**Festival Guide 2023**

Freedom Festival Arts Trust thanks all our sponsors, partners, and supporters for their generous and ongoing support.

**Core Funders**

Arts Council England, Hull City Council, University of Hull

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**Additional Partners**

Sauce, Edwards & Pearce, Trinity Market, John E Wright, Hull Delivery Co-op

**Welcome to Freedom Festival 2023!**

It’s great to be able to present this year’s programme to you all, a festival full of jaw dropping show, important discussions and reflections on freedom, hilarious ideas, local creative talent, spectacular moments and masses of participation. The streets of Hull will fill up with family fun, humour, and international mischief once again, we cannot wait!

It’s been a tough year for everyone since we last met and we want to bring joy to the streets of our great city. We have focused the festival into 5 days culminating in a big finale weekend, with many of the performances within the city centre, plus some outliers for you to discover of course, we do love to get you exploring a bit.

Alongside the brilliant outdoor weekend many visitors have come to expect, we have also programmed incredible indoor shows, exhibitions, and installations many of which will be open for the full five days of the festival and some for even longer.

We love seeing the city come alive every year for the festival programme and for our audiences to meet the exceptional and innovative artists we’ve invited from all over the world. Times are tough this year for us all, so if you are able to donate to support our work, we’d massively appreciate it, but if you’re not able to please do not worry, you’re more than welcome, you really are.

We work hard to ensure the bulk of our programme is free to access, as we will always be a creative festival that removes barriers and presents a world-class programme with something for everyone to enjoy. We thank our core supporters new and old for helping us achieve what we do year on year, we really couldn’t do any of it without their ongoing support, generosity, and understanding of the impact of our work.

We welcome you to explore our website in anticipation of what is to come, make yourself a plan as there’s a lot to do and to take part in.

See you at the festival, it’s going to be a lot of fun!!!

*Mikey Martins, Artistic Director and CEO. Freedom Festival Arts Trust.*

**Access at Freedom Festival 2023**

At Freedom Festival Arts Trust, we care passionately about providing enjoyable experiences that are accessible to all. Our friendly team of staff and volunteers will be on hand to offer any assistance.

At Freedom Festival, all sites are:

* Wheelchair accessible. Please note the Invisible City exhibition may not be accessible to wheelchair users. Please see the ‘What To Expect’ guide or Invisible City webpage for more information.
* Assistance dog friendly
* Where needed, have viewing areas with seating

There will be an Access Meeting Place at the Info Point on Princes Dock Street, with volunteers designated to help anyone who requires assistance entering and exiting Zebedee’s Yard.

If you need to take a moment away from the crowds, Mencap’s Nice Twice Club and Gig Buddies will be on site on Saturday and Sunday with relaxing spaces on Princes Dock Street and more information about accessibility at events. On our website you will find a ‘What To Expect’ guide that might help you pick which shows to see, especially if members of your group have access needs. You will also find an audio version of this festival guide. We are proud to work again this year with Sight Support Hull to create this.

For any access queries:

access@freedomfestival.co.uk / 01482 214036

(Office hours: Monday – Wednesday 10am – 5pm)

Check out our access page for more information: [www.freedomfestival.co.uk/festival-accessibility](http://www.freedomfestival.co.uk/festival-accessibility)

Accessible Toilets

RevoLOOtion will be Zebedee’s Yard from Friday 1 – Sunday 3 September. RevoLOOtion is a mobile accessible toilet with hoist and changing bench. Please bring your own sling if you wish to use the hoist. Trinity Market’s permanent changing places unit will also be open Friday 1 and Saturday 2 September 8am – 10pm and Sunday 3 September 10am – 4pm.

Audiences can find toilet facilities in Zebedee’s Yard throughout the main festival weekend. Toilet facilities are also available in Princes Quay shopping centre (Open 9am – 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and 10.30am – 4.30pm Sunday) and Trinity Market.

Accessible Parking

There are accessible parking spaces on Market Place, Lowgate, Fruit Market multi-storey, The Deep, Princes Quay, Alfred Gelder Street, Silver Street, Savile Street and Bond Street.

* **TICKETED EVENTS**

**Instant Loneliness – Via Berlin and Cello Octet Amsterdam (Netherlands)**

Seated Event, Captioned, Audio Described, Touch Tour

What are we to do with that mass grave of expectations? How can a person learn to cope with loss, disappointment and loneliness?

Instant Loneliness is a musical theatre production that takes us from loneliness to connection. A remarkable guide leads you through a landscape of dreams to an intimate musical concert of life, performed by eight cellists, an actor, and a dancer.

For fourteen years, the Dutch musical theatre ensemble Via Berlin has been mounting unique productions about burning social issues, interpreted through profoundly moving images, music and choreography. Instant Loneliness is the final instalment of Via Berlin and Cello Octet Amsterdam’s Instant trilogy, in cooperation with the Dutch dance studio Korzo.

**Weds 30 Aug 19:30**

**Thurs 31 Aug 19:30**

**Fri 1 Sep 19:30**

Hull Truck Theatre, 50 Ferensway, Hull, HU2 8LB

**Résiste – Les Filles Du Renard Pâle (France)**

French circus company Les Filles Du Renard Pâle - Résiste is an evocative fusion of experimental tightrope performance and live music.

A truly extraordinary circus artist performs on a high wire, but the wire is unstable. Accompanied by a multi-talented musician, the show is a carefree and humorous contemporary circus show but also a unique live gig where neither artist must fall.

Each performer resists the risk in their own way, and it becomes an absurd ferocious yet beautiful battle, a shared call for liberty and for freedom. The work of Les Filles du Renard Pale is truly exceptional, this show is not to be missed!!

**Fri 1 Sep 20:30**

**Sat 2 Sep 20:30**

Secret location to be announced

**Otto & Astrid’s Joint Solo Project- Otto & Astrid – Die Roten Punkte (Germany/Australia)**

Seated Event, BSL interpreted, this show is for ages 14+

Berlin’s art rock royalty, Otto & Astrid, spent years arguing about which songs should appear on their much-anticipated fifth album.

Unable to come to a consensus, the dysfunctional brother/sister duo decided to tour separately with their own musicians. Unfortunately, nobody else wanted to play with them so they are stuck being each other’s backing band in a… Joint Solo Project.

**Fri 1 and Sat 2 Sep 20:00**

Social, 63 Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1TU

**Fast Food Megaverse – The Herd Theatre (United Kingdom)**

Walkabout, BSL interpreted, Family Friendly, Join In

Put on headphones, grab a map, and join Mo on an adventure through the multiverse. Packed with wild characters, unruly technology and a few tasty surprises, this interactive audio walk through Hull City Centre is a delicious treat for humans aged 7+.

Written in collaboration with children from Hull and East Yorkshire Children’s University’s Letterbox Club, Fast Food Megaverse is an epic celebration of young imaginations.

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00, 14:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00, 14:30**

Start point at the old Tessie’s store, 25 Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1TH

**KELI: A work in progress sharing – Martin Green and Emma Rice with Lepus Productions (United Kingdom)**

Seated Event, Content Warning

Ivor Novello-winning composer Martin Green (Lau) and Director Emma Rice (Wise Children, Kneehigh) are spending a week in Hull transforming the audio drama KELI into a work for stage.

The story follows a prodigiously talented, but highly volatile teenager who plays in a brass band. A story of the power of music, community and post-industry. Keli might be the best, but can she keep a lid on it long enough to make it to the top?

A work in progress sharing, after a week spent in residency developing KELI into a new work for stage, will present sections of the play and be followed by a Q&A. The full production is planned for 2024.

**Fri 1 Sep 18:00**

Hull Truck Theatre, 50 Ferensway, Hull, HU2 8LB

**Circle – Vilk Collective and Squidsoup (United Kingdom)**

Audio described, Touch Tour, Family Friendly

Circle/دایره is a new immersive performance work grown out of an artistic collaboration between light artists Squidsoup and musicians Vilk Collective. With sold out shows at Trinity, The Egg theatre, Bristol Beacon, Arnolfini and St Mary’s Fratton, the show is now coming to Freedom Festival!

The 45 minute sensory experience combines original music, mesmerising lights and  unique choreography to explore themes of identity and migration. Alongside the live show there will also be an immersive sound and light installation called ‘Lullabies’ which allows you to experience lullaby heritage songs in many languages from across the diverse communities and cultures that make up the UK.

*Installation open:*

**Weds 30 – Thurs 31 Aug 12:00 – 18:00**

**Fri 1 – Sat 2 Sep 12:00 – 19:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

*Performances:*

**Fri 1 Sep 13:00 (Relaxed performance), 16:00, 19:00**

**Sat 2 Sep 13:00, 16:00, 19:00**

Princes Quay Event Space, Hull, HU1 2PQ

**Three Minute Monologues – The Warren Youth Project and Middle Child (United Kingdom)**

BSL interpreted

An evening brought to you by Middle Child Theatre and the Warren Youth Project, featuring film, theatre and music, which has combined the voices of young people with local script writers to make new and exciting work, covering subjects like relationships, mental health and pesky recurring haemorrhoids.

The work created as a result of a year-long project of sharing creative writing skills with young people in Hull to support them in talking about mental health through theatre. The evening will include an introductory film, three performances with writings from Kerrie Marsh, Maureen Lennon, and Jim Norris, and live music from artists signed to Warren Records.

**Thurs 31 Aug 19:30**

Social, 63 Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1TU

* **CIRCUS AND DANCE**

**UNITY – Gorilla Circus (United Kingdom)**

Family Friendly

UNITY is a reflection on community, an act of protest, a call for change and a dream for the future.

This show is a large-scale contemporary circus production that merges immersive theatre, circus and community stories in a powerful but intimate way. This aerial-spectacular features dance trapeze, wire walking and hair hanging accompanied by a poem that is adapted for each performance’s location.

Performers are accompanied by a ‘cast’ of mannequins who floating up from ground level represent a generation of underserved people.

**Fri 1 Sep 20:30**

**Sat 2 Sep 20:30**

Albion Street Car Park, Hull, HU1 3TD

**Encore une Fois – Tripotes la Compagnie (Belgium)**

Family friendly, Audio described, No Spoken Word

It is above all a meeting. An invitation to us all to witness a friendly moment between these exceptional and fun circus performers.

The Circus, for them, is risk taking; So let's mess it all up and start again!
'Encore une Fois' or 'Again' is based on the idea that errors are allowed. A show of acrobatic discovery and playful danger.

The simplicity of absurd ideas and acrobatic games that they play together, full of improvisation which also allows the audience to enjoy the same emotions as the artists at the same time.

All supported by a musical creation made of the sounds of ping-balls pong (yep!) and looped by a sampler/sequencer that accompanies the stage. This music box creates the soundtrack to the show live...

A unique and playful circus show full of acrobatic surprises and games, one certainly not to be missed!!

**Sat 2 Sep 12:30, 16:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 13:30, 16:30**

Zebedee’s Yard, Hull, HU1 2JN

**EXIT – Circumstances (Belgium)**

Family Friendly, Seated Event, Audio Described, No Spoken Word

EXIT shows the meeting of four individuals walking one collective path. In a big, impressive installation with a revolving wall and floating doors, they move in and through space. They propel each other, walk, collide, climb, carry, balance, and transform. They meet and leave, appear, and disappear. As people, we are always on the go, but what if you do not arrive home anywhere? And what about the tension between the individual and the group? In their quest for independence, they realise that they need each other more than ever. They balance each other out, but also bring each other out of balance.

**Fri 1 Sep 15:30, 18:30 and Sat 2 Sep 13:00, 17:00**

Stage @ The Dock, Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1UU

**We Agree to Disagree – Collectif Malunés (France)**

Family Friendly

A unique, fun and interactive Circus spectacle, you'll find yourself right in the middle of the show as it plays out all around the audience. A spectacular, heartwarming and truly original piece of circus from this extraordinary Belgian Circus collective.

This show is a participatory show where the audience has their say. You may even have the chance to be centre stage (Just be careful not to get locked up in prison!) We Agree to Disagree speaks of the absurdity of the current state of affairs. Insolence, divergence, Belgian humour, and political challenge are the ingredients to fight conformity and help ‘the seeds of madness’ grow.

This show is a reflection on a utopian idea of democracy, showing the potential good and bad, the potential for greater inequality and even to extremes of dictatorship. It is an attempt to answer the question that we may ask ourselves as citizens and members of this society: Can we find a way, on this great human adventure, to live equally and in harmony?

**Fri 1 Sep 19:00**

**Sat 2 and Sun 3 Sep 15:00**

Trinity Square, Hull, HU1 1RR

**Refuse – Company Chameleon (United Kingdom)**

No Spoken Word, Audio described

Refuse is a powerful and moving dance performance, which follows the journey of six people seeking refuge.

A play on words, the performance brings home the brutal reality of how people are refused and treated like refuse, when they leave their homeland in search of a better life. Inspired by the painting, The Raft of the Medusa (1819) by Théodore Géricault, Refuse explores the relevance of the artwork, in relation to the plight of asylum seekers today. The choreography is physically powerful and emotive. The dancers use their bodies, props and the set to explore different feelings, experiences and scenarios. The set imaginatively transforms the landscape, and the dancers move emotively through each scene, on a harrowing journey where it’s hard to find hope. Through dance and movement, Refuse shares the raw reality of asylum, migration and displacement, and encourages you to reflect from the place of a human being.

**Sat 2 Sep 14:00, 16:30 and Sun 3 Sep 11:30, 14:00**

Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

**Primus – 15 Ft 6 (Belgium)**

No Spoken Word, Family Friendly, Audio described

We are introduced to two outrageous students on their way through the school of life, totally blasé and clearly way too cool for school. Playground circus games turn into target practice as the battle for supremacy hots up on various sets of wheels and with exceptional trickery.

The incredible roller-skating finale of this high octane circus duet is not for the faint hearted, and whatever you do after watching them don't try this at home!

**Sat 2 Sep 14:30, 18:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 15:00**

Zebedee’s Yard, Hull, HU1 2JN

**HIPPOS – Zum-Zum Teatre (Catalan)**

Family Friendly, No Spoken Word, Audio described

HIPPOS is a street theatre show that challenges the appearances and stereotypes imposed by society. A physical tour that could be a fable, a metaphor, or simply a proposal for all audiences in which to meet and be a little more alone but in company.

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00, 15:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 13:00, 15:30**

Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

* **STREET PERFORMANCE**

**Beautiful Bones – Surge (United Kingdom)**

Walkabout, Family Friendly

Beautiful Bones is a large-scale street spectacle and musical pandemonium that reframes the rituals of death as a celebration of life with a series of different performances.

With participants from Hull Music Services, Longhill Primary School, and across the city.

**IT’S YOUR FUNERAL**

The irreverent, yet approachable funeral directors invite you to arrange your own buffet, set the rhythm to your favourite soundtrack, or maybe even write your own eulogy in the form of a limerick. And don’t forget to take a coffin selfie.

**DOGS OF DOOM**

The Dogs of Doom will seek you out and bring raucous behaviour and fun wherever you are. These untamed canines are the masters of groove but don’t be too distracted, your pint might go missing!

**APOCALYPSE, RIGHT NOW**

The ominous Four Horsemen will descend upon the town, spreading fear and showcasing their unique specialties. Brace yourselves, for they will show no mercy to those in their path.

**FINALE**

At this unmissable, momentous event, all the Beautiful Bones performances come together and invite you to celebrate your life with a very special trombone orchestra and the City of Hull Brass Band. Release your inhibitions and dance until your bones rattle.

**The five sections of this performance run from 11:00 to 16:30 on Sat 2 and Sun 3 Sep across the city centre. Further details are available online.**

**Parasite Circus – Têtes de Mules (France)**

Content Warning – Dark Humour

All you have secretly wished to see in a circus and never had the chance to! The best of the worst will finally happen here tonight. Quench your thirst of haemoglobin and ready yourself for new sensations. Reach the stars! En piste mes artistes, death is awaiting!

Parasite Circus is a collective act of liberation. A desecration of common sense, a freedom cry against the daily burdens of life. Fairground theatre is back, and poetry invades the streets, with two Shakespearian buffoons, the magic of traditional circus, burlesque music and hideous puppets, which make the impossible possible.

The Parasite Circus brings on stage all the magic of old timey circus covered by a thick coat of black humour. This show is not for the faint-hearted.

**Fri 1 Sep 19:00**

**Sat 2 Sep 12:45, 18:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 16:30**

Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

**Funny Business – Fraser Hooper (New Zealand)**

Family Friendly, No Spoken Word

Guaranteed giggles galore from internationally award-winning funny man Fraser Hooper. This hilarious show features a stunt duck, a human fish and the silliest boxing match you have ever seen. So get a ringside seat for a belly aching knockout performance.
After a glittering career in menswear Fraser Hooper gave it all up to become a clown. Thirty years on his award winning comedy has delighted thousands of audiences worldwide.

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00 –** Trinity Market, Hull, HU1 2JH

**Sat 2 Sep 15:00 –** Stage @ The Dock, Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1UU

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00 -** Zebedee’s Yard, Hull, HU1 2JN

**Orchestra de la Menagerie – Apus Productions (United Kingdom)**

Family Friendly, No Spoken Word, Walkabout

The Orchestra de La Menagerie aims to entertain, provoke, and cause chaos through the streets with their music and dancing. They could have stepped out of a computer game or be children’s toys come to life! With an alchemic music box and various percussion instruments, join them in their part procession winding through the festival as you’re infected by their enthusiasm and joy!

**Fri 1 Sep 18:00**

**Sat 2 Sep 12:45, 14:15, 16:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 13:00, 15:30, 17:15**

Various city centre locations including Princes Dock Street, Whitefriargate and Trinity Square

**Variety Spectacular – Jones and Barnard (United Kingdom)**

Family Friendly, BSL interpreted

Escapology and Juggling comedy show including danger, peril and a pint of beer. Family friendly entertainment for thrill seekers of all ages.

Jones and Barnard are street entertainment old timers, having learned their trade on the cobblestones of London’s Covent Garden many moons ago. Since then, they have toured Britain and the world with various shows, always with a knockabout comedy edge, hilarious stunts and some quick witted repartee.

Come along to their last Sunday show as the last show of our festival for some surprises and special guests.

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00, 17:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00, 18:00**

Various performance locations, check online for details.

* **MUSIC**

**The Freedom Music Stage**

This year, Zebedee’s Yard comes alive for the full weekend. We’re calling this the heart of the festival, where you will experience performances side-by-side with live music and DJs. Heading up the music stage is Warren Records, celebrating their 40th anniversary, showcasing the finest, freshest, young up-and-coming talent releasing through their label and making a splash on the local music scene.

**Fri 1 Sep 18:30 – 22:00**

**Sat 2 Sep 11:30 – 22:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:45 – 18:00**

Zebedee’s Yard, Hull, HU1 2JN

**Hannabiell and Midnight Blue Collective (United Kingdom)**

Led by multi-instrumentalist Hannabiell Sanders, this high energy ensemble is nothing less than exhilarating as it fuses together Afro-Caribbean & Latin percussion, Jazz, Afro-beat, and Funk to create their unique sound.

The music created from this fusion is an organic blend of powerful and upbeat drums, brass, vocal chants, and mbira compositions which not only produces an invigorating party atmosphere, it also summons audience participation. This fusion they call “Afro-psychedelic funk”.

**Sat 2 Sep 21:00**

Social, 63 Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1TU

**Tribute – Kinetika Bloco (United Kingdom)**

Family Friendly, Walkabout

Tribute: a gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect, or admiration​

Kinetika Bloco’s Tribute takes us on a journey to explore the movement of people into London and what impact this has had on our music. Like the river flowing through our great city, we gather and create new streams flowing forwards. People bring their music, stories and experiences and as they connect to where they are and who they meet, new sounds emerge. We pay tribute to cultures and traditions. We celebrate the resilience people have shown on their journeys and find solidarity in our differences. We evolve, moving forward, taking parts of each other with us towards a better future. This is our Tribute.

**Sat 2 Sep 16:00 –** Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

**Sat 2 Sep 20:00 –** Zebedee’s Yard, Hull, HU1 2JN

**Sun 3 Sep 12:30 -** Trinity Square, Hull, HU1 1RR

**Sun 3 Sep 14:15 –** Queen Victoria Square, Hull, HU1 3RL

**The Skiband**

Family Friendly, Walkabout

Engaging and irreverent, The Skiband bring fine tunes and just a little mischief...

A five piece acoustic, brass based band featuring sousaphone, saxophone, Trumpet, accordion and shouty vocals! Out to have fun, spread a smile and play great music. Their aim is to get in with the audience and to entertain.

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00, 14:30, 16:45**

**Sun 3 Sep 11:45, 14:30, 16:00**

Various city centre locations including Princes Dock Street, Whitefriargate and Posterngate

**Festival Club**

Welcome to Festival Club, a relatively new tradition of Freedom Festival, where audiences and artists come together to unwind, socialise, and celebrate into the night.

What is Festival Club? We encourage artists who are joining us at the festival who may have a musical, DJ, or cabaret-style talent to sign up to perform at Social on Humber Street. We dance, sing, and laugh together as a cross-cultural and multi-national audience to celebrate international arts and artists coming together in Hull City Centre.

Saturday night will feature DJ Marco (Oi Musica) presenting a celebration of club music from the Afro-Caribbean diaspora with live musicians from London's Kinetika Bloco. The perfection combination of Afro dance music with live horns & percussion! Check the website for line ups ahead of the festival…. It’s going to be a lot of fun.

**Fri 1 Sep 21:30**

**Sat 2 Sep 21:30**

Social, 63 Humber Street, Hull, HU1 1TU

* **INSTALLATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS**

**Tomorrow – Freedom Women Collective**

Audio described, BSL Interpreted

Tomorrow by Freedom Women Collective is an enduring reference to hope, belief and self-determination.

In every language, tomorrow can be a promise, a practical arrangement, or a philosophical proposition. It is always a way of looking to the future, together. An IWM 14-18 Now Legacy Fund commission in partnership with Freedom Festival Arts Trust, the artists weave stories from Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Sudan using visual and textile art, sculpture, performance, poetry and photography. At the heart of the exhibition, their slideshow film Tomorrow is an exploration of ownership of representation and memory of displacement.

During the festival and on Saturdays, the collective invites you to special events in the studio to share experiences of loss, resistance, resilience and survival.

**Exhibition open from 30 Aug – 27 Sep**

**Mon – Sat 10:00 – 16:30 and Sun 11:00 – 16:00**

Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Carr Lane, Hull, HU1 3RA

**Invisible City – Via Berlin (Netherlands)**

Can I take the words that hurt so much from you and carry them?

In the interactive theatrical performance and installation, you are invited to view the city from a single room. A city that seems far away. Looking at the end of the horizon, behind the walls, the doors and through the trees. Look to the past, straighten that which is crooked and turn it upside down. See what is invisible to the outside world.

Words and sentences that are said casually, indifferently, or directly, but words which people take with them on their journey. These words have stuck and we all carry them with us. What words and phrases do you carry?

Invisible City is a project which offers a space for all to let go of negative words we all carry with us and to move on. Perhaps these are words that people say to each other in a relationship, between colleagues, family and friends or just casually on the street. You can leave those hurtful words with theatre-maker Dagmar Slagmolen and social designer Madelinde Hageman and continue your journey through the city relieved.

**Thurs 31 Aug 12:00 – 14:00, 15:00 – 17:00**

**Fri 1 Sep 12:00 – 14:00, 15:00 – 17:00**

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00 – 14:00, 15:00 – 17:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 14:00, 14:30 – 16:00**

Murdoch’s Connection, Castle Street, Hull, HU1 2BX

**Walking in Thin Places – Annie Luke Turner (United Kingdom)**

No Spoken Word

A series of abstract paintings which have evolved from time spent at Julian’s Bower medieval turf maze, Alkborough in North Lincolnshire. Annie’s work is based around her interest in landscape, history, archaeology and myths. The turf maze and the landscape around it, have a special, timeless atmosphere. The convergence of three rivers add to the feeling that this place has been important to our ancestors for hundreds of years. The idea of ‘Thin Places’ is often applied to places where there is a sense of something that transcends the everyday world.

**Weds 30 Aug – Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

Bond 31, High Street, Hull, HU1 1PS

**Wilberforce Institute Exhibitions**

**Homelands**

Wartime photography from a privately owned collection just prior to the decolonization of Sierra Leone from Britain, selected by the Hull Afro Caribbean Association, examining the shared homelands of British service personnel and Sierra Leonian people during the upheaval of WWII.

**Weds 30 Aug – Fri 1 Sep 11:00 – 15:00**

**Sat 2 Sep – Sun 3 Sep 10:00 – 18:00**

Wilberforce Institute, 27 High Street, Hull, HU1 1NE

**An American Freedom Fighter**

International traveling exhibition about the life of Venture Smith, a survivor of the British slave trade to North America, and a great self-made man.

**Weds 30 Aug – Sat 2 Sep 10:00 – 16:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 11:00 – 16:00**

Wilberforce House Gardens, 23-25 High Street, Hull, HU1 1NQ

**Adinkra Symbol Art Trail**

The Adinkra art trail is a family activity across the Museums Quarter and encourages families to explore Adinkra symbols and its significance to the Ghanaian diaspora. The trail around the Museums Quarter encourages visitors to learn more about the symbols and how they link with freedom in Ghana culture.

**Weds 30 Aug – Sat 2 Sep 10:00 – 16:30**

**Sun 3 Sep 11:00 – 16:00**

Museum Quarter Gardens, High Street, Hull, HU1 1PS

**Uncovering Modern Slavery Exhibition**

Modern Slavery can affect children and adults irrespective of age, ethnicity, gender, religion or background. Uncovering Modern Slavery is an exhibition created in partnership with the Humber Modern Slavery Partnership and the Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull.

This is a multi-media exhibition comprised of information boards, small display items and short films including the Anywhere Kids film.

**Weds 30 Aug – Fri 1 Sep 11:00 – 15:00**

**Sat 2 Sep – Sun 3 Sep 10:00 – 18:00**

Wilberforce House Gardens, 23-25 High Street, Hull, HU1 1NQ

**Bringing Breathlessness into View – Hull York Medical School**

In collaboration with local people living with breathlessness and artists Anna Bean and Rock Mackay.

People with breathlessness often feel poorly understood and stigmatised. As a result, they can feel lonely and isolated. This exhibition aims to raise awareness of what it is like to live with breathlessness, and enable people to access support to manage their breathlessness well.

**Weds 30 Aug – Thurs 31 Aug 12:00 – 16:00**

**Fri 1 Sep – Sat 2 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 16:00**

Hepworth Arcade, Silver Street, Hull, HU1 1JE

**Shorelines – The Perfect Storm – Rights Community Action**

An exhibition of work created with Hull communities about the impact of climate change on Hull.

Rights Community Action invite the people of Hull to come and join a conversation about climate change and its impact on our city. Through a range of activities including creative workshops, talks and interviews you can learn about how rising sea level will affect you and how you can take action now!

**Weds 30 Aug – Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

18 Whitefriargate, Hull, HU1 2ER

* **INTERACTIVE AND WORKSHOPS**

**Screen-print your own merch! – (no brand) printing (United Kingdom**

Family Friendly

As part of an effort to reduce waste and combat fast fashion, we are offering an opportunity to bring to life old clothing such as t-shirts and hoodies by turning them into unique Freedom Festival merchandise. Brought to you by (no brand) printing, an independent collective of designers and printers based in the North. If you haven’t got a piece of clothing, you can select from a range of vintage options at the tent! No booking necessary, find pricing on our website!

**Fri 1 Sep – Sat 2 Sep 12:00 – 20:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

**Good Things Market**

Good Things is a curated makers’ market bringing around 50 ace makers, crafters, and creatives to the Fruit Market.

Expect the gravy-de-la-gravy of artists, bakers, creators, painters, movers, shakers, heart breakers from across Hull, The North and even further than that, just for you!

For a few days a year, they transform a dark car park into a bustling market hall, with a well-chosen variety of traders so that there’s something for everyone. They promise you’ll find something to make you smile, whether that’s locally roasted coffee, a big squidgy baked good, a handmade item or a one-of-a-kind vintage find.

**Sun 3 Sep 10:30 – 16:30**

Undercroft Car Park, Queen Street, Hull, HU1 1XA

**Freedom Chess Challenge – Hull and District Chess Association (United Kingdom)**

Family Friendly

A non-serious challenge to all comers to play chess games against family, friends, other members of the public or even local experts. This is an opportunity for festivalgoers of all ages to play street chess, on a giant chess set or on public tables – helped (if needed) by experienced chess players.

**Sat 1 Sep 10:00 – 18:00**

Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

**Science Busking – Hull Street Scientists (United Kingdom)**

Family Friendly

The Hull Street Scientists are hitting Freedom Festival to show off some of our favourite magic tricks. But magic is science that you don’t understand yet. So, we aren’t going to stop at just showing you the magic, we’ll reveal the hidden maths, science and psychology behind some amazing tricks (just don’t tell the Magic Circle!). Find us roaming the festival with our box of tricks.

**Sat 2 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

**Sun 3 Sep 12:00 – 18:00**

Princes Dock Street, Hull, HU1 2LP

**All Ages Clown Workshop – Fraser Hooper (New Zealand)**

Exercise your funny bones and discover the art of clowning around with internationally acclaimed clown Fraser Hooper.

Through improvisation, rhythm, and play learn how to develop your timing and build comedy routines. This fun practical workshop is for the whole family to enjoy together. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Sun 3 Sep 10:00**

Zebedee’s Yard, Hull, HU1 2JN

**What You Don’t See Workshop – Hull York Medical School (United Kingdom)**

A writing workshop led by local author Chris Westoby about the parts of us we keep shielded from theworld.

**Wed 30 Aug 13:00**

**Fri 1 Sep 13:00**

Hepworth Arcade, Silver Street, Hull, HU1 1JE

**Loneliness and Togetherness Workshop – Hull York Medical School (United Kingdom)**

A creative collage workshop using cut and paste techniques to make your own piece of artwork inspired by themes of loneliness and togetherness.

**Thurs 31 Aug 13:00**

**Sat 2 Sep 13:00**

Hepworth Arcade, Silver Street, Hull, HU1 1JE

**Let’s Make an Opera in a Day – The Everyman Project (United Kingdom)**

A creative collage workshop using cut and paste techniques to make your own piece of artwork inspired by themes of loneliness and togetherness.

**Thurs 31 Aug 13:00 and Sat 2 Sep 13:00**

Hepworth Arcade, Silver Street, Hull, HU1 1JE

* **ONLINE**

**KELI: A young woman’s story told in sound – Martin Green and Emma Rice with Lepus Productions (United Kingdom)**

Captioned

In a town where many seem to have given up, something remarkable is happening. Steeped in the ultra-competitive world of brass banding, the burning star of a 17-year-old foul-mouthed genius threatens to implode as KELI fights to be heard above the background noise of caring, competing and minimum wage.

Get comfortable, grab a drink and join us for this online listening party to celebrate the international release of KELI by Ivor Novello winning composer Martin Green. Headphones recommended. Features strong language and adult themes. We recommend audiences come along to KELI: A Work in Progress Sharing to experience the process of transforming this audio work into a live theatre performance.

**Weds 30 Aug 19:00 – 21:00**

**EXIT Documentary – Sophie Tooten, Martin Kers, Piet Van Dycke, Circumstance (Belgium)**

Captioned

This documentary gives an insight into the working process of EXIT by Circumstances and Choreographer Piet Van Dycke. Learn about the process of how they worked with four circus artists and a purpose built set.

Watch the team travel from residency to residency, continuing to work through ups and downs, in search of combining four different circus disciplines into one collective (dance) language. The documentary shows the process that leads to the performance you can see at Stage@The Dock.

**Three Minute Monologues Film – The Warren Youth Project and Middle Child Theatre (United Kingdom)**

Captioned

A documentary of the process behind the year-long Three Minute Monologues project, featuring interviews from the Warren Youth Project team, the writers at Middle Child Theatre and young people who took part in sessions and workshops.

The documentary will be available on our website after the Three Minute Monologues performance has finished.

**Wilberforce Films**

**Wilberforce Summer Debate (Pre-Recorded)**

‘Slave Resistance before the Haitian Revolution’, chaired by Professor Trevor Burnard and featuring a panel of expert commentators.

**War-time Railway Journeys (Pre-Recorded)**

Photography from Sierra Leone during the 1940s.

**Anywhere Kids Film**

Modern Slavery can affect children and adults irrespective of age, ethnicity, gender, religion or background. Delivered as a collaboration with the Humber Modern Slavery Partnership, Anywhere Kids is an animation created by My Pockets which demonstrates the consequences around being groomed and exploited.

**Freedom Talks**

We’re working in partnership with the University of Hull, historians and journalists from the Guardian’s Cotton Capital series, partners of the InSitu NETWORK, Circuscentrum (Belgium) and our friends from Outdoor Arts UK to co-design the Freedom Talks 2023.

The Freedom Talks (formerly the Symposium) are not just a place for Creatives, Academics or Arts and Festival Professionals, but for anyone who is interested in arts-based research, innovative creative practices impacting health and well-being, impact of art in public space and how socially driven practice makes a difference in modern day society.

It's going to be a very inspiring, sociable and informative few days. Come and join us, all voices are welcome.

Full details and schedules are available online. We ask that you sign up for sessions, so please visit the website for more.

**Eco Statement**

Our team are making big strides to offset our eco footprint year by year. Here are some of the new ways we are doing that this year:
**Hull Bike Co-op**: We are working with the local bike delivery and haulage team to distribute and deliver anything that will fit in their cycle-powered trailers! Read more on our website about who Hull Bike Co-op are and how we are working with them this year.

**Reduced and eco-print**: Print can have a big impact on the environment, so we are using biodegradable and recyclable materials, working with eco-conscious print companies and reducing how much we print by 50%! If you’re screen-printing your own merchandise, we also encourage you to bring your own t-shirts or tote bags from home.
**Eco-catering**: Behind the scenes we need to feed hundreds and artists, volunteers and team members, so we are working with Mother May I Kitchen to feed everyone with yummy plant-based and locally sourced ingredients every day for lunch and dinner.
**Reusable water bottles**: We now have Freedom Festival water bottles available to buy at our info point if you forget to bring your own.
We’re also working closely with experts from the events sector, University of Hull, industry and international partners to understand better our impact and what we can do better.

**We are Freedom Festival Arts Trust**

We bring thousands of people together through our annual festival and year-round artistic and creative programme of performances, events, talent development and targeted participatory work to excite, inspire, challenge, empower and provoke.

Not only do we produce Hull's famous Freedom Festival, we also develop new projects and events such as our new winter festival - The Awakening.

We celebrate Hull’s independent spirit, our origin story relating to the work of William Wilberforce and the city's extraordinary heritage working closely with artists and many partners to deliver year-round creative activity and a world-class annual arts festival.

We believe in supporting people from all walks of life to explore the arts, as we know that enjoyment of creativity and the arts are central to the well-being of our society.

**Core team**: Mikey Martins, Laura Beddows, Vanessa Nolan, Jo Hawkes, Kathryn Biggin, Jenni Harrison, Holly Philo, Beth Murrell and Matt Nolan

**Freelance Team:** Rachael Abbey, Jessy Zschorn, Tare Kagbala, Lucy Tessier and Isabel Arce-Zelada

**Event Safety and Production Management**: TG Events Ltd.

**Interns**: Morgan Mahoney and Nabilah Hadi

**Box Office**: Danielle McLoughlin and Hull Truck Theatre

**Core Funders and Creative Partners**

Our funders, networks and partners. We believe the best way to support artists and culture is to work with expert and passionate partners and networks. Our networks are groups of different people or businesses from different contexts who want to support what we do and want to achieve similar goals.

**IN SITU** is a European platform for artistic creation in public space and is co-funded by the Creative Europe programme and granted European Commission to develop a new cooperation project called (UN)COMMON SPACES which is running until October 2024. We are one of 16 partners from 13 countries.

**Arts Council England** are a national development agency for creativity and culture. They invest public money from the Government and from The National Lottery to support our sector. We have been awarded funding as a National Portfolio Holder Organisation since 2018 and most recently awarded a new NPO from 2023 – 2026. ACE continue to support cultural and the arts in our region because of this funding.

**Hull City Council** have generously supported Freedom Festival since our inception and have continued support as the charity became an independent charitable arts trust.

**University of Hull** support our work through a long-term partnership offering opportunities to work with students and academics through internships, research projects, content co-creation and artist-led participatory and residency projects. We collaborate with multiple departments across the university. The Wilberforce Institute has been key to our relationship with the university through work relating to the history, systemic legacy and impact of slavery and other modern day social issues. And this year we will be holding 2 days of Freedom Talks on campus.

As part of the project ‘Flemish circus showcase in collaboration with UK’, funded by VLAIO, **Circuscentrum** and Freedom Festival put a spotlight on Flemish circus creations and bring professionals together around the topic of Circus and Wellbeing. We share an interest in engaging the public in the arts and believe in the potential of circus to connect people. Circuscentrum was founded in 2008 in order to connect, stimulate and support the Flemish circus sector. Its core tasks are support and development of the sector, image building and promotion. Through tailor-made advice, training and info sessions Circuscentrum ensures a solid foundation on which the sector can continue to build.

**The Warren Youth Project** provides vital support services to many young people in Hull and uses creativity as a key element of all their important work. This year for their 40th Birthday, we are working together to feature a powerful line up of local young musical talent in the city on our music stage and we’re also presenting Three Minute Monologues project, a project which they have created with Middle Child Theatre.

We are proud to be a part of the **IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund**, a national partnership programme of over 20 artist commissions inspired by the heritage of conflict. Led by Imperial War Museums, the fund was created following the success of 14-18 NOW, the official UK arts programme for the First World War centenary. With their support we have co-commissioned The Freedom Women Collective, a local group of women who have survived war, conflict and persecution, to tell their stories through a multi-artform exhibition called Tomorrow.

**Global Streets** is a 12-partner national network that co-creates & presents international outdoor arts events with communities living and working in places which are underserved by the arts. Since 2015, the 12 partners, including Freedom Festival Arts Trust, has brought 220+ performances to high streets and public spaces across England, reimagining them as accessible outdoor theatre spaces where nobody needs a ticket.

We have co-presented many shows at **Hull Truck Theatre** over the years as part of Freedom Festival and worked together on artist support programs. During this year’s festival we have come together to co-present the UK premiere of Via Berlin’s ‘Instant Loneliness’, to co-host a residency to develop a new work by Martin Green/Lepus Productions, and to support a new outdoor commission called ‘Invisible City’ from Via Berlin, which is part of ongoing work between us and the University of Hull with support from British Council.

**The British Council** support us to find new ways of connecting with international partners and to better understand each other through the arts. They work hard to assist the building of creative and collaborative global communities that inspire innovation, knowledge, prosperity and peace. The connections they support and build through arts and culture transform lives and create positive change.

We are working closely with **Hull Music Service** to develop inter-generational participatory projects with music at their heart – this year you’ll be able to see the extraordinary and a little bit bonkers ‘ Beautiful Bones’ project that we have developed in partnership with them.