

AUTUMN 2016

VIRGIN TERRITORY WORKSHOPS

Internationally acclaimed multidisciplinary performance company **Vincent Dance Theatre** is offering **WORKSHOPS** for young people to safely explore and creatively respond to the themes of its new production **VIRGIN TERRITORY** – premiering on 2 November 2016 at The Place.

VIRGIN TERRITORY investigates **everyday sexism** and the **challenges that young people face as they forge their own identities in an image complex world**. The workshops offer a safe space to have meaningful conversations about how our over-sexualised, high digitized culture is affecting their world, their identities, personal choices and relationships. It offers not only an opportunity to develop an awareness of issues around diversity in relation to gender equality, culture, race and sexual orientation, but also to appreciate how these issues can be used imaginatively as creative themes. The workshops aim to help young people develop a fuller understanding of some of the challenges facing them in these areas and how they can positively and creatively respond. There is also an opportunity to see an example of high quality artistic response to these themes by attending Vincent Dance Theater's new production **VIRGIN TERRITORY** in November.



VIRGIN TERRITORY WORKSHOPS take place in a 'staged environment'. The room contains props and materials used in previous productions from VDT's long history of exploring social issues through outstanding performance. In the room participants **RESPOND** to a series of tasks: decorating the layers of a Babuska doll, thinking about inner layers of themselves, making t-shirts slogans, burying deep thoughts, writing letters to magazine editors about photoshopping, thinking more deeply about the lyrics and dance moves of popular music, engaging in small group discussion - telling their own stories and responding to other peoples'. Participants can work at their own pace, alone, in pairs or small groups, developing a viewpoint and owning their ideas. See participants describe the workshop in this short trailer: <https://youtu.be/chVsk81bZjQ>





The creative **RESPONSES** (with permission) are shared in our online **photo galleries** and via other digital social media platforms. You can see photo galleries from previous workshops here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/132150614@N07/sets>

VIRGIN TERRITORY WORKSHOPS form just the first part of a wider programme of artist led activity threading through into 2017. After participating in a **WORKSHOP** you can see **VIRGIN TERRITORY** live in London (Nov '16). We will then tour a **VIRGIN TERRITORY** digital installation (Feb/Mar '17), returning to schools and communities we have worked with, not only to share the filmed performance but to run **BOYS WORKSHOPS**. From this engagement, a boys show will be developed for **BRIGHTON FESTIVAL** (May '17). You can find out more about this tour and previous work on our website: <http://www.vincentdt.com/>

This programme of work is also accompanied by [#VDTEverydayAction](#) our **SOCIAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**. Here we post **hopeful and practical everyday actions anyone can do to challenge the pressures of everyday sexism and digital culture**, created by workshop participants or audiences on Twitter and Instagram. It offers an opportunity to positively participate in a campaign for change alongside other online campaigns, such as [Everyday Sexism](#), [Object](#) and [iRight](#), increasing young people's capacity to practical solutions to the issues raised.



SAFEGUARDING POLICY, CHILD PROTECTION & DISCLOSURES

VDT has a rigorous safeguarding policy and clear guidelines to support any personal disclosures. **VIRGIN TERRITORY WORKSHOPS** are facilitated by an experienced team who **create a safe space** where participants can share dialogue and creative exchange. All facilitators are **DBS CHECKED**.

VDT is a National Portfolio Organisation, funded by Arts Council England. VDT is Associate Company at Brighton Dome. VDT and Yorkshire Dance are Artistic Partners.



VIRGIN TERRITORY WORKSHOPS, SPRING 2016 – FEEDBACK

- It opened my mind to both sides of the situation and made me really think about sexualisation on both boys and girls. **Participant, Pilot**
- [It made me think about] how much I myself am sucked into the fake life we show. **Participant, Brighton**
- Thank you again for the workshop we all had a great time and the follow on chats have been fascinating. **Woodcraft Folk group leader**
- [Rated] 20/10 **Participant, Brighton**
- This was a thought provoking workshop which allowed me to share many thoughts I have wanted to express about sexuality in society today. **Participant, Brighton**
- All very encouraging and mind blowing. **Participant, Brighton**
- I had lots of positive feedback about the workshops - I think they were really useful - many thanks. **DV8, group leader**
- It was great to see the ladies participate as well as they did... Looking at the tasks and subject involved with Virgin Territory, this has given women a place for discussion and gave individuals a level of awareness into how this can have an effect on life changing choices and decisions. **Women's Group Leader, Brighton**
- It made me think about what I am unconsciously listening to. **Participant, Pilot**
- It was an unforgettable moment for all of us and we were very privileged to be part of a choreographic research! The children clearly understood it and every project we do now makes more sense to them. **Primary School Teacher, London**
- It was something completely different and very interesting and insightful. I thought everyone worked so well together and it was so interesting. **Participant, London**
- I really found the workshop very interesting and have signed up for the newsletter. I look forward to doing something with the company again. **Participant, Pilot**
- I found it very informative and educational. Really enjoyed myself and would love to do it again. **Participant, Pilot**
- I felt accepted! **Participant, Brighton**
- It connected the personal to the present. **Participant, Brighton**
- It made me feel powerful. **Participant, Pilot**
- My least favourite thing was not having time to do them all! **Participant, London**