

vincent
dance
theatre
presents

Virgin Territory



Produced by one of the UK's most powerful and provocative dance theatre companies, **VIRGIN TERRITORY** is a **multiscreen film installation** by acclaimed choreographer / director **Charlotte Vincent** and her multi-tasking ensemble of adults and children, exploring what it's like for young people to live in an over-sexualised, digitally captured world.

'Brave and unnerving exploration' **** **The Guardian**

'Candid and uncompromising: it is the reality of the scenarios Vincent addresses that makes them so powerful.' **The Stage**

'Deeply affecting. Important. Relevant. Brutally honest. Reflective. Complex' **Audience Member**

www.virginterritory.org

VINCENT DANCE THEATRE

VIRGIN TERRITORY FILM INSTALLATION

Commissioned by Brighton Festival 2017, touring 2018 onwards



VIRGIN TERRITORY is a **provocative, multi-screen film installation** for theatre and gallery spaces and dance, theatre and digital festivals that takes a bold and uncompromising look at our hyper-sexualised culture and the impact it is having on young people.

We all want to be 'liked' and 'followed', but what effect does constantly performing for the camera have on our lives? Pertinent to international #metoo and #timesup campaigns, **VIRGIN TERRITORY** highlights everyday sexism and the risks children take when they play in an adult online world.

Directed and designed by acclaimed choreographer **Charlotte Vincent**, composed by **Jules Maxwell**, shot by cinematographer **Bosie Vincent** and performed by four children (age 12-14) and four adult performers, **VIRGIN TERRITORY** won Vincent Dance Theatre two nominations in the Critics Circle National Dance Awards in 2017: for **Best Independent Company** and **Outstanding Modern Female Performance** (Antonia Grove).

Embedded with real-life testimonies from girls and young women interviewed by Vincent and with physically charged, emotionally resilient performances by teenage girls at its core, **VIRGIN TERRITORY** investigates the perils of oversharing on social media, satirizes the unachievable beauty standards of music video culture, investigates the impact of pornography on mainstream culture and portrays the very real dangers of online grooming, sexting and 'rape culture'.

With VDT's trademark black humour, emotional commitment and striking aesthetic **VIRGIN TERRITORY** is a powerful provocation, a rallying cry from the '*astorishingly original*' Vincent Dance Theatre (**New York Times**) to just let our kids be kids.

WATCH VIRGIN TERRITORY INSTALLATION TRAILER:

<https://youtu.be/dxzwgLZG17A?t=5s>

'SELFIE SCENE': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIjwmDo2SZQ>

'MAKE UP SCENE': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqPdiLzR06U>

See VIRGIN TERRITORY set up in different venues: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmbU6U1H>

To discuss booking VIRGIN TERRITORY for your venue, please contact VDT's Company Administrator, Holly Morris, holly@vincentdt.com / 01273 911616

PRESS & AUDIENCE QUOTES

'With a sensational cast of performers, Vincent delivers forceful messages through her poetic and political dance theatre. This is a must for every teenage girl or boy' **London Dance**

'Brave and unnerving exploration' **** **The Guardian**

'Vincent's coupling of adult bodies and young bodies is extraordinary. The four children crash and slam their counterparts with uncompromising commitment.' **The Insanity in Dancing**

'Vincent is 'one of the most important feminist artists working in the UK today.' **The Observer**

'Deeply affecting. Important. Relevant. Brutally honest. Reflective. Delicate. Complex.' **Audience Member, London**

'Thought-provoking. A must see for all parents, teachers and young people.' **Audience Member, Brighton**

'Brilliant. Powerful. Touching.' **Audience Member, Brighton**

'Pass this performance on. Share with many. It's VITAL' **Audience Member, Hampshire**

'Your work is inspirational. My favourite piece at Frequency Festival – such an important message' **Audience Member, Lincoln**

'I was told by a friend I had to see this. And I'm not disappointed.' **Audience Member, Plymouth**

'You completely touched my heart. Thank you.' **Audience Member, Bath**



VIRGIN TERRITORY: CREDITS

Conceived, Directed and Designed by **Charlotte Vincent**

Cinematographer/Editor: **Bosie Vincent**

Composer: **Jules Maxwell**

Devised and Performed by: **Janusz Orlik, Robert Clark, Antonia Grove, Valerie Ebuwa, Maia Faulkner, Nathan De Silva, Millie Smith-Hashim and Elysia Natale.**

VIRGIN TERRITORY was originally commissioned by The Place London. Installation commissioned by Brighton Festival 2017.

HOW OUR INSTALLATION WORKS

The audience enters a live space, reminiscent of a school changing room, with **VIRGIN TERRITORY** filmed material playing across four large television screens. The screens are mounted on changing room benches, with a mirror mounted at head height between each screen (4 screens / 5 mirrors in total). Props and artefacts from the production (wigs, masks, dresses, rocks, stiletto shoes, balloons) are stored in shoe cages underneath the benches. There are large blackboards with social media handles chalked on, wooden trees planted in ammunition boxes, blown up balloons, pink dresses and school chairs scattered through the space.



A series of 21 short (1-10 minute) 'scenes' play out over four screens in this main space. Each 'scene' was shot on location and is **presented simultaneously across four screens**, with performative / choreographic content captured from multiple perspectives, different points of view and a range of proximities, layered with heartfelt testimonies from young women. Physical, visual and verbal narratives shift from one screen to another, offering audiences a **complex, layered and intriguing viewing experience of the same event from different perspectives**.



These scenes can be viewed as visually layered, stand-alone short films but if watched consecutively, form a **65 minute full-length VDT production**. The **material loops every 65 minutes** and is best seen from the start of the loop (with timed entry points for communal viewing). However, the work can also be **seen from any point in the cycle** of material where audiences drop in and out of the space whenever they choose.

Over the course of the 65 minute cycle, the viewer themselves experiences and questions the impact of the digital age to relentlessly consume multiple images at the same time and make sense of large volumes of information,

conflicting narratives and shocking imagery. The 5 screen-sized mirrors joining all the TV screens reflect both the work onto itself and capture the audience's faces to kaleidoscopic effect. Audiences are invited to capture the work and their own reflections on their own personal mobile phones, cameras or tablets to upload to VDT's social media accounts alongside any response to the work.

Audiences can conventionally sit and communally watch the work (as you would watch a live dance production) or choose to move around the space to see the work from different angles (as you would move around a visual art gallery).

In a **second adjoining space** (that could be a blacked or screened off area of the larger space or an adjacent room) a **fifth television screen** is mounted at head height, playing a beautiful, **poetic 10 minute film**, shot at sunset and depicting a more earthy, positive environment with the cast working together to dig and plant a field. A 'coda' to the main space, this film is designed to be viewed after the material in the main space films and offers an antidote to the over-sexualised, over-constructed plastic. It is screened in a calm, staged area strewn with leaves, floral bunting, logs, branches, chairs and a trestle table laden with mounds of soil, gardening trowels and seedling pots. Here audiences have time and space to reflect on the work as a whole, taking part in **two practical, instruction-based tasks** if they so choose, in order to consider their own relationship with the falsities, dangers and discrepancies of the online world and how we might better guide ourselves and our children through it.



One task asks audience to think of and **write down one hopeful, practical action** anyone can do to challenge the pressures of everyday sexism and digital culture on a brown label and hang it on a tree in the space, contributing to VDT's ongoing [#VDTEverydayAction](#) campaign to counter everyday sexism:

A second task to **Identify Your Role Model** involves **naming one positive role model role** on a plant pot label and planting it.

On exiting the gallery or theatre space, members of the venue/VDT team encourage visitors to fill out **Audience Finder Questionnaires** and (if needed due to the challenging nature of some material) talk about the work and the issues it raises. Visitors are also encouraged to **post any photos they have taken in the space onto VDT's and their own social media sites**, joining an online discussion around the subjects and themes of the work and linking into other campaigns the company is promoting to raise awareness of the issues involved.

ACCESSIBILITY

Hard copy Audio Transcription school textbooks for use by d/Deaf audience members tour with the work. Online excerpt versions of the content can be viewed later **with subtitles on YouTube**, if audiences wish to revisit selected scenes remotely after experiencing it in a communal space.

VIRGIN TERRITORY is suitable for audiences aged 14+. However, parents and guardians with younger children are welcome to enter if they think the content is appropriate for their children. The installation includes testimonies of sexual assault, sexual harassment and online grooming so **TRIGGER WARNINGS** are placed on the way into the space, with **appropriate helplines visible**. **VDT has a safeguarding policy** and can discuss safeguarding issues further with venues upon enquiry.

ENGAGEMENT & AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Outside of public opening hours VDT is keen to **host bespoke engagement activity in the VIRGIN TERRITORY installation space or engage with local organisations close to the venue.** We are particularly interested in engaging schools, colleges and university students as well as community youth groups, dance clubs, drama groups, parent / teenager groups as and local 'hard to reach' groups. Participant groups will be recruited in partnership with each venue/festival to explore the themes and the aesthetic of the work, build audiences and to develop a greater understanding of how performance work (on stage and on film) can address pressing, contemporary social issues.

VIRGIN TERRITORY'S CREATIVE WORKSHOPS are managed and led by **VDT's Digital Development Manager Sian Williams, Artistic Director Charlotte Vincent** or one of the adult professional members of the VDT ensemble. Sessions typically take place over 1 to 2 hours. We have a range of workshop plans developed to map against PSHE, Performing Arts and Digital curriculums for Secondary schools and Further Education Colleges. Participants can engage in a range of digital and practical tasks based around the themes and or the aesthetics or creation of the work through facilitated making, doing, digitally capturing, responding, discussing and campaigning.

Groups who VDT have engaged with whilst creating and touring **VIRGIN TERRITORY** so far include:

- Secondary schools
- FE & University students (BA and MA Dance/ Performance / Theatre / Film / Visual Art/ Sociology)
- Female-focused Support Services (eg: Brighton Women's Centre, Brighton Oasis Project, Domestic Violence and substance misuse groups)
- Home-schooled Students
- Community Groups (Girl Guides, LGBT groups, broader reaching/less focused youth groups)
- Youth Dance Companies

See Flickr albums of work made by participants at Brighton Festival:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/132150614@N07/sets/72157681191844923>

and International Women's Day:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/132150614@N07/sets/72157678858612722>

VDT can also offer a range of **practice-based workshops, masterclasses or residencies** linked to **VIRGIN TERRITORY**, programmed as **CPD for existing youth / professional dance practitioners.** These sessions focus on the making of **performance, filming choreographic work and composition imbued with feminist thinking.** There is also the opportunity to invite Charlotte to take part in **debates, panel discussions or to give talks** about her **creative, collaborative, cross generational, feminist practice** or to provoke discussion around themes of the work. **VIRGIN TERRITORY Engagement Programme** is supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

CREATIVE & CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

'It was great when we put all our pictures together and made a film, and working together. I wish all our PSHE lessons were like this.' **Year 10 Participant, May 2017**

'Wonderful creative workshops today from VDT - working with all our year 10 students to explore body-image and social media.' **Christine Mathews, Cardinal Newman Catholic School PSHE Lead teacher, July 2017**

'I recently attended your art installation with my college, thank you for such an inspiring experience.' **Installation Participant, Brighton Digital Festival, October 2017**

'VIRGIN TERRITORY was one of the most thought-provoking experiences that I have seen in a school: our students benefited greatly.' **Keith Budge, Head Teacher Bedales School, November 2017**

'Feeling inspired by a fantastic thought provoking talk followed by a great workshop exploring grounding, habits, sharing weight and much more' **PhD Student, Choreographic Workshop at Plymouth Uni, January 2018**

'I've come into a setting I'm used to, and comfortable in, and been challenged' **BA Student, Choreographic Workshop at Bath Spa University, January 2018**

FEES

£1,900+VAT for 1 day installation (get in day before)

£2,200+VAT for 2-3 days installation (get in day before; or open mid-afternoon on first day)

£2,600+VAT for 5-7 days installation (get in day before)

Additional Engagement / CPD / Theme based activity, travel and accommodation to be discussed (location & duration dependent)

TECHINICAL REQUIREMENTS

VIRGIN TERRITORY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION is available on request. As a guide, VDT will provide all staging and dressing for the work. Venue may need to provide black out materials, blacks, PA system, some lighting.

Minimum Main Space requirement - **9m x 4.5m PLUS Second Space minimum 6 x 3m OR**

Main Space 10m x 12m (with blacks / screens creating the secondary space within this)

VDT Production Manager: Steve Collis: steve@citysoundandlighting.com

VDT TEAM

To book **VIRGIN TERRITORY FILM INSTALLATION** or associated **ENGAGEMENT / CPD WORKSHOPS**, please contact VDT's Company Administrator, **Holly Morris: holly@vincentdt.com / 01273 911616**

www.virginterritory.org

www.vincentdt.com

Twitter: @VincentDT / #VTerritory

Instagram: VincentDanceTheatreUK

Facebook: Vincent Dance Theatre



Supported using public funding by
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