**Contains Strong Language**

**Ticket Launch/Press Briefing in Hull & London**

**Hull, Monday 17th July**

**Arts Café, Middleton Hall, University of Hull**

**Brief:**

Launch event for Contains Strong Language held at the University of Hull on Monday 17th July. Invited guests will include partners and local opinion formers, as well as trusted press contacts.

***This is a ‘sneak peek’ preview event***, held a week before the press briefing in London. Its aim is to inform a carefully-targeted group of opinion formers and influential people from Hull – and the wider industry – about the festival taking place in September.

Any information/content given to the press on this date will be strictly embargoed until Monday 24th July to tie in with the wider press briefing held for national publications (see London launch below)

**Key messages:**

This event will focus on the work and investment being made locally, as well as the calibre of world-class talent who are coming to Hull for the duration of the festival.

The event will demonstrate the BBC’s commitment to Hull throughout its City of Culture year, focusing on local events, partnerships and grass-roots projects.

As well as promoting the fact that there are 17 new exciting commissions for Contains Strong Language, we will also highlight the diversity of poets and performances during the launch event.

It will also showcase some of the national broadcast content being produced for the festival and through its duration.

Tickets for Contains Strong Language go on sale on 24th July.

**Key performances from the festival to promote throughout launch event:**

* Radio Humberside’s Washing Line poem project
* GCSE school reading
* Louise Wallwein’s Glue
* Bohdan Piasecki’s work with the Polish community in Hull

**Suggested format of the event (this is flexible)**

* 12noon The space is booked for AV & staging set up/rehearsals/sound checks/set up for washing line project
* 6pm Guests to arrive
* Drinks and canapés
* Surprise performance from poet to take place in and amongst drinks area *(Isiah Hull likely to be available – Shirley has been in touch with Shelly)*
* 7pm Guests are seated
* CSL show reel/trailer played on screen
* Lindsey Chapman to welcome guests to the launch of CSL and thank Isaiah for performance
* Second performance from Dean Wilson and Vicky Foster from Washing Line project
* Panel session hosted by Lindsey Chapman, including Sue Roberts, Shane Rhodes, Martin Green
* Louise Wallwein Glue extract performance
* Imtiaz Dharker performance TBC
* Final performance on stage Jacob Polley & John Alder (with live music)
* Thanks from Lindsey to guests and panel
* Event ends

**Dressing of the room:**

* Washing Line poems to be draped across the room and on the stage
* A mixture of Contains Strong Language and BBC banners put up on stage

**Press Briefing / Tickets on Sale**

**London, Monday 24th July**

**The Young Vic**

Invite some partners and national press, will focus on the TV and radio commissions surrounding the festival, as well as discussing highlights from the festival’s programme of performances. Couple of exclusive previews of performances too.

**MORE DETAILS ON LONDON LAUNCH TO BE CONFIRMED**

Additional Notes on related performers/projects:

**THE HULL 17**

At the heart of the festival will be The Hull 17 - an ensemble of the country’s most interesting and diverse artists - commissioned to create new work in the city throughout the duration of the festival. Poets including Kate Tempest, Dean Wilson, Jacob Polley, Imtiaz Dharker, Helen Mort and Isaiah Hull, will visit Hull to engage in an array of activities such as school events, workshops, radio broadcasts and live performances.

A series of 17 collaborative works will be commissioned and presented at the landmark festival, including:

**The Washing Line Poems** - Hull-born Dean Wilson is poet in residence at BBC Radio Humberside to September 2017, and will join forces to inspire the local community to send in poems about where they live. The poems, to be written on postcards, will be hung from a mammoth washing line during the festival in Hull.

**Hull Gada** - Polish poet Bohdan Piasecki is working with the Polish community in Hull from July to September to produce poems which will be performed during Contains Strong Language.

**Joined Up** - Queen’s Gold Medal receiver, Imtiaz Dharker, will collaborate with Joined Up Dance company, to produce a new piece of work based on new poems which will emerge from visits to Hull and conversations with the company. Based in Hull, the dancers create dynamic performances with commissioned music. In this case, inspiration will come from words.

**LOUISE WALLWEIN’S GLUE**

At the heart of Louise Wallwein’s revelatory drama “Glue” is the question of Care.

Care leavers are 5 times more likely to self-harm or attempt suicide, are less likely to seek help, are many times more likely to experience mental health difficulties, and beyond that, there is no safety net. They are very likely to experience homelessness, being jobless and support, government or otherwise, is fragile.

Louise Wallwein’s multi-layered drama is about abandonment, the search for family and both the strengths and weaknesses of the self. The dialogue is deliberately stalled to drive home the point that it’s more than just a personal story.

It’s a one woman show and through the hour the audience navigates, a mother forced to offer her child to care, the trauma of adoption, the difficulties of constructing one’s personality when the only anchor is being abandoned, the search for family, real family, the birth family.