POETRY & PERFORMANCE
28 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE
Contains Strong Language is back! Building on the huge success of last year’s inaugural festival, Hull welcomes 18 poets – the Hull 18 – along with local, national, and international artists to join in this celebration of poetry and spoken word.

The special alchemy that makes a great festival combines artistic talent, brand new commissions, world premières and appreciative audiences. Contains Strong Language was originally planned to return in 2019, but the interest and excitement generated last year forced a re-think. We couldn’t wait to do it again.

In returning to Hull, the festival provides important continuity and legacy from City of Culture 2017. Hull’s reputation as a vibrant, creative and innovative city — a poetry city — continues to grow.

Contains Strong Language is the BBC’s national poetry and spoken word festival, with coverage on national and local radio and TV. It is a partnership between the BBC, Wrecking Ball Press, Arts Council, Absolutely Cultured, 14-18 NOW and The British Council.

Festival Directors
Susan Roberts and Shane Rhodes
Something Said, winner of the Surge: Side A piece critical, queer and rooted in the West Trinidad. Inspired and moved by the works of other writers across the Caribbean Diaspora, their greatest aspiration is to create art as resistance.

Jay Bernard is a writer from London. Their work is multi-disciplinary, critical, queer and rooted in the archives. Works include multi-media piece Surge: Side A, winner of the Ted Hughes Award 2018 and short film Something Said.

Jay T John is a non-binary poet who hails from a fishing village in West Trinidad. Inspired and moved by the works of other writers across the Caribbean Diaspora, their greatest aspiration is to create art as resistance.

Joe Hakim is a writer, poet and spoken word performer from Hull. Festival appearances include Latitude, Big Chill and Edinburgh Fringe. In 2017, Joe travelled to Trinidad with the Roundhouse and Wrecking Ball Press for the Talking Doorsteps project.

Karen McCarthy Woolf was born in London to English and Jamaican parents. Her book An Aviary of Small Birds was shortlisted for the Forward Felix Dennis and the Fenton Aldeburgh first collection prizes. Seasonal Disturbances was published in 2017.

Kat Francois is a performance artist, broadcaster, playwright and director. Kat was the first person to win a televised poetry slam in the UK and also won the World Slam Championships.

Louise Wallwein MBE is an award-winning poet, playwright and performer from Manchester, renowned as an explosive artist who detonates her audiences’ imaginations. glue, her acclaimed one-woman show, was performed at CSL in 2017.

Simon Armitage CBE was born and lives in West Yorkshire. He has published over a dozen collections of award-winning poetry, most recently The Unaccompanied. He is Professor of Poetry at Leeds and Oxford Universities.
Since 2016, the national literacy charity First Story has been working with secondary schools in Hull. Students have worked with acclaimed authors and poets for a year, culminating in a collection of professionally published anthologies. Here’s an opportunity to hear that young writing talent.

**FIRST STORY SHOWCASE**

**FRI 28 SEPT**
**HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY**
**13:30 - 15:00**

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

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**FRI 28 SEPT**
**HULL COLLEGE**
**19:00 - 20:00**

The Horncastle Building,
Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Join the audience for a live broadcast of Front Row, Radio 4’s flagship Arts programme, featuring an exuberant mix of interviews, discussion and performance.

**BBC MUSIC DAY**

**FRI 28 SEPT**
**HULL PARAGON INTERCHANGE**
**PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

Ferensway, Hull HU2 8NH
FREE ADMISSION

As part of BBC Music Day, Hull Paragon Interchange will be participating in Platform to Perform, where choirs from across the UK are collaborating with over 40 railway stations to entertain commuters on BBC Music Day. Look out for spine-tingling local choirs, Ian McMillan from BBC Radio 3 and BBC Humberside, live in Paragon Interchange during the day.

BBC Music Day brings the nation together to celebrate the power of music to change lives. From celebrating community music projects and initiatives, to working with big-name musicians through a host of performances and activities across TV, radio and online, BBC Music Day shines a light on our relationship with music, and explores the impact it can have on our lives.
**HOME TOWN STORY**

**FRI 28 - SUN 30 SEPT**
**HULL CITY CENTRE**
LOCATION WILL BE REVEALED AT BOOKING
VARIOUS TIMES FROM 12:00 - 18:00

FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

A captivating theatrical journey through the back streets of Hull. Discover the poetry and voices that shout from the rooftops, whisper round the corners and echo through the squares.

Audiences will gather to embark on a journey of discovery of Hull's lesser known places and the stories of its characters along the way - meeting poets, wordsmiths and artists en route who will bring the poetry to life.

Written by award-winning poet and playwright Louise Wallwein.

Commissioned and produced by Absolutely Cultured.

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**THE VERB**

**BBC RADIO 3 LIVE**

**FRI 28 SEPT**
**HULL COLLEGE**
**21:45 - 22:45**

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

**BBC Teach with Joseph Coelho**

**SAT 29 SEPT**  
**HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY**  
**10:00 - 11:00**

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF  
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

BBC Teach is launching a new series of films for teachers, featuring the popular poet Joseph Coelho. Joseph has created some great new poems to help KS1 and KS2 children with their literacy and creativity. His Class Clips take primary children through some of the basic concepts of writing and performing poetry, using a mix of live action and engaging animation. Joseph will run a workshop in Hull Central Library to talk about this great project.

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**The Blackwood**  
**Jacob Polley**

**SAT 29 SEPT**  
**HULL COLLEGE**  
**11:00 - 12:00**

The Horncastle Building,  
Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG  
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

*The Blackwood* grows a new branch of the story of boyhood friends explored in Jacob Polley’s award-winning collection *Jackself*. It is set in a world both recognisably modern as well as starkly folkloric and weird. As well as a moving drama, *The Blackwood* is a haunting ‘landscape in noise’, created by musician and sound designer John Alder. With Ashley Margolis.

John Alder played guitar, sang backing vocals and was co-songwriter with British rock band ‘The Jags’, going on to play session guitar and sing backing vocals for producer Steve Levine. An award winning composer on BBC nature documentaries for Wildlife on One, John has also been a composer, sound designer and video artist for theatre productions with Northern Stage, Quarantine, The National Theatre of Scotland and Live Theatre.
BBC WRITERSROOM WORKSHOP
TOP TIPS ON SCRIPTWRITING

SAT 29 SEPT
HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY
11:30 - 12:30

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Ever wondered how to get noticed by the BBC? How to send your script and what happens when you do? How do they assess your work? What grabs them and what puts them off? If you’re after some tips, this is a session not to miss.

BBC Writersroom is always on the look-out for fresh, new, talented writers of any age and experience with an original voice and great stories to tell.

Join Usman Mullan, Development Producer for BBC Writersroom North (which focuses on championing writers from across the UK) who will provide you with some invaluable tips and answer any burning questions you may have about scriptwriting.

KOFI SMILES SHOW WITH YOUNG IDENTITY

SAT 29 SEPT
BBC RADIO HUMBERSIDE
12:30 - 14:30 (on air 13:00 - 14:00)

Queen’s Gardens, Hull HU1 3RH
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Due to popular demand, Isaiah Hull and his fellow Young Identity poets make a welcome return to Hull for this special appearance live with Kofi Smiles. The group will be joined by Nabb Gang performing their dynamic poetry and spoken word.
**JACKIE KAY - SHORT FILMS**

**A SCOTTISH SOLDIER & PRIVATE JOSEPH KAY**

**SAT 29 SEPT**
**HULL COLLEGE**
**13:00 - 14:30**

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

A screening of two short films: A Scottish Soldier and Private Joseph Kay, followed by a Q and A with Jackie Kay and filmmaker Matt Kay.

In A Scottish Soldier, Jackie Kay tells the story of Arthur Roberts and a snapshot of life in the trenches during the First World War. The documentary, directed by Clara Glynn, explores what it was like being black a hundred years ago.

Kay’s poem Private Joseph Kay is dedicated to her grandfather who fought at the Somme.

Maintaining the family lineage, the film that responds to the poem and themes it raises was made by award-winning filmmaker Matt Kay, who will join the Q and A to discuss the making of this and other work as a young filmmaker.

**BBC WRITERS ROOM PANEL**

**WRITING POETRY VS SCRIPTED DRAMA**

**SAT 29 SEPT**
**HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY**
**13:00 - 14:00**

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Join our award-winning panel of poets: Simon Armitage, Amanda Dalton, Louise Wallwein and Kat François, as they discuss writing poetry vs. drama. This is a unique opportunity to hear about some of their critically acclaimed work across radio, TV, stage and film, what’s involved in the development and writing process of poetry and scripted drama, and how they traverse several media.

**ALFRED BRADLEY BURSARY SHOWCASE & LAUNCH**

**SAT 29 SEPT**
**HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY**
**16:30 - 17:30**

Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

The Alfred Bradley Bursary Award is a £5,000 writing bursary to Northern writers new to radio and the chance of a Radio 4 drama commission.

The Award was established in 1992 to commemorate the life and work of Alfred Bradley, the distinguished BBC Radio Drama Producer. Previous winners include Lee Hall (Billy Elliot and War Horse), Peter Straughan (Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy and The Debt) and Cat Jones (Doctors and Waterloo Road).

Come to the launch to hear live script-in-hand performances from past winners.
JOINEDUP DANCE COMPANY
STILL

SAT 29 SEPT
HULL COLLEGE
15:00 - 15:30

The Horncastle Building,
Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

JoinedUp Dance Company present a rich visual experience in response to Simon Armitage’s collection of poetry Still, commissioned by 14-18 NOW.

Using contemporary dance, projection, text and costume, this new work explores the episodic disruption that disturbs the eternal stillness and rhythms of the land and considers moments of revelation and protection, permanence and transition, image and metaphor.

UNWRITTEN CARIBBEAN POEMS AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR
RADIO 3 / VERB SPECIAL

SAT 29 SEPT
HULL COLLEGE
17:00 - 18:00

The Horncastle Building,
Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Ian McMillan presents a special edition of Radio 3’s The Verb.

What does it mean to fight for a ‘mother country’ that refuses to accept you as one of its own? The stories of the 15,600 volunteers who signed up to the British West Indian Regiment in the First World War remain largely unknown. This collaborative project is co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW, BBC Contains Strong Language and the British Council.

Unwritten Poems invited contemporary Caribbean Diaspora poets to write into that vexed space, exploring the nature of war and humanity – as it exists now, and at a time when Britain’s colonial ambitions were still at a peak.

CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE COMMISSION
Join us for a live recording at the University of Hull’s Middleton Hall, to be broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Award-winning actress and writer Jessica Hynes (pictured) writes and performs her own short drama about a female stand-up in search of the perfect gig. In the centenary year of his birth, this is a special homage to Spike Milligan, where three writers respond to Milligan’s style, his work, his legacy. Each 25-minute drama will be interspersed with Milligan’s poetry performed live.

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Part One: recorded live for BBC Radio 3, leading writers provide insight, opinion and intellectual surprise around the subject of Ted Hughes.

The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

One Mic Stand is a popular poetry showcase and slam night which takes place quarterly at Contact Theatre, Manchester. It was started by Young Identity, a spoken word organisation that was formed in Manchester in 2006, by poets Shirley May and Ali Gadema. Young Identity’s poets have worked alongside artists such as Lemn Sissay, Saul Williams, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Kate Tempest, and the late Amiri Baraka. Young Identity bring a squad of their leading poets to this very special event.
Gruff Rhys is a Welsh musician, composer, producer, filmmaker and author. He performs solo and with several bands, including Super Furry Animals.

Rhys is prolific and inventive, and his music encompasses a range of styles, including psychedelia, folk and electro-pop. He formed electro-pop outfit Neon Neon with producer Boom Bip. Their album *Stainless Style* was nominated for the 2008 Nationwide Mercury Prize.

He won the 2011 Welsh Music Prize for his album *Hotel Shampoo* which was followed up by *American Interior* in 2014.

His most recent album *Babelsberg* was released in 2018 and he has recently composed a song to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

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A renowned and award-winning poet, playwright and performer from Manchester, Louise Wallwein is an explosive artist who detonates her audiences’ imaginations. Her plays have been broadcast by the BBC and graced the stage of Sydney Opera House, Royal Exchange and Contact Manchester. Charnell Lucien has been writing and performing for nine years. Her work speaks on issues such as single parenting, family planning, HIV and AIDS and cancer.
Shirley May believes her role is to make both performance and page poetry accessible to young people. She has worked for 25 years to promote a culture around performance poetry to make it “cool” and happening by mentoring and supporting new writers. Tanya Shirley has conducted writing workshops in Venezuela, Canada, the USA, England, Scotland and the Caribbean and has been a writer-in-residence twice at Sierra Nevada College, Lake Tahoe and is a proud Cave Canem Fellow.

Unwritten Poems: Miss Birdie’s Letter

Poet Karen McCarthy Woolf follows the trail of a letter sent to her Jamaican grandmother by her Church, commending her on 67 years of faithful service. The trip takes her back to her father’s village, and to 1918, when her grandmother sets off for downtown Kingston from the country parish of St Catherine, a district that is now under a state of emergency as part of a government crackdown on gang violence. What would life have been like for a rural migrant at the end of the First World War? And how does that compare to today?

A one-woman show of poetry and monologue supported by a sound score from The Broken Orchestra, which explores Vicky’s real-life experiences of what happens when violence spills over into family life.

Recognition for Jacob Polley’s work includes a Somerset Maugham award, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and in January 2017 he won the T.S. Eliot Prize for collection Jackself. Vladimir Lucien lives and works in St Lucia. He won the 2015 Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature for his collection of poetry Sounding Ground.
THE SUMMER BOOK WITH AMANDA DALTON & SOPHIA JANSSON

SUN 30 SEPT
HULL CENTRAL LIBRARY
12:30 - 14:00
Albion Street, Hull HU1 3TF
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Amanda Dalton is a huge admirer of Tove Jansson. Here, she will discuss the poetic qualities of The Summer Book and the Moomintrolls with Tove Jansson’s niece Sophia who inspired the character of Sophia in the book. The Summer Book for Radio 4 will be played in full at the end of the session.

Kat François & Jay T John

SUN 30 SEPT
KARDOMAH94
12:45 - 13:45
94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Jay T John, non-binary and hailing from Trinidad, aims to create art as resistance. A siamese poet, Kat François is also a playwright and director. Her critically acclaimed play, Raising Lazarus, deals with experiences of Caribbean soldiers in WW1.

THE VERB - BBC RADIO 3 FOYLE YOUNG POETS

SUN 30 SEPT
HULL COLLEGE
13:00 - 14:00
The Horncastle Building, Charlotte Street, Hull HU1 3DG
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

In the 20th year of The Foyle Young Poet of the Year Award, we meet some of the latest young winners of the prize, alongside poets who won the award back when they were teenagers, including Jay Bernard, Phoebe Stuckes and Caroline Bird, who is one of this year’s judges.

Joe Hakim & Vicky Foster

SUN 30 SEPT
KARDOMAH94
14:00 - 14:30
94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

The host and founder of Hull’s Women of Words, Vicky Foster has written commissions for radio, TV and podcasts and is currently working on a one-woman radio show Bathwater, commissioned by the BBC, debuting at CSL. Joe Hakim has toured and performed with LIFE, a Hull-based punk band and currently works with schools in Hull and the Warren Youth Project.
Part Two: more leading writers provide insight, opinion and intellectual surprise around the subject of Ted Hughes.

ISHION HUTCHINSON & MALIKA BOOKER

SUN 30 SEPT
KARDOMAH94
14:45 - 15:15

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Malika Booker’s first poetry collection, Pepper Seed, was longlisted and shortlisted for multiple prizes and her poem Nine Nights was longlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 2017. Winner of numerous awards, Ishion Hutchinson has authored two poetry collections and was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

KAREN MCCARTHY WOOLF & AMANDA DALTON

SUN 30 SEPT
KARDOMAH94
15:30 - 16:00

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Amanda Dalton’s publications include How to Disappear and Stray. She also writes for theatre and is an Associate Artist at Manchester’s Royal Exchange Theatre. Born to English and Jamaican parents, Karen McCarthy Woolf’s award-winning first collection, An Aviary of Small Birds, was followed up with Seasonal Disturbances, which explores nature, the city and the sacred.

JACKIE KAY & JAY BERNARD

SUN 30 SEPT
KARDOMAH94
16:15 - 16:45

94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AN
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)

Jackie Kay has an impressive array of awards for her works Trumpet and Red Dust Road – the latter won Scottish Book of the Year. She was awarded an MBE in 2006. Jay Bernard is a writer, archivist and film programmer. Their multi-media piece, Surge: Side A, won the Ted Hughes Award.
Poet Paul Farley presents a special edition of BBC Radio 4’s contemporary poetry series The Echo Chamber.

The Echo Chamber is a weekly showcase of the best new poetry from the UK and beyond. Recent guests have included Ocean Vuong, Gillian Clarke, Caroline Bird, Robin Robertson, Kaveh Akbar, Kayo Chingonyi, Emily Berry, Andrew Motion, Zaffar Kunial, Simon Armitage and many more.

In this live show we’ll hear new work from a very special guest, recorded in front of the Contains Strong Language audience for broadcast in October 2018.

Join us to celebrate the launch of Nosebleeds. Isaiah Hull’s first collection of poetry is published by Wrecking Ball Press. Isaiah has established himself as one of the most exciting young voices in the country and has supported Kate Tempest, Lemn Sissay and Skepta at major events for the BBC.

Hosted by Kerry Shale, whose acting credits include the West End production of Frost/Nixon and TV’s Patrick Melrose, Dr Who and Red Dwarf. He also played Steve Coogan’s agent in The Trip and The Trip To Spain.

LEONARD COHEN IS MY SPIRIT GUIDE
A CELEBRATION OF LEONARD COHEN

SUN 30 SEPT
JUBILEE CHURCH
DOORS 19.30 / START 20.00

62 King Edward Street, Hull HU1 3SQ
TICKETS: £20

Join us for a tribute to Leonard Cohen, novelist, poet and one of the greatest singer songwriters ever to grace the planet. Admitting to influences as wide ranging as Hebrew prayer and Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, Cohen himself has, in turn, inspired generations of artists.

Salman Rushdie once said of his work, “If I could write like that, I would.”

The evening features a stellar troupe of musicians including Mercury Music Prize nominee Kathryn Williams, along with Georgia Ruth, Sylvie Lewis, Paul Smith, David Ford, Astrid Williamson, Marry Waterson, Adele, Arcelia and Martin Carr. They offer their own take on Cohen’s music and poetry.

Hosted by Kerry Shale, whose acting credits include the West End production of Frost/Nixon and TV’s Patrick Melrose, Dr Who and Red Dwarf. He also played Steve Coogan’s agent in The Trip and The Trip To Spain.
Radio Humberside is broadcasting special programmes across the festival. Phil White broadcasts live from Hull’s Paragon Station on Friday 12-3pm as part of BBC Music Day with a live choir and Contains Strong Language previews. Loren Fox and Kerrie Marsh are presenting their 'Culture Night' show live from Hull College on Friday night from 7-10pm with special guests.

On Saturday 8-10pm BBC Music Introducing on Radio Humberside presents a spoken word special featuring local poets, spoken word artists, rappers and lyricists. Introduced by Alan Raw in front of a studio audience, the line-up includes renowned Hull poet Joe Hakim and local rapper Cameo Brooks.

**BBC HUMBERSIDE HIGHLIGHTS**

**BBC HUMBERSIDE THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND**

8 Dock St, Hull HU1 3DP  
FREE ADMISSION (Ticketed)
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<td>HULL COLLEGE</td>
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<td>SUN 30 SEPT</td>
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**Funded by**

[Logos and funding bodies]
JAMIE REID

XXXXX: FIFTY YEARS OF SUBVERSION AND THE SPIRIT

Humber Street Gallery
13 Oct – 6 Jan
FREE Unticketed

Artist and anarchist Jamie Reid’s work is synonymous with the spirit of British punk.

Humber Street Gallery presents the artist’s first major solo presentation in the UK, showcasing artwork spanning from the 1970s to present.

Co-curated by John Marchant, Gallerist and Curator, alongside David Sinclair, Head of Visual Art and Engagement at The Civic, Barnsley.

URBAN LEGENDS: NORTHERN LIGHTS

Hull City Centre
29 Nov – 02 Dec
FREE Unticketed

This winter Absolutely Cultured will illuminate Hull’s architecture and paint the city’s streets with moving animations and atmospheric music to celebrate the deep cultural connections between Hull and our Nordic neighbours across the water.

Using projection and commissioned soundscapes from large and spectacular to intimate and moving, the city will be at its dazzling winter best.

Commissioned and produced by Absolutely Cultured.
POETRY & PERFORMANCE
28 - 30 SEP 2018

BOOK YOUR TICKETS AT
BBCCSL.EVENTBRITE.COM

bbc.co.uk/containsstronglanguage

#containsstronglanguage