

SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION

vincent
dance
theatre

Directed & Designed by Charlotte Vincent
Cinematographer & Editor Bosie Vincent
Soundtrack by Jules Maxwell, with young people from AudioActive



*'A witty and humane examination of conflicting forces. Vincent identifies, with forensic precision, the different ways in which men react to changing times'**** The Observer*

*'Such a powerful and nuanced view on an important and seemingly intractable problem'
Audience, Brighton Festival, May 2018*

Vincent Dance Theatre (VDT) makes crucial performance for the critical times in which we live.

SHUT DOWN is Vincent Dance Theatre's thought-provoking, timely new **FILM INSTALLATION**, that investigates the pressures, contradictions and confusions of being a man.

Performed by an outstanding cast of seven male performers, including three exceptionally talented teenagers, movement, spoken word, rap and striking visual imagery collide to shine a fierce and funny light on masculinity. **SHUT DOWN** explores gender fluidity, absent fatherhood, male depression, pornography and misogyny. The voices of the young people in the work are urgent and moving: they show us, in no uncertain terms, what needs to change.

SHUT DOWN is the result of a collaboration between VDT and Brighton based AudioActive (<http://audioactive.org.uk>), a music charity working with young people and contemporary urban culture. Five young people from AudioActive created original material for the production, with 15-year old Eben'Flo's passionate spoken word pieces, Marshall Mandiangu's songs and Matt McLaughlin's rap threading through the work, underscored by Jules Maxwell's evocative soundtrack.

View VDT's **SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION TRAILER** here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5-cE-v-Fbw>

'This was my highlight of the Festival - honest, thoughtful, funny, gut-wrenching.' Audience
Member, Brighton, May 2018



SHUT DOWN plays across six large portrait TV screens, demanding 'active' viewing from the audience. The multi-screen format and complex edit mirrors the fragmented way in which we now filter the world through a variety of digital devices, often translating more than one image at the same time. The audience's gaze is pulled from screen to screen as this full-length production unfolds, over an intense, dramatic and thought-provoking hour. The work is accessible, provocative political theatre, with content ranging from the fragile to the cocksure. **SHUT DOWN** is the first all-male production from *'one of the most important feminist artists working today'* **The Observer**.

SHUT DOWN questions assumptions about masculinity and raises awareness about the need for positive role models for boys in the light of the campaigns around sexual harassment, gender equality and everyday sexism, such as **#MeToo** and **#HeforShe**. Vincent's new work locates visually striking dance theatre at the heart of public debate, discussing vital issues of our time.

See 15-year old **Eben'Flo** perform **MAN OF THE HOUSE**
(as heard on BBC's Woman's Hour, 2017) here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taqcsd7IS0c>

SHUT DOWN premiered at Brighton Festival in May 2018 and was seen by over 1,300 people, 85% of whom were new to VDT and 38% identifying as male.

'SHUT DOWN is a witty and humane examination of conflicting forces. Vincent identifies, with forensic precision, the different ways in which men react to changing times'

****** The Observer**

'As a 69-year-old woman I am/was surprised how exciting I found this! The dancing/the clarity/the style/the filming/the message/the honesty. Great!' **Brighton Festival Feedback, May 2018**

'Really surprised at how absorbed I became in the film, usually I find dance tricky to connect with but the subject matter felt very poignant.' **Brighton Festival Feedback, May 2018**

'Incredibly well executed, brilliantly performed, directed and filmed. Important social commentary and collaboration.' **Brighton Festival Feedback, May 2018**



SHUT DOWN is devised and performed by accomplished long term VDT collaborators **Robert Clark** and **Janusz Orlik** with newcomers **Jake Evans**, **Jack Sergison** with young collaborators from Brighton **Marcus Faulkner**, **Eben'Flo** and **James Rye**.

SHUT DOWN IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR TOURING TO THEATRE SPACES, GALLERIES, PERFORMANCE/DANCE FESTIVALS, DIGITAL FESTIVALS, UNIVERSITY VENUES, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES ACROSS THE UK.

SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION lasts for one hour, looping on the hour, every hour. Six TV screens are hung on a 6.6m purpose built freestanding wall, with audience seated around 5m away from the wall to view the work. The installation is most meaningful when watched from start to finish as a full-length production, but is also designed to accommodate a 'drop in' approach, with audiences able to stay for as long or as short a time as they wish.

Artistic Director Charlotte Vincent explains **SHUT DOWN** here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKujxcQ1IBo>

To discuss booking **SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION** or **DANCE / PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS**, contact VDT's Company Administrator **Holly Morris**: holly@vincentdt.com



PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES



In all venues the audience can graffiti their personal responses to **SHUT DOWN** in charcoal on large papered walls or draw / write their thoughts in sketchbooks provided by VDT around the space. There are two types of evaluation that help the audience to process the work – a three-word postcard response or Audience Finder Questionnaires to fill in. If VDT staff are ushering the space, there is also an opportunity to talk about the experience on exiting the space.

SHUT DOWN CREATIVE WORKSHOPS introduce participants to VDT's collaboratively devised, socially engaged dance theatre / film installations as contemporary art forms and also explore issues around gender constructs and the pressures of living in a digital age.

DANCE / PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS encourage dance, theatre, film and visual arts students to experiment with composition, choreography and performance to create meaningful movement around the themes in the work.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

VDT offer a **RANGE OF BESPOKE CREATIVE WORKSHOPS** for schools, colleges and community groups, for ages 11+. Workshops in community settings or formal education are designed for those with an interest in socially engaged art, performing arts, film, visual art, digital media and photography, as well addressing PSHE & SRE outcomes.

Workshops involve watching part of VDT's **SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION** and encourage participants to become creative agents to make their own responses to the themes, aesthetic and the form of the work. Workshops are facilitated by VDT's Engagement Manager Sian Williams, often in partnership with AudioActive's rap artist Jon Clark or artists local to venues, such as London-based rapper Potent Whisper.

VDT's workshop offers are flexible. For example, the company works with schools to match the needs of timetables and curriculum requirements, and venues to work with already existing groups. VDT is particularly skilled in facilitating work in the community with marginalised / vulnerable groups. Our bespoke workshops range from:

- initiating small creative tasks for a Performing Arts Clubs or community groups in a 1-2 hour long session to
- a whole year group/larger groups creatively exploring gender constructs across an entire day to
- week-long residencies involving a whole school.

VDT can also run a series of weekly workshops or a 2-day intensive workshop session, co-facilitated with spoken word artists to **produce spoken word video content for screening** in the **ENGAGEMENT**

SPACE described above. If this is not possible, **SHUT DOWN ENGAGEMENT SPACE** can also be populated with videos created in previous locations.

Examples of spoken word / videos made with young men from **The Connected Hub** and **Audio Active's Room to Rant**, screened at Brighton Festival 2018, can be seen here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryMCTwzKw7I&list=PLZwZDyS_uOXpIP1ZskiwYZdx04BwHTaF9

Images of **Creative Workshops** in the community can be found here:

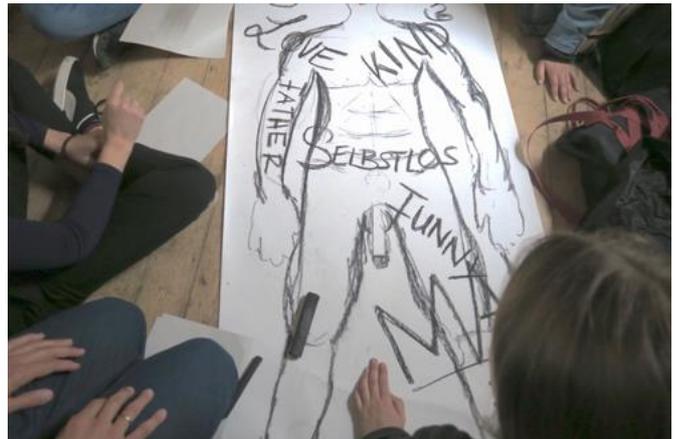
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vincentdt/sets/72157692439461340>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vincentdt/albums/72157698231403475>

These workshops are most suited to taking place in the **SHUT DOWN INSTALLATION SPACE** or **ENGAGEMENT SPACE**, but can also be facilitated in schools, colleges, universities or other community, located by the venue.

'I have never seen them so engaged in a project. The boys are so pleased with themselves and what they have made. When can we run more workshops?' **Rebecca Stadames, Learning Mentor, The Connected Hub (Pupil Referral Unit, Brighton)**

'I found a voice for myself and learnt to respect my own creativity.' **Participant, Age 24**



SHUT DOWN ENGAGEMENT SPACE at **BRIGHTON FESTIVAL** can be seen here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vincentdt/albums/72157668321839247>

As well as being screened in your venue's **ENGAGEMENT SPACE**, crafted video content created by participants will also be hosted online on **VDT's You Tube Youth Collection** (with permission).



DANCE / PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS

AD Charlotte Vincent and members of VDT's ensemble lead dance, movement and performance workshops in college, university, conservatoire and dance agency settings for students aged 14+. The work focuses on release technique, partnering, text and movement, composition and finding meaning in movement.

DIALOGUE & DEBATE EVENTS

Artistic Director Charlotte Vincent is available for **talks, lecture demonstrations** and **panel discussions** to accompany the installation in your venue. These are always insightful and passionate events where the audience gets closer to the making process, the ideas behind the work and engages in discussion about the politics at play in the work.

SHUT DOWN TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Depending on spaces available and desired audience capacity, each venue programming **SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION** will discuss a bespoke technical set up for the work. Key things to note:

- Ideally the minimum space requirements for screening is 10m x 12m
- The installation comprises 6 x 55" flat screen TVs mounted in portrait on a freestanding white wall, 6.6m long, 2.4m high and 0.7m in depth, behind which all software and computers powering the work is hidden
- VDT tours all software, hardware and cabling needed - all of which runs on 13 amp power.
- VDT tours PE benches and wooden chairs for audiences of up to 40 people watching in one sitting). In house raked theatre seating /rostra / retractable seating provided by venue could be used for larger audience numbers.
- The installation space is dressed with a large paper and charcoal backdrop, several uplighters /rolls of white paper/ wooden boxes plus handwritten instructions to guide audience to the second space, company postcards, support numbers etc. Some ambient lighting may be required.
- The installation tours with transcriptions, ensuring accessibility for D/deaf and hard of hearing audiences.

SHUT DOWN ENGAGEMENT SPACE could be a space connected to the main space (a foyer / studio / education space), or can be created within larger theatre venues by hanging blacks to segment the space.

WHO TO CONTACT:

To discuss bespoke **ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS** please contact VDT's Digital & Engagement Director **Sian Williams**: sian@vincentdt.com / 01273 911616