DAYS. FIND OUT MORE AND

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT HULL2017.CO.UK

www.bbc.co.uk/containsstronglanguage





INTRODUCTION

Poetry is enjoying a renaissance. From moments of national significance to mainstream advertising, poetry is being chosen to persuade, charm or express outrage, defiance and solidarity. One of the oldest art forms, it is being rediscovered as a versatile, dynamic and powerful mode of expression, enjoyed and created by young and old, on paper, phones and iPads, in digital spaces, on the streets as well as in books and magazines. Our new festival reflects this diversity by providing something for everyone.

Contains Strong Language presents leading local, national, international poets and world class spoken word artists alongside brand new voices. 17 poets will be resident in the city for four days. The Hull '17 are an ensemble of exciting and innovative poets, commissioned to create new work which will be premiered in the city during the festival. We also celebrate Hull's status as a city which has inspired poets in the past, such as *Philip Larkin, Andrew Marvell* and *Stevie Smith*.

Contains Strong Language is the BBC's new national poetry and spoken word festival, with coverage in national and local, radio and TV programmes. It is a partnership between the BBC, Wrecking Ball Press, Humber Mouth, Hull UK City of Culture, The British Council, The Arts Council and a number of other poetry organisations.

Festival Directors

Susan Roberts and Shane Rhodes

THE HULL '17 POETS

RESIDENT IN THE CITY
FOR CONTAINS
STRONG LANGUAGE,
THE HULL '17 WILL
BRING YOU NEW AND
EXISTING POETRY, AND
WILL BE INVOLVED IN
EVENTS THROUGHOUT
THE FESTIVAL.



FRED VOSS

Whilst working as a steel-rule die maker, a steelcutter, and a machinist, Fred Voss wrote novels and poetry. The factory experience became the theme of his writing, granting him a Wormwood Award in 1988.



HELEN MORT

Helen Mort was born in Sheffield. Her first collection 'Division Street' won the Fenton Aldeburgh Prize. Her collection 'No Map Could Show Them' is a PBS Recommendation.



BOHDAN PIASECKI

Bohdan is a Polish poet based in Birmingham. He has taken his poems to venues ranging from an underground Tokyo club to a tramway in Paris. In the UK, he regularly features at the country's most exciting spoken word nights, festivals and readings.



Dean Wilson was a postman for twenty years and is now a security guard as well as Hull's fourth best poet. He has been published in various magazines including Pen Pusher, The North, Smiths Knoll, Pennine Platform, The Slab, Rising, and The Wolf.



HANNAH SILVA

Hannah Silva is a poet, playwright and performer known for her innovative explorations of form, voice and language in performance. She won the Tinniswood Award for Best Radio Drama Script and has been shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award.



HARRY GILES

Harry Giles / Aitch is a Scottish writer and performer. Harry has featured in the SPILL National Platform, toured North America and given feature performances at venues from the Bowery Poetry Club to the Soho Theatre.



IMTIAZ DHARKER

Imtiaz Dharker is a poet, artist and documentary-maker. She was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2014, recipient of the Cholmondeley Award and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.



ISAIAH HULL

Isaiah Hull has supported Kate Tempest, Lemn Sissay, and Skepta at major events for the BBC. He's just 19. The Old Trafford writer and spoken word artist is one of the Roundhouse and BBC Radio 1Xtra's Words First finalists.



JACOB POLLEY

Jacob Polley is the author of four acclaimed poetry collections, *The Brink, Little Gods, The Havocs* and *Jackself.* He received an Eric Gregory Award in 2002. In 2004, Polley was named one of the 'Next Generation' of the best new poets in Britain.



JOE HAKIM

Joe Hakim is a writer, poet, and spoken word performer from Hull. He has had residencies at Contact in Manchester, Birmingham REP, and in London at both the Battersea Arts Centre and the Shunt Vault.



JOELLE TAYLOR

Joelle Taylor is a professional published spoken word artist. She is also the founder and Artistic Director of SLAMbassadors UK. She has performed at a diverse range of high profile venues including Buckingham Palace, the 02 Arena, and Glastonbury Festival.



KATE FOX

Kate Fox has been a stand-up poet for ten years. She is currently making #Lass War on the manheavy Northern Powerhouse. As a stand-up she has been in demand at literature festivals across the country.



KATE TEMPEST

Kate Tempest is a published playwright, novelist, poet and respected recording artist. *Brand New Ancients*, her self-performed epic poem to a live score, won the Ted Hughes prize 2013 and nominated for the 2017 Mercury music prize.



LOUISE WALLWEIN

Louise Wallwein was brought up in 13 different children's homes and wrote her first play at the age of 17. A renowned poet, playwright and filmmaker, her explosive work detonates her audiences' imaginations. She has written numerous plays for BBC Radio.



MICHAEL SYMMONS ROBERTS

Michael Symmons Roberts is an award winning poet and a writer of fiction, libretti and scripts for radio. His poetry has won the Forward, the Costa and The Whitbread poetry Prize. His new collection *Mancunia* is published this year.



VICKY FOSTER

Vicky Foster is a poet and pub singer from Hull. Her first collection, Changing Tides, has just been published by King's England Press. She is the host of Women of Words which is an event for female performers of poetry, prose, drama, and song.



ZENA EDWARDS

Zena Edwards has become known as one the most unique voices of performance poetry to come out of London. She was nominated for the Arts Foundation Award for Performance Poetry 2007 and won the Hidden Creatives Award 2012.

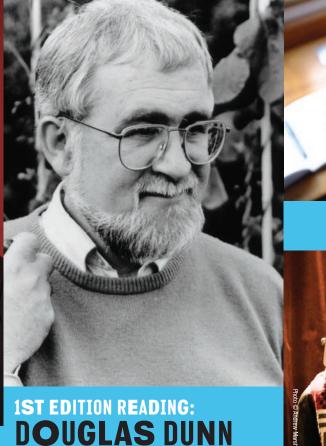


RADIO 3 BREAKFAST

THUR 28 SEPT
HULL UNIVERSITY
THE BRYNMOR JONES LIBRARY
6:00 - 9:00

University Of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX

The BBC Radio 3 Breakfast show comes live from Hull University. Petroc Trelawny opens the Contains Strong Language season on National Poetry Day for the BBC.





Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

11:30 - 12:30

Douglas Dunn opens an exhibition of Hull-related first edition poetry books with a reading from his ground-breaking first collection, *Terry Street*, published in 1967. A graduate of Hull University, Dunn worked in the library with Larkin who became his mentor. Elegies (1985), written in response to the death of his first wife, earned him further critical and popular success.

THUR 28 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 11:00 - 12:00

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG

FREE THINKING

FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Radio 3's Flagship arts and ideas programme Free Thinking discusses the 17th century Hull poet Andrew Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress'. Presenter Matthew Sweet will be joined by Michael Symmons Roberts, Helen Mort and University of Hull academic Stewart Mottram.





THUR 28 SEPT WATERFRONT 12:00 - 17:00

Waterfront (check website for details) FREE ADMISSION

Attachment is a poetic concept, a message in a bottle 2.0. Inspired by the rusty machines of Swiss sculptor Jean Tinguely, the fully automatic poetic machine gives physical form to digital messages. Conceived by Swiss designer David Colombini, the machine allows people to send digital messages, images or videos into the air by attaching them to biodegradable balloons.









RADIO 5 LIVE AFTERNOON EDITION

WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES

THUR 28 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 13:00 - 16:00



The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

BBC Radio 5 Live Broadcast live from Hull College. Sarah Brett talks to Hull '17 poets about their work. With performances, plus a focus on Hull as the City of Culture.

THUR 28 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 14:30 - 15:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

BBC Radio Humberside and BBC Look North are at the heart of the UK City of Culture, broadcasting live every day from the studios in Queen's Gardens.

Listeners to BBC Radio Humberside have been composing 'Poems on a Postcard' about where they live in East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire. Resident 'Landlines' poets Dean Wilson and Vicky Foster perform some of the 2017 poems which will be strung on washing lines to form an art installation in many of the festival locations.

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THUR 28 SEPT KARDOMAH94 17:00 - 18:30

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

This special event split over two nights is a Gala showcase of the work of the Hull '17 Contains Strong Language poets. This is an unbeatable opportunity to hear a diverse range of work from our resident festival writers.





THE VERB 35 YEARS OF SPOKEN WORD

THUR 28 SEPT JUBILEE CHURCH 18:00 - 20:00 RADIO 3

62 King Edward Street, Hull HU1 3SQ FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

lan McMillan presents a special edition of Radio 3's The Verb as we celebrate the story of spoken word in the UK, with Apples and Snakes on their 35th anniversary. Join John Agard, Grace Nichols, Zena Edwards, Joelle Taylor, Dizraeli, Yomi Sode, John Hegley, Hannah Silva, Debris, Chiedu Okara and Ty.



















KATHRYN WILLIAMS

THUR 28 SEPT KARDOMAH94 19:30 - 21:30

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN Tickets: £15.00

A performance from Mercury nominated and critically acclaimed folk artist Kathryn Williams. Kathryn doesn't stick to a tried and tested formula when she writes a new album. She told one interviewer that she wanted to have a career that lasted long enough for her to develop her craft and move through different phases. Eighteen years later, she's certainly achieved that.



THUR 28 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 20:00 - 22:00





The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Coming live from the City of Culture, Jo brings you a special show on National Poetry Day as part of the BBC's Contains

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Strong Language season.



AUDEN

FRI 29 SEPT FRUIT 11:00 - 12:00



62-63 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

W.H Auden in a New Age of Anxiety examines why Auden's poetry still shines through in the 21st century. This film explores the peculiar hold that this angry young man of the 1930s still has on our individual psyches and what he can tell us about the perilous political climate in which we live.



FRI 29 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 11:30 - 12:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

First Edition reading Local Hull writer Kath McKay's poetry plays out the daily tragi-comic dramas of life in a large city. Nothing escapes her: landscapes of canals and parks, head lice and bullying, intermingled with stories of love and death. And the sense of Ireland at the back of it all.



KATE FOX

FRI 29 SEPT KARDOMAH94 12:00 - 12:45

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Kate Fox has made a living as a stand-up poet for ten years. Being funny & Northern is sometimes a help and sometimes a hindrance and she's doing a PhD about why. Sometimes they let her on Radio 4. Her car radio is tuned to Radio 2. She is currently making #Lass War on the manheavy Northern Powerhouse, and blogs at www.katefox.com



THE VERB PRE RECORD



FRI 29 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 11:30 - 12:30

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Ian McMillan presents The Verb, Radio 3's cabaret of the spoken word with a host of International poets from Latvia, America and Poland including Michael Dickman, Bodhan Piasecki, Orbita, and the Trinidad Talking Doorsteps project with Joe Hakim.



FRI 29 SEPT FRUIT 12:30 - 13:30



62-63 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

In 1967 Penguin Books published *The Mersey Sound*, number 10 in the Modern Poets series, by Liverpool poets Roger McGough, Brian Patten and Adrian Henri. It went on to sell over 500,000 copies.

In the same year that The Beatles released Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Liverpool established itself as a focal point in the cultural revolution of the Summer of Love.

This hour-long film for BBC Four celebrates the 50th anniversary of the collection, through the eyes of the two surviving poets, Roger McGough and Brian Patten, and their many followers - from Craig Charles and John Cooper Clarke to Willy Russell and Benjamin Zephaniah.



MEN WHO SLEEP IN CARS



WOMEN OF WORDS

FRI 29 SEPT KARDOMAH94 13:00 - 14:00

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Hull's Women of Words collective join forces with Northern poet Kate Fox to celebrate the voices of the trailblazing women of Hull. From girl groups to girl power, last orders to lass war, boxers to burlesquers, Mums to meat rafflers, natives to newbies, we've gone out and spoken to dozens of women and woven their stories into our stories and the stories of the city. Powerful, funny, poignant, punchy poetry mixed up with a few surprises...

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FRI 29 SEPT FRUIT 14:00 - 15:15

62-63 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Men Who Sleep In Cars by Michael Symmons Roberts is written entirely in verse. Sarah (Maxine Peake) finds the familiar streets of Manchester, a backdrop to the film, difficult to leave. As well as being a love song to a city, the film explores how three men came to sleep in their vehicles, and how their lives, turned upside down for very different reasons, interconnect.

Sarah - Maxine Peake Marley - Nick Haverson Antonio - Cesare Taurasi McCulloch - Rob Edwards Photography - Tim Baxter Directed by Susan Roberts

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BETWEEN

THE EARS

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Hull '17 poets. Helen Mort and Hannah Silva perform two very different new imaginative works which blend adventurous sound and interview with exceptional poetry. Inspired by the life and work of legendary climber Gwen Moffat, Helen Mort will be climbing a route on rock in the Lake District then trying to recreate the experience through language, investigating her theory that a climb is 'a set of instructions for the body.' Can poetry evoke what it's really like to be on the edge? Hannah Silva presents Solitary confinement - described as deep custody, a prison within a prison. Hannah Silva's Solitary is an immersive sound experience of segregation as a woman battles with time.

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POETRY FROM THE POLISH COMMUNITY



FRI 29 SEPT KARDOMAH94 14:30 - 15:00

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Wojciech Cichon, Weronika Lewandowska, and Bohdan Piasecki perform poetry in celebration of Polish culture and heritage here in the UK. This event sees the three poets present their work in varying styles.



BOHDAN PIASECKI

FRI 29 SEPT KARDOMAH94 15:15 - 16:15

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Bohdan Piasecki is a poet from Poland based in Birmingham. He has taken his poems to venues ranging from the upstairs room in an Eastbourne pub to the main stage of the Birmingham Rep. Bohdan will be presenting his work from within the community created at his popup poetry stations from the streets of Hull.

LANGUAGE COMMISSION



THROUGH THE **LENS OF LARKIN**

FRI 29 SEPT **FRUIT** 15:30 - 16:00

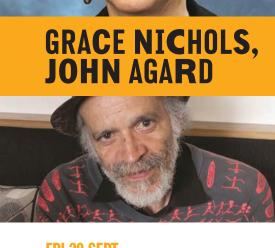
62-63 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Through the Lens of Larkin: poet and Hull University academic John Wedgwood Clarke (Books That Made Britain) will get on his bike and follow in the tyre tracks of the man himself to explore the places and relationships which shaped one of the 20th Century's greatest poets.

RADIO HUMBERSIDE

Keep your ears and eyes peeled for popup performances from established names to open mic events at Radio Humberside across the weekend #Hull17CSL

BBC RADIO HUMBERSIDE



FRI 29 SEPT **HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY** 15:30 - 16:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

John Agard and Grace Nichols are joined by poets from Trinidad to celebrate Caribbean poetry, performance and culture.

John Agard has consistently defied what is expected and established his career as a poet, bringing a uniquely Caribbean voice to our shores to help broaden the horizons of both adults and children. challenging educators to look beyond their narrow frames of reference.

Grace Nichols' work has been central to our understanding of the important cultural Caribbean-British connection for nearly 3 decades.



BLACK ROSES

FRI 29 SEPT **FRUIT** 16:30 - 17:30



62-63 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster. Sophie Lancaster was kicked to death in a Lancashire park in 2007 because of her appearance. Sylvia Lancaster remembers her daughter and the tragic events after the attack as Sophie tells her own story through a sequence of poems written by poet by Simon Armitage. With Rachel Austin and Julie Hesmondhalgh to mark the 10th anniversary of Sophie's death in 2007.







DEAN WILSON & JOELLE TAYLOR



& HARRY GILES

ZENA EDWARDS TALKING **DOORSTEPS** FILMS

INTRODUCED BY JOE HAKIM

LAMANBY

FRI 29 SEPT **HULL COLLEGE** 16:30 - 17:30

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Poet Jacob Polley recovers an extraordinary house of dream-memory through words put to a powerful soundscape, created and performed John Alder. Lamanby movingly explores how we might hold on to what matters ...

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94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Readings from Joelle Taylor, the Artistic Director of SLAMbassadors UK, and Dean Wilson, twenty years a postman and eleven years as Hull's self-proclaimed fourth-best poet. Joelle has performed for the British Council, nationally and internationally, touring numerous countries including Zimbabwe and Botswana. Dean's first collection is out now with Wrecking Ball Press.

FRI 29 SEPT KARDOMAH94 18:00 - 19:30

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Readings from writer and performer Harry Giles, and writer/poet and vocalist Zena Edwards. Harry is from Orkney and has lived on four islands, each larger than the last. Harry trained in Theatre Directing and Sustainable Development and their work generally happens in the crunchy places where performance and politics get muddled up. Zena was raised in Tottenham and has become known as one the most unique voices of performance poetry to come out of London. She won the Hidden Creatives Award 2012.

FRI 29 SEPT **FRUIT** 18:00 - 19:00

62-63 Humber Street, Hull HU1 1TU FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Talking Doorsteps is a spoken word exchange project that explores the idea of "home" by connecting young poets and filmmakers from across the globe and sharing their work digitally with audiences worldwide. For Hull 2017, The Roundhouse, Wrecking Ball Press and the Bocas Lit Fest have teamed up with the British Council and the BBC. Over the course of three workshops in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), Hull (UK) and London (UK), the next generation of spoken word artists from the Caribbean and the UK have developed new work which has been filmed by filmmaker Pippa Riddick. Join us for a screening of the films and insight into the project with Joe Hakim.





TRACEY THORN & BEN WATT IN CONVERSATION



FRI 29 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 18:00 - 19:00

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

The duo chat with Simon Armitage, discussing their songs and books, and their years in Hull where they formed bestselling band Everything But The Girl.



FRONT ROW

FRI 29 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 19:00 - 20:00





The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Join the audience for a live broadcast of Front Row, Radio 4's flagship arts programme, presented by John Wilson and featuring an exuberant mix of interviews, discussion, and performance.

HULL LIMING

FRI 29 SEPT KARDOMAH94 20:00 - 22:00



94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Tilt presents Hull Liming: Where spoken word meets carnival. An evening of performance, spoken word, storytelling, music, drinks and DJs under one roof. Experience the culture, sounds and sensations of Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica and Hull.

FRI 29 SEPT MIDDLETON HALL 20:00 - 22:00

University Of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX

Tickets: £25

Dr John Cooper Clarke shot to prominence in the 1970s as the original 'people's poet'. Since then his career has spanned cultures, audiences, art forms and continents. Today, JCC is as relevant and vibrant as ever, and his influence just as visible on today's pop culture. His latest show is a mix of classic verse, extraordinary new material, hilarious ponderings on modern life, good honest gags, riffs and chat - a chance to witness a living legend at the top of this game. John will appear with Special Guests Toria Garbutt and Mike Garry.

"I say to people, have you heard of John Cooper Clarke and if they say, yes, yeah he's an absolute genius and you just go, 'oh - ok, you've saved me a lot of time" - Steve Coogan







1XTRA/BBC 2 WORDS FIRST

FRI 29 SEPT BONGO BONGO 20:00 - 22:00

Malton Street, Hull HU9 1BY

FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

BBC 1Xtra bring their Words First poets to Hull to celebrate the musical lyricism at the heart of the station's identity. Bashy's controversial Black Boys is fundamental to 1Xtra's history, and now we revisit the track through spoken word. The night features original work from Isaiah Hull, Asma Elbadawi, Solomon O.B., Amina Jama, Reuben Fields and Liam McCormick, plus live music from the freshest talent including Hull's very own Chiedu Oraka. Presented by 1Xtra's Mim Shaikh. The event will be broadcast on BBC2 on Saturday 30th Sept and will be presented by Kate Tempest.



VERB LIVE RADIO 3



FRI 29 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 22:00 - 22:45

Etra

TWO



The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

lan McMillan presents Radio 3's The Verb broadcasting live from Hull with a look at the poetry inspired by the city including the 2017 new 'washing line' poems with Dean Wilson and Vicky Foster, Imtiaz Dharker's piece for JoinedUp dance company, and Rachael Allen on Larkin.

CHILDRENS POETRY WORKSHOP

SAT 30 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 10:00 - 11:00

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Calling all young budding poets! A chance for you to get involved with the poetry festival. This workshop will help get your imaginations pumping and your words popping and is an opportunity to try out some word shapes and develop your creativity. Age 6 +

TALKING DOORSTEPS

SAT 30 SEPT KARDOMAH94 11:30 - 12:15

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Join us for a high energy showcase of poetry, in Partnership with The British Council and The Round House. Ideas and social activism featuring performances from Deborah Stevenson, Joe Hakim and Chiedu Orakld.





1ST EDITION READING: SEAN O'BRIEN

SAT 30 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 11:30 - 12:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

A First Edition poetry reading. Sean O'Brien returns to the city he grew up in - Hull. He has won many major prizes including the Cholmondeley Award, the Somerset Maugham award, the E.M. Forster Award and the Forward Prize for Best Collection. His latest collection, *The Beautiful Librarians* is a bleak and comic lament for lost England. He is also the editor of The Firebox, an acclaimed anthology of post-war UK poetry. He is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Newcastle and the author of literary criticism and journalism for several newspapers and journals.



GLUE LOUISE WALLWEIN





The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

A one-woman show mixing monologue, live art and a sound score. *Glue* tells the true story of Louise Wallwein and her first two meetings with her birth mother, three decades after being put up for adoption. The audience is invited to share a very private first reunion, but also the subsequent more public second meeting.



SAT 30 SEPT

13:30 - 14:30

HULL COLLEGE





SAT 30 SEPT KARDOMAH94 12:30 - 14:00

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Readings from the award winning Michael Dickman and Jacob Polley. Michael is the author of three books of poems, as well as a book of plays co-written with his twin brother Matthew. He currently teaches at Princeton University, New Jersey.

Jacob Polley is the author of four acclaimed poetry collections, including the T.S. Eliot Prize-winning *Jackself*. Born in Cumbria, he now lives and works in Newcastle.



HULL A CITY OF POETS, IN ITS OWN WORDS

SAT 30 SEPT JUBILEE CHURCH 13:00 - 14:30



62 King Edward Street, Hull HU1 3SQ FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

From Larkin and Stevie Smith to Andrew Marvell and Andrew Motion, from loved classics to contemporary observations. A unique opportunity to hear renowned actors read poems by Hull poets. Presented by Lindsay Chapman.



BBC WRITERSROOM



SAT 30 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 13:30 - 14:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Join the BBC Writersroom panel of Award-winning poets, Simon Armitage, Michael Symmons Roberts and Hannah Silva, as they discuss writing poetry vs. drama. This is a unique opportunity to hear about some of their critically acclaimed work across Radio, TV, Stage and Film, what's involved in the development and writing process of poetry and scripted drama, and how they traverse across several media.



POETRY PICNIC POETRY TAKE AWAY FRED VOSS

SAT 30 SEPT QUEENS GARDENS 13:30 - 17:00

Queens Gardens, Hull FREE ADMISSION



An afternoon of fun for the family. Involving workshops and the poetry takeaway and a performance from Fred Voss. Our talented team of poet chefs will carefully craft a free personalised poem for you, perform it and wrap it up to take away.

"We guarantee tears, laughter and everything in between"

"Everything prepared fresh on the premises"

"No such thing as free lunch? There is from The Poetry Take Away"

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HULL RISES

SAT 30 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 10:00 - 12:30 13:00 - 15:30

Hull School of Art and Design, Queens Gardens, Wilberforce Drive, Hull HU1 3DG

FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Meet at entrance to Main Tower Block

Ever been knocked back and risen again? Did you know the work 'Lord' derives from the Anglo Saxon for 'Loaf Protector'. In these bread-making and creative-writing workshops led by poet John Wedgwood Clarke, we'll explore what this simple foodstuff can tell us about who we are. Come prepared to get floury and share both crust, crumb and word.

Visual artist Laura Wilson, commissioned by Invisible Dust to make a new breadinspired piece for their Surroundings project, will be in residence 11:00 -15:00 at the Art Gallery, Hull School of Art and Design.

A University of Hull and Hull UK City of Culture 2017 project in partnership with Invisible Dust and Hull Culture and Leisure.



MISGUIDED TOUR

SAT 30 SEPT STARTS AT JUBILEE CHURCH ENDS AT KARDOMAH94 14:30 - 16:15

62 King Edward Street, Hull HU1 3SQ FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Richard Tyrone Jones, 'ringmaster of spoken word' at the Edinburgh Fringe, brings his infamous Misguided cultural tour to Hull: a city-centre walk featuring fun, facts, and frivolous fiction - but can you tell which is which? Starring local poets David Osgerby, Robert Eunson and Vicky Foster.



IMTIAZ DHARKER THIS TIDE OF HUMBER

SAT 30 SEPT HULL COLLEGE 15:15 - 15:45 16:30 - 17:00

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

JoinedUp Dance Company present a new piece of contemporary dance inspired by Imtiaz Dharker's specially commissioned poem *This Tide of Humber*. *This Tide of Humber* captures the inexplicable pull of a city where dislocation and separation mix with images of water and sky to create a unique sense of place. Imtiaz Dharker's wonderful evocation of the city of Hull and the River Humber is interpreted by JoinedUp Dance Company to create a wistful, enigmatic performance piece with an original score by composer Joe Roper.





BBC WRITERSROOM TOP TIPS



SAT 30 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 15:15 - 16:15

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Ever wondered how to get noticed by the BBC? How to send your script and what happens when you do? How do they assess your work? What grabs them and what puts them off? If you're after some tips, this is a session not to be missed.



ORBITA

SAT 30 SEPT KARDOMAH94 16:30 - 17:30

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Orbita is a creative collective of Latvian poets writing in Russian whose works are dedicated to dialogue between various creative genres and cultures. Since 1999 Orbita has published a number of almanacs in which literary works appear side by side with works of visual art. Orbita has created several multi-media poetry videos, performances and installations; produced a number of bilingual (Russian-Latvian) poetry collections and 3D poetry works. Part of the European Writers' Tour 2017, supported by EUNIC, the European Commission and in partnership with The Royal Society of Literature.



NEW VOICES



SAT 30 SEPT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 18:00 - 19:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

This open mic event will feature the BBC Radio 3's Verb New Voices. It is a chance for anyone to get up and share their poetry with a wider audience - whether it is the first time you have presented your work or just another opportunity to shine, this event is for you.







ISAIAH HULL

SAT 30 SEPT KARDOMAH94 18:00 - 20:00

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

In the last year alone, Isaiah Hull has supported Kate Tempest, Lemn Sissay and Skepta at major events for the BBC. And he's just 19. Inspired by poet Saul Williams, author Philip Larkin and classical Greek tragedies, the Old Trafford writer and spoken word artist is one of the Roundhouse and BBC Radio 1Xtra's Words First finalists. He is a member of the young writers collective Young Identity.



20:00 - 21:00

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Be in the audience for a live Radio 4 broadcast.

From Larkin and Stevie Smith to Andrew Marvell and Andrew Motion, from loved classics to contemporary observations. A unique opportunity to hear renowned actors read poems by Hull poets. Presented by Lindsay Chapman.











6 MUSIC CERYS MATTHEWS

SUN 1 OCT HULL COLLEGE 10:00 - 13:00

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

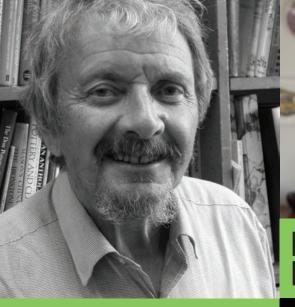
Cerys Matthews draws on her eclectic music tastes to bring you the best in spoken word and performance poetry. This brings an exciting conclusion to the BBC's live broadcasts from the Contains Strong Language Season.



SUN 1 OCT KARDOMAH94 11:00 - 12:00

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Imtiaz Dharker is a poet, artist and documentary-maker. She was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2014, recipient of the Cholmondeley Award and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her poems are also featured on the British GCSE syllabus and A Level English syllabus.



1ST EDITIONS READING: PETER DIDSBURY

SUN 1 OCT Hull Central Library 11:30 - 12:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Peter Didsbury will be undertaking a poetry reading from some of the British Library archive of first edition poetry books. Peter was born in Fleetwood, Lancashire, but moved to Hull as a child. He was educated at Hull and Oxford and has worked as an archaeologist. His work follows a quirkier and more philosophical style than that of his contemporaries, and has been a potent influence on younger Hull poets. His Scenes from a Long Sleep: New and Collected Poems was published in 2003.



PANSY BOY & LOUISE WALLWEIN







94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Pansy Boy is a creative extension of Paul Harfleet's on-going artwork, The Pansy Project. He has been planting pansies at the site of homophobia since 2005. The Pansy Project has featured in many exhibitions and festivals around the world. Notably his Pansy Project Garden won a gold medal at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 2010. Paul will be joined by Hull '17 poet Louise Wallwein.

SUN 1 OCT HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY 14:00 - 16:00

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed) 18+

Scratch clubs are safe spaces where performance poets at any stage of their career can get together to try out new material and receive peer feedback. Scratch Hull will be facilitated by Apples and Snakes producer Kirsten Luckins, but will only flourish thanks to the generosity of participating Hull poets sharing their skills, experience and supportive critique.





SUN 1 OCT KARDOMAH94 14:30 - 15:45

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Readings from Fenton Aldeburgh Prizewinner Helen Mort and Whitbread Poetry Award winner Michael Symmons Roberts. As well as poetry Helen also writes creative non-fiction and is working on her first novel. Michael has published two novels, and is Professor of Poetry at Manchester Metropolitan University.



HULL 17 GALA PART 2

SUN 1 OCT HULL COLLEGE 14:30 - 16:00

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

This special event split over two nights is a Gala showcase of the work of the Hull '17 Contains Strong Language poets. This is an unbeatable opportunity to hear a diverse range of work from our resident festival writers.

HANNAH SILVA & VICKY FOSTER

SUN 1 OCT KARDOMAH94 16:00 - 17:15

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Readings from Hannah Silva and Vicky Foster. Hannah is known for her innovative explorations of form, voice and language in performance and has been shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award. Vicky hosts Women of Words; an event for female performers of poetry, prose, drama and song, and is the founder of Trinity Hub.

MATT CALEY & BRENDAN CLEARY

SUN 1 OCT KARDOMAH94 17:30 - 18:45

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

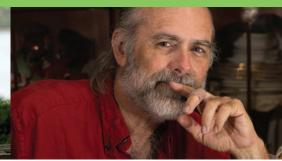
Readings from acclaimed poets Brendan Cleary and Matthew Caley. Originally from County Antrim, Brendan has published many collections from a variety of presses. He currently lives and writes in Brighton, and edits *The Echo Room*. Matthew's first collection *Thirst* was shortlisted for the Forward Prize, and he has been commended in the National Poetry Competition on multiple occasions.



LARKIN REFLECTIONS



WILLIAM LETFORD & FRED VOSS



SUN 1 OCT MIDDLETON HALL 18:00 - 20:00

University Of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX TICKETS: £20

Roger and Brian's new show with Walter, Steve & Chris of LiTTLe MACHiNe features a fine selection of vintage, classic & surprising poems set to music. It's a gala gig that's making waves! 2017 sees them celebrating the 50th anniversary of the iconic & top-selling *Penguin Modern Poets No.10: The Mersey Sound*, which they shared with the much missed Adrian Henri.

SUN 1 OCT KARDOMAH94 19:00 - 20:30

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Readings from Fred Voss and William Letford. After dropping out of an UCLA Ph.D programme, Fred worked as a busboy, a steelcutter and a machinist. The factory experience became the theme of his writing. William has taken part in translation projects through Lebanon, Iraq, and Palestine, and has completed successful residencies in Haileybury Imperial Service College and the Burns House Museum.



THE UNTHANKS HOW THE WIND BLOWS

SUN 1 OCT JUBILEE CHURCH 20:30 - 23:30

62 King Edward Street, Hull HU1 3SQ Tickets: £25

Performing the Songs and Poems of Molly Drake

A wistful mother makes some simple home recordings in her family sitting room during the 1950s. Little could she have known that more than sixty years later, the dust would be blown off her song collection, firstly in 2013 with the release of her own recordings, and now by The Unthanks, who believe her work is extraordinary enough to rank alongside and independently of her brilliant son, Nick Drake.

The tour will be an audio visual work featuring live performance by The Unthanks, film footage of Molly Drake, a set depicting her living room in abstract fashion, and spoken word pre-recorded by Molly's daughter, actress Gabrielle Drake. In some cases, The Unthanks in characteristically adventurous style, have drifted considerably from the ornamentations and voicings of the original songs, and at other points have yielded more faithfully. At the core in both cases lie the emotive sentiments of a unique and unheralded woman.

"The Unthanks are capable of such beauty that sometimes I can hardly bear to listen to them. And sometimes, when I know I need it, I'll listen to them to open me up and clean me out." Martin Freeman

EDUCATION



FIRST STORY

FRI 29 SEPT MIDDLETON HALL 10:30 - 17:00

University Of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX INVITE ONLY

THUR 28 SEPT MIDDLETON HALL 09:00 - 12:00 13:00 - 16:00

University Of Hull, Cottingham Road, Hull HU6 7RX INVITE ONLY

The BBC invites schools from the city of Hull and surrounding areas to join a GCSE poetry reading and discussion session. Poets on the current syllabus - Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker and Daljit Nagra, offer young people the chance to gain first-hand knowledge about their poems. Chaired by Chief Examiner Tony Childs.

First Story's Young Writers' Festival is heading to the north for the first time, to the University of Hull on Friday 29th September. Over 400 students from First Story schools in Hull, the Humber, Yorkshire and the Fast Midlands will participate in a full day of intimate writing sessions, energy-fuelled poetry slams and writer talks featuring a host of acclaimed writers, each one bringing their own personality and imagination to the mix. Young writers will have the chance to share the stage reading their own work. First Story believes that writing can transform lives, and that there is dignity and power in every young person's story. For more information about First Story's work and to become a part of the programme, visit www.firststorv.org.uk

CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE DIARY

| DATE | EVENT | VENUE | TIME | PAGE |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------|
| THUR 28 SEPT | RADIO 3 BREAKFAST | HULL UNIVERSITY | 06:00 - 09:00 | 6 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | 1ST EDITION READING: DOUGLAS DUNN | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 11:30 - 12:30 | 6 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | FREE THINKING | HULL COLLEGE | 11:00 - 12:00 | 7 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | ATTACHMENT | OUTDOOR SPACES | 12:00 - 17:00 | 7 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | RADIO 5 LIVE: AFTERNOON EDITION | HULL COLLEGE | 13:00 - 16:00 | 8 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | LANDLINES | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 14:30 - 15:30 | 8 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | HULL 17 GALA LAUNCH | KARDOMAH94 | 17:00 - 18:30 | 9 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | THE VERB - 35 YEARS OF SPOKEN WORD | JUBILEE CHURCH | 18:00 - 20:00 | 10 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | KATHRYN WILLIAMS | KARDOMAH94 | 19:30 - 21:30 | 11 |
| THUR 28 SEPT | JO WHILEY | HULL COLLEGE | 20:00 - 22:00 | 11 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | BBC 2 PROGRAMME ON AUDEN | FRUIT | 11:00 - 12:00 | 12 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | 1ST EDITIONS READING: KATH MCKAY | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 11:30 - 12:30 | 12 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | KATE FOX | KARDOMAH94 | 12:00 - 12:45 | 12 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | THE VERB - PRE RECORD | HULL COLLEGE | 11:30 - 12:30 | 13 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | MERSEY BEAT POETRY MOVEMENT BBC FOUR | FRUIT | 12:30 - 13:30 | 13 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | WOMEN OF WORDS | KARDOMAH94 | 13:00 - 14:00 | 14 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | MEN WHO SLEEP IN CARS | FRUIT | 14:00 - 15:15 | 14 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | BETWEEN THE EARS | HULL COLLEGE | 14:00 - 15:00 | 15 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | POETRY FROM THE POLISH COMMUNITY | KARDOMAH94 | 14:30 - 15:00 | 15 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | BOHDAN PIASECKI | KARDOMAH94 | 15:15 - 16:15 | 16 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | THROUGH THE LENS OF LARKIN | FRUIT | 15:30 - 16:00 | 16 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | GRACE NICHOLS, JOHN AGARD | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 15:30 - 16:30 | 17 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | BLACK ROSES | FRUIT | 16:30 - 17:30 | 17 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | LAMANBY | HULL COLLEGE | 16:30 - 17:30 | 18 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | DEAN WILSON AND JOELLE TAYLOR | KARDOMAH94 | 16.30 - 17.45 | 18 |

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| FRI 29 SEPT | TALKING DOORSTEPS | FRUIT | 18:00 - 19:00 | 19 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | TRACEY THORN & BEN WATT | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 18:00 -19:00 | 20 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | FRONT ROW | HULL COLLEGE | 19:00 - 20:00 | 20 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | HULL LIMING | KARDOMAH94 | 20:00 - 22:00 | 20 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE + GUESTS | MIDDLETON HALL | 20:00 - 22:00 | 21 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | 1XTRA/BBC 2 EVENT | BONGO BONGO | 20:00 - 22:00 | 22 |
| FRI 29 SEPT | VERB LIVE RADIO 3 | HULL COLLEGE | 22:00 - 22:45 | 22 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | CHILDREN'S POETRY WORKSHOP | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 10:00 - 11:00 | 23 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | TALKING DOORSTEPS | KARDOMAH94 | 11:30 - 12:15 | 23 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | 1ST EDITIONS READING - SEAN O'BRIEN | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 11:30 - 12:30 | 23 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | GLUE - LOUISE WALLWIEN | HULL COLLEGE | 13:30 - 14:30 | 24 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | JACOB POLLEY & MICHAEL DICKMAN | KARDOMAH94 | 12:30 - 14:00 | 24 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | HULL - A CITY OF POETS, IN ITS OWN WORDS | JUBILEE CHURCH | 13:00 - 14:30 | 25 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | BBC WRITERS' ROOM | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 13:30 - 14:30 | 25 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | POETRY PICNIC - POETRY TAKE AWAY | OUTDOOR SPACES | 13:30 - 17:00 | 26 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | HULL RISES | HULL COLLEGE | 10:00 - 12:30 13:00 - 15:30 | 27 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | MISGUIDED TOUR | SEE DETAILS | 14:30 - 16:15 | 27 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | IMTIAZ DHARKER - THIS TIDE OF HUMBER | HULL COLLEGE | 15:15 - 15:45 16:30 - 17:00 | 28 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | BBC WRITERS' ROOM TOP TIPS | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 15:15 - 16:15 | 28 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | ORBITA | KARDOMAH94 | 16.30 - 17.30 | 29 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | NEW VOICES | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 18:00 - 19:30 | 29 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | BBC RADIO 3 PHILHARMONIC A CLOCKWORK ORANGE | MIDDLETON HALL | 18:30 - 20:30 | 30 |
| SAT 30 SEPT | ISAIAH HULL | KARDOMAH94 | 18:00 - 20:00 | 31 |

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| SUN 1 OCT | IMTIAZ DHARKER | KARDOMAH94 | 11:00 - 12:00 | 33 |
| SUN 1 OCT | 1ST EDITIONS READING - PETER DIDSBURY | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 11:30 - 12:30 | 34 |
| SUN 1 OCT | PANSY BOY & LOUISE WALLWEIN | KARDOMAH94 | 12:15 - 14:00 | 34 |
| SUN 1 OCT | SCRATCH WORKSHOP | HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY | 14:00 - 16:00 | 35 |
| SUN 1 OCT | HELEN MORT & Michael Symmons Roberts | KARDOMAH94 | 14:30 - 15:45 | 35 |
| SUN 1 OCT | HULL 17 GALA - PART 2 | HULL COLLEGE | 14:30 - 16:00 | 36 |
| SUN 1 OCT | HANNAH SILVA & VICKY FOSTER | KARDOMAH94 | 16:00 - 17:15 | 36 |
| SUN 1 OCT | MATT CALEY & BRENDAN CLEARY | KARDOMAH94 | 17:30 - 18:45 | 36 |
| SUN 1 OCT | LARKIN REFLECTIONS | MIDDLETON HALL | 18:00 - 20:00 | 37 |
| SUN 1 OCT | WILLIAM LETFORD & FRED VOSS | KARDOMAH94 | 19:00 - 20:30 | 37 |
| SUN 1 OCT | THE UNTHANKS | JUBILEE CHURCH | 20:30 - 23:30 | 38 |

FUNDED BY









OUR PARTNERS



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VENUES

- **HULL COLLEGE**
- **HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY**
- KARDOMAH94

- 4 FRUIT
- 5 JUBILEE CHURCH
- 6 HULL MINSTER
- **HULL UNIVERSITY**
- **8** BONG BONGO
- 9 RADIO HUMBERSIDE