**29 June — 16 July**

**Manchester City Centre**

**WE CUT THROUGH DUST**

**Blast Theory and Manchester Street Poem**

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is one of the world’s leading arts festivals and the first to be entirely focused on making ambitious new work. Every two years MIF brings the most exciting artists on the planet to the city – and invites the people of Greater Manchester to help shape its programme.

Run by the Factory International team, MIF is staged all over Manchester. Since its first edition in 2007, the Festival has brought together the best in the performing and visual arts, music and pop culture. Events happen in all kinds of spaces – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks – pushing boundaries and mixing up genres.

MIF23 is the first Festival to take place in Factory International’s new home and Manchester’s latest cultural landmark, Aviva Studios – while continuing to pop up all over the city.

**factoryinternational.org / #MIF23**

We Cut Through Dust has been made in collaboration between Blast Theory and Manchester Street Poem. Commissioned by Factory International for Manchester International Festival. Produced by Blast Theory. Cover Image: Andrew Testa

**WE CUT THROUGH DUST**

Thank you for taking this walk through the city and into the future with us. Was it how you imagined it would be?

We Cut Through Dust is a collaboration between Blast Theory, an artist group that makes interactive work exploring social and political questions, and Manchester Street Poem, a co-produced art collective whose work reflects the personal experiences of Manchester’s marginalised communities.

No strangers to the Festival, Manchester Street Poem first featured in MIF17 and have worked closely alongside MIF ever since, making space for the stories of those who find themselves homeless in the city.

**Manchester Street Poem**

Manchester Street Poem started in 2016 when Karl Hyde from the band Underworld, and representatives from Manchester International Festival (MIF), approached members of Manchester Homelessness Partnership’s Arts & Heritage group to collaborate on a project for MIF17.

Manchester Street Poem seeks solutions to the dehumanising of fellow Mancunians living on the streets who are ‘blanked out’ and walked past. Through sharing stories, connections are created that counteract the effects of marginalisation: ‘no us and them – only us’.

With co-production as a core value, the group continues to bring disparate people together as equal contributors. Manchester Street Poem continually reshapes its understanding and practice to ensure that everything it does demonstrates integrity and a duty of care.

**Manchester Street Poem Credits**

**Simon Leroux** Project Manager

**Somerset Smith** Workshop Facilitator

**Antoinette Tolino, Clare Johnson, Dajonnelle Thompson, Jamie McKeon, John Organ, Lorna Webb, Norman Walsh, Paul Rodgers, Rhona Musoke, Rob MacDonald, Sheena Tibbott, Simon Leroux, Somerset Smith, Vic Miller** Artistic Contributors.

**mcrstreetpoem.com / @mcrstreetpoem**

**Blast Theory**

Blast Theory make interactive art to explore social and political questions. The group’s work places the public at the centre of unusual and sometimes unsettling experiences, to create new perspectives and open up the possibility of change.

Led by Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr and Nick Tandavanitj, the group draws on popular culture and new technologies to make performances, games, films, apps and installations. Blast Theory have shown work at the Venice Biennale, Tribeca Festival, ICC in Tokyo, the Barbican and Tate Britain.

Blast Theory have been nominated for four BAFTAs and won the Golden Nica at Prix Ars Electronica and the Nam June Paik Art Center Prize. Founded in 1991, Blast Theory are based in Brighton in the UK.

**Blast Theory Credits**

**Matt Adams, Ju Row Farr, Nick Tandavanitj** Artists

**Anne Rupert** Business Director

**Sarah Julia Clark** Project Manager

**Kizzie Furini** Studio Manager

**Andrew Crofts** Production Manager

**Jonny Goode** Communications Manager

**blasttheory.co.uk / @blasttheory**

**Factory International / Manchester International Festival**

**Ric Watts** Senior Producer

**Mike Pony** Producer

**Jack Thompson** Associate Technical Director

**Rebecca Burgess** Production Administrator

**Production Credits**

**Andrew Testa** Photographer

**Simon Chislett, Aaron Smith and M3 Industries Team** Sign Fabrication

**James Bradbury** Control Interface Developer

**Simon James** Sound Editor

**Lucy Ventura** Video Editor

**Vas Zygounas** Production Assistant

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