



PRESS RELEASE - IMAGES AVAILABLE

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Slung Low's epic tale *Flood* returns to Hull

Last chance to experience dazzling storytelling presented
on floating stage in historic dock

26-29 September and 4-8 October 2017

One of the theatrical highlights of Hull 2017, *Flood* by ground-breaking Leeds-based theatre company Slung Low, is returning to Hull to help kick off the UK City of Culture's fourth season, *Tell the World*.

An epic adventure about the end of the world, *Flood* tells the story of what happens when the deluge comes.

Written by award-winning playwright James Phillips and directed by Slung Low's artistic director Alan Lane, this parable for our times begins with a girl being brought up alive from the depths of the ocean. Her discovery triggers a series of life-changing global events, which result in the displacement of people across the world, leading to a refugee crisis on a global scale.

Taking place on a floating stage in a Hull dock against the night time sky, this unmissable work shows the impact on individuals and communities when their city is destroyed. After the rains, after the explosions, after the terror, those who have survived try to make sense of what has happened to them and find a way to make the world new again.

Since it was first staged to sell-out audiences earlier this year, events across the world have given *Flood* even greater significance. With performances on 26-29 September and 4-8 October, it is the last chance to experience this exhilarating production in its daringly dramatic Hull setting by the Humber.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: "*Flood* is an extraordinary and thought-provoking work that asks questions of the audience and of society. At a time when nationhood and identity are fiercely contested it becomes increasingly important for art to help us make sense of the world we live in. Slung Low are at the forefront of producing theatre with a social conscience and a political edge. Added to that is the experimentalism of *Flood*'s staging and this becomes one of the Hull 2017 highlights that should not be missed."

Alan Lane, artistic director of Slung Low, said: "The appetite amongst audiences here in Hull for political, ambitious, demanding theatre performed with spectacle has been consistently overwhelming as we've moved through the year with each previous part of *Flood*. Preparing for the omnibus performances it's so very clear that it's only through a combination of the opportunities provided by Hull 2017 and the enthusiastic support of the people of the city that we're able to create this epic adventure."

Slung Low, working with Hull 2017, have taken a unique approach to the telling of *Flood*. It first appeared digitally, when a film emerged online in January (Part One: *From the Sea*). The play was then staged as a live performance in April (Part Two: *Abundance*) and in August it was shown on television (Part Three: *To the Sea*) as part of the Performance Live series on BBC 2. Part Four: *New World* is the tale of a society devastated by natural catastrophe and how it comes together to build the world anew. Each part can be watched as a standalone story.

For four nights only, from 4-8 October, there will be a special omnibus presentation of *Flood* that brings together parts two and four, with part three being shown in the interval.

Adding to this unique theatrical experience we are delighted to be joined by Hull Pie and Shoot the Bull, who will be providing delicious food for sale during the interval.

Tickets for the omnibus performances are priced from £20-£25.

There are also standalone performances of *Part Four: New World* from 26-29 September priced from £10-£12.

Tickets are available now from www.hull2017.co.uk.

Flood has been produced with support from The Space, Arts Council England, BBC Arts and Spirit of 2012.

Debbie Lye, Chief Executive, Spirit of 2012, added: "Spirit of 2012 is delighted to help bring *Flood* to Hull. This hugely ambitious theatre piece further raises Hull's profile on the cultural map during 2017 and will resonate in the memory far beyond. It is bold, world class art that people across the entire city can also recognise as part of their unique heritage and enjoy together. I'm excited that Spirit is a part of it."

ENDS

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ABOUT FLOOD

Part One: *From the Sea* - a short film in which the story begins, when a girl is raised from the depths of the sea. Funded by The Space, the commissioning and development organisation that supports artists and organisations to make the most of the opportunities that digital technology and online distribution afford, it can be seen at hull2017.co.uk/flood.

Part Two: *Abundance* - a live play, in which an apocalypse approaches. *Flood: Abundance* was performed at Victoria Dock in Hull from 11 to 15 April. The cast featured **Sarah Louise Davies** as Kathryn, **Nadia Emam** as Gloriana, **Marc Graham** as Sam, **Lisa Howard** as Natasha, **Naveed Khan** as Jack, **Rani Moorthy** as Johanna and **Oliver Senton** as Captain.

Part Three: *To the Sea* was broadcast on BBC Two in August. It is set in the aftermath of an apocalyptic event, which has seen England engulfed by water and the English become refugees. *Flood* asks a simple question: what if the fleeing masses from our TV screens and Twitter feeds, in their boats and their orange lifejackets, had English accents, that is wasn't just happening to other people? *Flood: To the Sea* is part of a series of programmes for BBC Arts called Performance

Live, a two-year project produced in partnership with Arts Council England and Battersea Arts Centre that will challenge a spectrum of exciting artists, producers and arts organisations to produce their own television programmes.

Part Four: *New World* - a live play, in which the world is begun again.

NOTES TO EDITORS

SLUNG LOW

Slung Low is a company that makes unlikely, ambitious and original adventures for audiences outside of conventional theatre spaces. Shows that re-examine how audiences go and see a piece of theatre. Their ambition is to transport an audience to new places and to make them see familiar places from new perspectives. Slung Low's home is the Holbeck Underground Ballroom (The HUB) in Holbeck, South Leeds.

www.slunglow.org

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, 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.

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

ABOUT PERFORMANCE LIVE

Flood: To the Sea is one of a series of programmes for BBC Arts called Performance Live.

Produced and developed in partnership with Arts Council England and Battersea Arts Centre, Performance Live will showcase on BBC Two a spectrum of some of the most exciting artists working in performance today. This two-year strand of programmes features the works of over a dozen artists, producers and arts organisations from across England, who have embraced the challenge of producing innovative pieces of live performance for television.

Performance Live will open up the process of making television to artists, producers and art organisations, who will be tooled up to make art in a new medium for new and larger audiences and given the opportunity to create, develop and produce their own TV programmes. Through exploring the middle ground between live performance and television, this strand of programmes will challenge audience perceptions around what live performance can be. Programmes - commissioned by a panel of BBC, Arts Council England, Battersea Arts Centre representatives, as well as appointed independent artists - will embrace a range of contemporary art forms: theatre, dance, spoken-word, live-art and everything in between.

Inspired by the Battersea Arts Centre and Arts Council England production for BBC Four, Live From Television Centre (November 2015), Performance Live launched last year with Kate Tempest's inaugural programme - a performance of Let Them Eat Chaos at the Rivoli Ballroom, South London, also produced by Battersea Arts Centre. Now, throughout 2017 and 2018, Battersea Arts Centre will mentor and support independent artists and arts organisations as they undertake their own programme making journeys, embracing the challenge to produce innovative pieces of live performance for television.

Performance Live was commissioned for the BBC by Emma Cahusac, Executive Producer, Arts and Music and produced in partnership with Arts Council England, with Battersea Arts Centre as strand-producer.

ABOUT THE SPACE

Supported by The BBC and Arts Council England as founding partners and by the Arts Councils of Wales, Northern Ireland and Creative Scotland, The Space commissions and supports arts organisations and artists to develop work and reach wider audiences using broadcast and online platforms. New commissions announced today include dance, theatre, music and interactive projects. Award-winning hip-hop company Boy Blue Entertainment are directed by Danny Boyle in dance film Emancipation of Expressionism, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy collaborates with Newcastle's ballet LORENT in the third of their trilogy of adaptations of Grimm fairytales - Rumpelstiltskin and Open Clasp explore the lives of women in Britain's prisons in Key Change - winner of the Best of Edinburgh Award and a powerful new testimonial theatre show.

Tom Morris's imaginative staging of Handel's Messiah will be captured on film from The Bristol old Vic, Birmingham Rep's Stadium, directed by Mohamed El Khatib, unites fans of Aston Villa, Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion in an exploration of all aspects of football fandom and Cheek by Jowl's The Winters' Tale will be live streamed in three languages from London's Barbican Theatre. Derry Playhouse stages a world-first in Playcraft, a play produced and staged in Minecraft and simultaneously on stage at The Playhouse, and in Dumfries and Galloway, artist Tim Shaw will bring together online contributions from remote audiences to create a work to be enjoyed under the stars at the Sanctuary festival in the Galloway Forest.

The new commissions form part of a wider programme of work by The Space which supports artists and arts organisations across the UK to develop their digital capacity and reach wider audiences with their work through online and broadcast distribution.

www.thespace.org