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## **Leeds-based producer Emma Beverley appointed new Executive Producer for Leeds 2023**

Leeds Culture Trust's plan for a landmark year of culture in 2023 has taken a big step forward with the appointment of Emma Beverley as Executive Producer.

Based in Leeds, Emma is a highly accomplished producer and programmer of multiple artforms who has made and presented award-winning art in a range of contexts, including at the Royal Court Theatre and British Council Showcase. Much of Emma's work has been embedded in Leeds' communities, often featuring at some of the city's more offbeat places such as pubs, clubs, cafes and derelict storage units.

In 2019, Emma was appointed co-director at East Street Arts, focusing on public programming, international strategy and business development. Prior to joining East Street Arts, she was the founding producer for multiple award-winning performance artist Selina Thompson and also worked as executive producer for groundbreaking Leeds based Eclipse Theatre Company.

Kully Thiarai, creative director and CEO of Leeds 2023, said, "We are thrilled Emma is joining the team at Leeds 2023 and we very much look forward to working with her. Emma is someone who knows both Leeds and the culture sector inside out, and brings with her a diverse range of skills, expertise and insight. Her experience of putting on cultural events and spectacles on both a large scale and in quirky, unconventional spaces is unrivalled as is her reputation for working collaboratively with independent artists and companies. Her passion and enthusiasm for Leeds means she already has some really exciting ideas for our year of culture in 2023. Emma joins our accomplished, dedicated team who are working towards celebrating the extraordinary everyday creativity of this wonderful city and showcasing Leeds' cultural might to the rest of the world!"

Emma, who takes up the post at Leeds 2023 in January 2021, commented, “Leeds has been the best place for me to grow as a producer. A huge part of that growth has been with East Street Arts and the wonderful team there, who I am deeply grateful to have worked with for the last two years. I can't imagine a more unique opportunity than this one, becoming part of the Leeds 2023 team and working with people across the city to make really special things happen. Leeds 2023 has a big role to play in the cultural sector's recovery over the next three years, and I am grateful I will be part of that journey.”

Emma was part of the team who developed the original programme for what was set to be Leeds' bid for European Capital of Culture 2023, before UK based bids were discontinued in light of Brexit. For Leeds 2023, Emma will lead the delivery of an exciting range of new artistic commissions, co-productions, collaborations and events in the lead up to and during Leeds 2023 Year of Culture.

Karen Watson, director of East Street Arts adds, “Emma has been a director for East Street Arts for the last two years and she was a very welcome addition to the senior team at a time when we needed the expertise and skills she brings. It has been a particularly challenging time due to a large restructure of the company and then COVID but throughout the whole time Emma brought a wealth of skill, passion for her work and a positive approach. She has made a huge impact on the organisation and we will miss her. But we are really pleased she is staying in Leeds and we know she will contribute to the development and shape of 2023 in an amazing and inclusive way.”

For more information regarding Leeds 2023 visit: [www.leeds2023.co.uk](http://www.leeds2023.co.uk) / Twitter: @leeds\_2023 / Facebook: 2023Leeds / Instagram: leeds2023

**ENDS**

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**Notes for editors**

**Leeds 2023**



Leeds 2023's ambition is to deliver a transformational year of creative experiences connecting and benefiting people now and into the future. The planned programme will celebrate and transform the city's identity locally, nationally and internationally – creating a lasting legacy of economic and social impact. Leeds 2023 is run by the Leeds Culture Trust, an independent charity set up in 2019. Leeds City Council recognises the difference culture and creativity can make to a city and its citizens, and is the principal funder of Leeds 2023. [www.leeds2023.co.uk](http://www.leeds2023.co.uk)