**OPERATIONAL NOTICE**

**Friday 1 September 2017**

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

**The Royal Ballet at Hull New Theatre**

**Saturday 16 September 2017**

There are a number of media opportunities associated with ***Opening the New***, The Royal Ballet show specially curated by The Royal Ballet's Hull-born director **Kevin O'Hare**, which officially reopens Hull New Theatre following its £16 million rebuild and is a highlight of Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

**Press attendance for the performance in Hull New Theatre itself has already been confirmed, but additional media opportunities are as follows:**

Event: **Take Flight**

Date: **Saturday 16 September 2017**

Time: **15:45 and 16:30**

Location: **Trinity Square, Hull, HU1 1RR**

There are **two free performances** of ***Take Flight***, a newly commissioned dance piece by The Royal Ballet and Hull 2017. Based on ***Swan Lake***, the new work by The Royal Ballet's learning and participation team, Choreographed by Rachel Attfield, , will be performed by pupils from four local dance schools, the **Lyn Wilson and Heather Shepherdson School of Dance** (LWHS), **McKeown Irish Dance Academy**, **Northern Academy of Performing Arts** (NAPA) and **Skelton Hooper School of Dance and Theatre**.

With around 100 local young dancers taking part and music written by John Webb, *Take Flight* is a unique collaboration between a world-renowned ballet company, local young dancers and dance teachers and celebrates Hull's role in producing some of the UK's finest dancers. There is also a solo performance by a Royal Ballet Male soloist as part of the piece.

Event: **Opening the New - live relay screening**

Date: **Saturday** **16 September 2017**

Time: **18:00 (live relay begins 19:30)**

Location: **Queens Gardens, Hull, HU1 2AG**

Hull 2017 is organising a live relay screening in Queens Gardens Hull Culture and Leisure, which runs the theatre on behalf of Hull City Council. 5,000 people will be able to attend the screening and there will be a festival atmosphere with bars selling drinks and snacks. As a surprise and to add to the occasion, the dancers are due to leave Hull New Theatre and to go to Queens Gardens to take a second final bow.

**MEDIA ATTENDANCE**

To confirm interest in covering the live relay screening in Queens Gardens, or Take Flight in Trinity Square please email ben.mcknight@hull2017.co.uk AND ADD NAME

For additional queries please call Ben McKnight on 07718 100793.

**Opening the New**

*Opening the New* features classical and contemporary dance, specially curated by The Royal Ballet's Hull-born director **Kevin O'Hare**. Marking The Royal Ballet’s first performance in Hull for 30 years there will be performances by some of the finest dancers in the world. Royal Ballet Principal Dancers **Edward Watson**, **Thiago Soares**, **Steven McRae** and **Zenaida Yanowsky** will be joined by **Xander Parish**, who was born in North Ferriby, first learned to dance in Hull and was the first British dancer to be employed by the Mariinsky Ballet in St Petersburg. Xander will be joined by his sister **Demelza Parish**, a First Artist of The Royal Ballet, and fellow Hull-born **Joseph Caley**, who was recently announced as joining English National Ballet from Birmingham Royal Ballet, where he began his career, rising through the ranks to Principal.

*Opening the New* will include excerpts from ***Swan Lake*** and ***Romeo and Juliet*** and works by the internationally renowned choreographers **Wayne McGregor** and **Christopher Wheeldon**.

Website: [**www.hull2017.co.uk/royalballet**](http://www.hull2017.co.uk/royalballet)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Hull New Theatre**

Hull New Theatre officially opens on Saturday 16 September following its £16m refurbishment, establishing itself firmly in the spotlight as a world-class receiving venue across all performance art-forms.

Following The Royal Ballet gala ***Opening the New***, the first season includes ***The Kings of Hull***, written and directed by John Godber, which was commissioned to celebrate Hull’s year as City of Culture (27 September to 7 October). Hull New Theatre will also welcome the National Theatre productions of Charlotte Brontë’s ***Jane Eyre*** (18-23 September) and ***Hedda Gabler*** (13-18 November); the much-loved West End musical ***Joseph*** (31 October to 4 November);the Carole King musical ***Beautiful*** (21-25 November); and a new work celebrating the music of 1960s icon Dusty Springfield, ***Son of A Preacher Man*** (7-11 November).

An Opera North residency ***The Little Greats*** sees five one-act operas come to Hull: **Pagliacci**, **Cavalleria Rusticana**, ***Trouble in Tahiti***, ***Trial by Jury*** and ***L’Enfant et les Sortilèges*** (26-28 October). Northern Ballet brings its new work ***The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas***, with an original live score performed by the company’s sinfonia (18-21 October). The traditional pantomime for Christmas is ***Peter Pan*** (7-31 December).

For more information about the Hull New Theatre programme please go to [www.hulltheatres.co.uk](http://www.hulltheatres.co.uk).

**Hull UK City of Culture 2017**

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. Divided into four seasons, starting with Made in Hull, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have contributed to the development of art and ideas.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses.

Key contributions are coming from: Host City – Hull City Council; Principal Partners - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; Major Partners –Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

Hull 2017’s International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

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

**Hull City Council**

The City Council’s investment in an ambitious public realm and infrastructure programme aims to:

- put the people that use the city centre first, ensuring all proposed improvements are user-friendly, safe, accessible and long-lasting;

- increase city centre retail turnover by an estimated £70 million;

- greatly improve the city centre experience for residents, businesses and visitors;

- create an estimated extra £16.8 million of Gross Value Added (GVA) within the local retail sector;

- support more than 500 new jobs in the retail and visitor sectors over the next 10 years;

- increase occupancy in city centre commercial properties;

- improve investor confidence in Hull;

- increase spend within the city through increased footfall and improved key routes for pedestrians by connecting wider parts of the city with the centre;

- encourage more businesses into Hull city centre.

Over the two years there have been a series of substantial public and private sector investments announcements in the city of Hull. A number of these developments are genuinely unique and/or in the “world-class” category. Supplementing these announcements are the designs for the city centre improvements which form part of the social and cultural transformation of Hull, contributing to a number of objectives launched in the 10-year Hull City Plan.