**Hull 2017   
Project Summary**Hull 2017   
***The Ballad of Big Lil***   
by Maxine Peake  
Music & Lyrics The Unthanks or Adrian McNally & The Unthanks  
 **Summary**

Inspired by the women who campaigned for better and safer working conditions on Britain’s trawler ships, the Ballad of Big Lil is a site specific project with a strong mix of music, movement and text. The production explores Hull’s heritage as a port city, and celebrates the hard and dangerous life of trawlerman ruled by a feudal system of ship owners in a voracious capitalist system. At the heart of the story is Lillian Bilocca, a women who dared to speak out and take action to improve conditions for men at sea. With a community chorus, live music and an open bar, the evening will be a visceral, joyous evening of song, music & theatre.

**Release Copy (22 Sept) – not confirmed for release**‘Later in the year, another theatrical highlight will be the world premiere of a new work by **Maxine Peake** directed by **Sarah Frankcom** of Manchester Royal Exchange. ’A visceral site responsive experience with an original score composed and performed by **Adrian McNally &** **The Unthanks or The Unthanks**. The production will re imagine the story of Lillian Billoca and the Hessle Rd community in the wake of the 1968 Triple Trawler Disaster.’

**The following details describe the production parameters which reflect the project budget**

**Venue** TBC, Hull

A civic space with the faded grandeur of the past.   
Current options being considered include the Guildhall, Hull

**Music** Original songs and soundscore written by Adrian McNally.   
Existing and /or traditional songs to be arranged by Adrian McNally.   
To be performed live by the Unthanks.   
At present one song, the Ballad of Big Lil, to include lyrics by Maxine Peake, with original music by Adrian McNally and the Unthanks.

**Cast & Band**  Cast of 8

Band of 6  
 Max cast & band no more than 14  
 Company wage; actor/musician contract

**Digital** Explore live broadcast & filming opportunities to extend reach for audiences.

**Project Timeline**

June 16 Brief delivered to Hull 2017 by Maxine Peake

July 16 Commission Writer,   
Secure director, confirm details of RET involvement

August 16 Site scouting & site to be identified.

Sept ’16 Secure composer, designer, choreographer, sound & lighting designers, production manager

22 Sept 16 Hull 2017 UK City of Culture Launch

Sept/Oct 16 Recce visit for Guildhall – SF, AS, PR as well as MP if schedule allows

28 Oct R&D in Manchester.   
To be arranged by Michelle Hickman from Manchester  
Royal Exchange with actors from Streetcar.   
In attendance: Maxine Peake  
 Sarah Frankcom  
 Amanda Stoodley

Dec 16 First full draft of the script delivered  
  
Image & copy generated

Confirm site – venue contracted

Feb 17 Final script delivered

Sign off season brochure page

April 17 Prelim designs & outline costings

Casting of professional company   
  
Stage management team confirmed

July 17 Recruitment & Casting of Community Cast  
  
 Final designs & detailed costings

Sept 17 Pre-Production – build & prep venue

Oct 17 Rehearse   
  
 Install at venue

Nov 17 Tech, open & perform

Nov 17 Close

**Creative Team, Company**  
Director Sarah Frankcom   
Set & Costume Designer Amanda Stoodley   
Musical Director Adrian McNally   
Movement Director Imogen Knight  
Lighting Designer Chris Davey   
Sound Designer TBC  
Casting Director TBC – RET?  
Associate Director (Comm Cast) to be Hull based  
  
  
Cast Names of Cast - alphabetical  
Band Band Members of The Unthanks - alphabetical

Consultant Rupert Creed TBC

**Production Team**   
Production Manager  
Company Manager  
DSM  
ASM  
Sound Op   
LX Op  
Dresser  
Technician   
Production Sound

Production LX  
Costume Supervisor

FOH Manager  
Box Office Manager & Assistant

Stewards   
Security  
Access Performance Interpreter

Bar staff Licensee & Operator TBC

**Production Schedule**   
All dates to be discussed and confirmed with MP/SF and AMcN/Unthanks  
  
Rehearsals Week 1 w/c 2 Oct 2107 Reh in Manchester   
 (Pro Cast)  
 Reh in Hull Comm Cast  
 Band Call c/o Unthanks Studio   
  
Rehearsals Week 2 w/c 9 Oct Reh in Manchester

(Pro Cast)  
 Reh in Hull Comm Cast  
 Band Call c/o Unthanks Studio   
  
Rehearsals Week 3 w/c 16 Oct Reh in Hull; band call\*

Rehearsals Week 4 w/c 23 Oct Reh in Hull; band call\*  
Start venue set up

Production / Tech Week w/c 30 Oct In Venue; full band   
First Preview Sat 4 Nov

Performance Week 1 w/c 6 Nov In venue; full band

Press Night Thurs 9 Nov

Perf Week 2 w/c 13 Nov In venue; full band  
Final Performances Sat 17 Nov 2017  
  
Proposal for possible Community Ensemble process:  
Community Cast To be 16 + years old   
 Overall Group of 30 – for min 20 per perf  
 Rehearsals In Hull  
 3 sessions a week, evenings & weekend  
 6 sessions during Tech Week, daytime, evening & Sat  
 6 performances per week during run

Min 6 performances per week inc one matinee.  
Perfs Wed – Sat only.

Updated: HD Oct 2016