

# THE ILLUSTRATED MAN



PROPER JOB



THEATRE Co

# OVERVIEW

**Proper Job Theatre Company** would like to produce a large-scale outdoor event to celebrate the **Cultural Heart and Kirklees cultural sector**. We anticipate the show happening in late August 2027, with a 6 month build time involving local artists and arts groups, culminating in a performance by Proper Job Theatre Company bringing the artists ideas to life before the audience.

Inspired by the ideas found in the book *The Illustrated Man* (Ray Bradbury, 1951), a tattooed man is haunted by the images covering his body, which come alive as the sun sets, telling tales of the future. Kirklees Cultural Heart will witness a 20ft Anthony Gormley-type statue standing tall and watch the images painted on his body come to life prophesising the future.

The statue will arrive a week before the performance and each day a new tattoo will be projected onto the statue, provoking thoughts of the future and growing anticipation in the community.

On the evening of the performance, with the help of a participatory cast, Proper Job will bring these projections to life in a dynamic, inspiring, and thought provoking production for the people of Kirklees.



## CYCLE SONG

A huge, outdoor community opera featuring a cast of local choirs, drama students and professional singers. This awe-inspiring mix of theatre, music, libretto and technical spectacle told the story of Albert “Lal” White - a Scunthorpe steelworker who won an Olympic silver medal in 1920. It played over two nights in July 2012 to sold-out audiences of local residents at the Brumby Hall grounds in Scunthorpe. Cycle Song garnered exceptional national and local reviews and even warranted an article in the USA's esteemed Smithsonian Magazine.

# PROJECTED IMAGES

We will commission several artists, with weight towards local talent, to create their interpretation of the future as a projection on themes such as:

- **OUR TOWN**
- **SOCIAL SOCIETY**
- **POLITICS**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **COMMUNITY**

Each theme would be decided through discussion with each artist. These may take the form of a poem, an illustration, a symbol; we're open to ideas, ultimately creating a huge illustrated body in the centre of the Cultural Heart.



## BEOWULF

Created especially for **Kirklees Year of Music**, this adaptation of Beowulf features an original score celebrating the creativity of the local musicians of Kirklees.

Performances took place between 8 and 11 November 2023 and included a Viking procession along the streets of Huddersfield, starting at the Byram Arcade and travelling to St Peter's Church where the story of Beowulf was told.

# PARTICIPATION

We will commission artists to work with community groups to respond to the same theme, resulting in exhibitions, music, performance, dance; however the artists and groups decide to respond. These pieces will either be incorporated into the final show or be presented as a prologue to the performance.

We will follow our traditional format of incorporating community participation within the production. We will work with choirs, university students, youth theatres and other interested groups to establish the production as *'Made in Kirklees'*.

Utilising our **HotHouse** model, we will be able to offer free rehearsal space, a network of contacts and professional support. This will allow us to have overall artistic control, whilst making the project development an artistic and creative CPD for the artists involved.

**[Learn more about the Hothouse on our website](#)**



# TIMELINE

## **2026 – PROPER JOB PLANNING**

- **Raise the funding**
- **Build relationships with artists and group**
- **Test the formula through HotHouse**
- **Send out and confirm 10 commissions**
- **Site visits and site planning**
- **Understand and plan for public needs, such as toilets, road closures, security, etc.**
- **Devise the story**
- **Plan for the statue**
- **Prep for other production needs such as costume, set, actors, musicians etc.**

## **2027 – PRODUCTION**

- **Jan/Feb – production schedule agreed**
- **March – R and D**
- **April to July – community groups building their work**
- **July/August – rehearsals**
- **August – on site preparations, rehearsals, tech, dress, performance**



**For more information please contact  
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**And see our previous work here:  
[www.properjob.org.uk/current-productions](http://www.properjob.org.uk/current-productions)  
and here: [www.properjob.org.uk/past-productions](http://www.properjob.org.uk/past-productions)**

