

Press Release
4 May 2017

The Floating Cinema returns 1 July 2017 with *'In Dialogue'*

Featuring *On the Bench*

A new commission by artist Harry Meadley

- For the final season of *The Floating Cinema* UP Projects are foregrounding an ambitious new commission by Leeds based artist Harry Meadley
- Eight-stop tour across Yorkshire's waterways
- *The Floating Cinema* will host an evening programme of independent feature films that complements the themes in Meadley's new commission
- Part of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 'Freedom Season'
- Part of the BFI Transformative Film Culture for Hull project as part of its National Lottery-funded BFI Film Audience Network

Launch: 1 July 2017 at Victoria Quays, Sheffield Canal Basin, Sheffield

Feature Film programme finale: 10th August 2017 (at Hull Marina)

The Floating Cinema last day at Hull Marina: 13th August 2017

London, 4 May 2017: UP Projects announced details today of *On the Bench*; a new commission by Harry Meadley for this year's *The Floating Cinema* programme, that will tour Yorkshire's waterways to eight different locations: Sheffield, Rotherham, Swinton, Doncaster, Thorne, Goole, South Ferriby, and Hull between 1 July - 13 August 2017.

Composed of a series of eight short films, this context-specific artwork spotlights the nuances and creative diversity of South and East Yorkshire. Developed and created with participants living or working in the eight locations where *The Floating Cinema* will present its programme, *On the Bench* features interviews with individuals who articulate how these places influence and inspire them.

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At each tour stop, one or more of Meadley's episodes will be released, either through outdoor canal-side screenings or via intimate on-board presentations. Each episode will then be published online at www.upprojects.com and be free to view. While docked at Hull Marina (7th -10th August) all eight episodes will unfold sequentially, with two episodes being shown per day. From the 10th - 13th August *The Floating Cinema* will act as a floating screening space. Its intimate setting will be used to present Meadley's commission alongside other moving image works that complement and expand on the themes of Meadley's commission.

On the Bench takes as its starting point the ambiguity that comes with waiting for the chance to be part of something. Drawing inspiration from Meadley's own experiences as a local, Yorkshire-based artist the work features conversations with individuals articulating how new opportunities for creative expression are identified.

Through frank and personal discussions, a range of topics are covered including the relationship between central and peripheral geographical locations; the impact of rigid educational models on imagination; and the complexity of positioning alternative stories in order to challenge dominant narratives. Collectively the eight episodes that form the series underline the dynamics between culture, creativity and identity.

Building on Meadley's interest in humour as a device to explore complex issues, and spurred on by his own circumstances as an artist contemplating his own trajectory, *On the Bench* is a part-biographical, part-autobiographical work where personal concerns and modes of navigation are highlighted and imagined futures are articulated.

On the Bench is the central feature of 'In Dialogue' - the final programme to be presented by UP Projects on *The Floating Cinema*. 'In Dialogue' responds to the content and concept of Harry Meadley's commission and features a film programme that has been conceived thematically in response to Meadley's work.

A programme of talks, events and activities will be delivered in partnership with organisations based in the locations where *The Floating Cinema* will stop.

Speaking about the commission, artist Harry Meadley said: '*This work was predicated on the presumption that in any place you might go, there are motivated and dedicated people doing great things to contribute to their communities and to the wider culture - often against ever growing adversity. The job of finding these individuals has been even more life-affirming than I expected and I hope sharing these conversations might help encourage more to take place.*'

Emma Underhill, Founder of UP Projects commented: *'Over the past six years The Floating Cinema has welcomed thousands of members of the public, showcasing newly commissioned work, artist led events and curated film programmes to audiences across the country. This year, by foregrounding the work of one of the UK's most exciting emerging artists, Harry Meadley, we're placing a new commission, created in collaboration with people from each location, at the core of our activities and building a wider programme around its themes. We are delighted to be working with so many organisations located along the tour route and being part of the wider programme being presented during Hull City of Culture 2017.'*

Annabel Grundy, Manager, Film Hub North, said: *'Film Hub North is delighted to support UP Projects bringing the Floating Cinema to Hull, presenting new commissioned works and independent film programming that chimes with independent and local audiences alike. Whether in a building or on a boat, presenting artists film, local shorts or a gripping feature-length narrative, cinema is a wonderful way to connect people and places; we're looking forward to seeing the full programme on offer in the city unveiled over the summer.'*

Tim Eastop, Executive Producer at the Canal & River Trust, is responsible for delivering *Arts on the Waterways*, a collaborative arts programme situated on and inspired by Britain's waterways. He said: *'Our canals are a network of cultural capillaries that have potential to carry ideas but also – literally – to carry new works of art to places where the arts traditionally haven't been able to reach. We are realising the tremendous opportunity for cultural activities on our waterways, thanks to support from Arts Council England and exciting, high calibre arts partners. The Floating Cinema is a fantastic example of this and I hope audiences from across Yorkshire and beyond will come to enjoy and support this excellent programme over the summer.'*

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, added: *'We are delighted that The Floating Cinema is finishing this year's tour in Hull this August, adding to an exciting summer and a great year of film for the city. With Harry Meadley's film series taking inspiration from the region and Hull's beautiful marina as a backdrop, it promises to be a fascinating and highly evocative event.'*

On the Bench is a commission by UP Projects for *The Floating Cinema*.

The commission and *The Floating Cinema* are supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme, BFI, Film Hub North, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Canal & River Trust, Hull City Council and is part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017's year-long film programme.



The film programme is devised in collaboration with Hull Independent Cinema.

A programme of talks, events and activities will be delivered in partnership with Artlink; The Ropewalk; Rotherham Open Arts Renaissance; Site Gallery, Sheffield; Swinton Lock Activity Centre; Junction; The Point; and Yorkshire Waterways Museum.

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Notes to Editors

Tour Schedule for *On the Bench*

1 - 3 July 2017: Sheffield
5 - 6 July 2017: Rotherham
8 - 9 July 2017: Swinton
14 - 16 July 2017: Doncaster
18 - 19 July 2017: Thorne
22 - 23 July 2017: Goole
25 - 26th July 2017: South Ferriby
7 - 13 August 2017: Hull

Ticketing information

To secure your ticket for this year's *The Floating Cinema*, please visit www.upprojects.com.

UP Projects curates and commissions contemporary art for public places; engaging citizens of London, the UK and across the globe. We support artists to make new work that has social relevance, encourages learning and enriches the public sphere. Made up of a highly-experienced team of strategic thinkers, curators, educators and project managers we also produce cultural and place making strategies. Our approach is artist-led, community centered and involves collaboration with multiple partners. Led by Founding Director Emma Underhill since 2002 we are the only public art organisation in London to be awarded National Portfolio status by Arts Council England in 2011 and became a registered charity in 2017.

The Floating Cinema is an award-winning structure conceived and commissioned by UP Projects and designed by Duggan Morris Architects. The structure is a mechanism through which artists' films, independent cinema and archive footage can be brought outside of the gallery or cinema space and presented in public locations along the UK's waterways. Alongside a programme of screenings, the vessel has been used to host talks, performances, workshops and events for audiences across the country. *On the Bench* is a new commission for the 6th and final iteration of *The Floating Cinema*. Previous seasons have included Extra-Ordinary, Extra-International, Extra-Terrestrial and *The Floating Cinema On Tour* from London to Bristol. *The Floating Cinema* was built with support from The Legacy List with corporate partner Bloomberg as part of Bloomberg East in partnership with the Canal & River Trust and is a legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations with the ideas and ability to achieve positive change. The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. We make grants of £30 - £35 million annually towards a wide range of work within the arts, children and young people, the environment, social change and food. We also commit up to £35 million in social investments in organisations that aim to deliver both a financial return and a social benefit. www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

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. For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk
Follow us on Twitter @2017Hull Instagram @2017hull Facebook HullCityofCulture

BFI, Film Hub North

The BFI is funding 'Transformative Film Culture For Hull', as part of its National Lottery-funded BFI Film Audience Network and led by its lead partner BFI Film Hub North. Delivered through Hull 2017 and by Hull Independent Cinema and a unique partnership of film festival, educational and archive partners from across the north,

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the film programme will bring a packed programme of more than 400 screenings, one-off events and film festivals throughout the year to Hull and the region. The programme reflects the BFI's activities across the UK to bring film to audiences where there is less opportunity for them to experience and engage in film, and to support local film networks and audience initiatives. There will be much to explore, celebrate and enjoy. www.filmhubnorth.org.uk

The Canal & River Trust is proud to support the *On the Bench* for Floating Cinema as part of the charity's *Arts on the Waterways* programme. The Trust launched in 2012 as the guardian of 2,000 miles (nearly half) of historic waterways across England and Wales, as well as the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. *The Arts on the Waterways* programme is supported through Arts Council England and Arts Council Wales. It provides artists with time and space along the waterways where they can slow down, research and make ambitious new work responding to important social, environmental and heritage questions. The Canal & River Trust believes that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and the role of the Trust is to ensure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms #ArtsOnTheWaterways

Hull City Council

In 2013, Hull City Council led the bid for UK City of Culture status in collaboration with the city's cultural, business, community organisations and artists and with overwhelming public support. The decision to bid came as part of the City Plan set out by Hull's City Leadership Board in 2013 to transform the city over ten years, creating 7,500 jobs. One of the key ambitions of the City Plan is to harness the power of culture and the arts to make Hull a world-class visitor destination, with hosting UK City of Culture 2017 being a key milestone on the journey. 20 November 2013, the day Hull achieved UK City of Culture status, was widely hailed as 'the day the city changed forever'. Following the announcement, Hull City Council established an independent company to deliver the 2017 cultural programme, providing an initial investment of £4m, appointing Rosie Millard as Chair and Martin Green as CEO and Director. The Council also accelerated the delivery of a £100m cultural capital programme that is now transforming the city and its cultural venues. Hull's year as the nation's cultural capital is expected to deliver a £60 million economic impact in 2017 alone and attract one million additional visitors to the city.

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Accelerating Growth from
the Arts and Culture

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