**Hull 2017 – Return To Vegas**

A proposal for a new musical created from an idea by Roland Gift

**Background**

Return to Vegas is a new musical with book and music by Roland Gift.

The work currently contains around a dozen new tracks which will be sung live as part of the show but may also be released separately as an album sung by Roland. Extant music by Roland may also be included.

The proposal is to take this concept and work it up to first ‘try-out’ production at a site specific venue in Hull as part of the programme for Hull 2017 UK City of Culture.

The work itself is predominantly set in an old Hull nite club called ‘The Welly’ and the proposal is to use this atmospheric and working club as the venue for the production, which will create a ‘real’ environment whilst at the same time providing an interesting dynamic for the musical itself.

The musical centres around ‘Jonny’, a musical star for a small time, who has been unable to handle the fame and ended up in prison for x before returning home for the funeral of his adoptive father. This story represents a painfully plausible alternative reality for Roland, which fortunately didn’t, but could have happened.

The next stage of development for this project is to develop the book and music, identify key creative team collaborators for some R&D and work the project up to the point of a first ‘try out’ staging at The Welly. The aim would be to create a work which is rounded and effective and which could be further worked up to a full scale musical production to tour the UK and beyond. To this end we may invite possible commercial partners to see the work and take on the future development beyond Hull.

**Development**

At the start of November, Roland Gift met with Writer / Director Bob Carlton to discuss the project.

Mindful of the parameters detailed below, Hull 2017 proposes to engage Bob Carlton to develop a treatment for the book. The expectation is for Bob Carlton to deliver a revised approach to the script; a new shape with ‘unit’ breakdown; 2 – 3 sample scenes; details of essential production elements required.

The treatment would be reviewed by Roland Gift and by Hull 2017. If all parties are in agreement of the treatment, the potential production scope and appropriate resources identified, the hope and expectation would be for Hull 2017 to move forward to create a formal collaboration and commission the artists.

**First ‘try-out’ Production Parameters**

Cast Size 6

Live Band 4/5

To be staged ‘site-specific’ in Hull with minimal physical production.

**Time Line**

Autumn 2015 Initial meetings with potential creative collaborators

Winter 2015 Treatment & site specific research

Jan - Spring 2016 Further development and dramaturgy

Summer 2016 Rehearsed reading/workshop (with invited audience?)

Spring 2017 Potential Performances as part of Roots and Routes

(April – June)