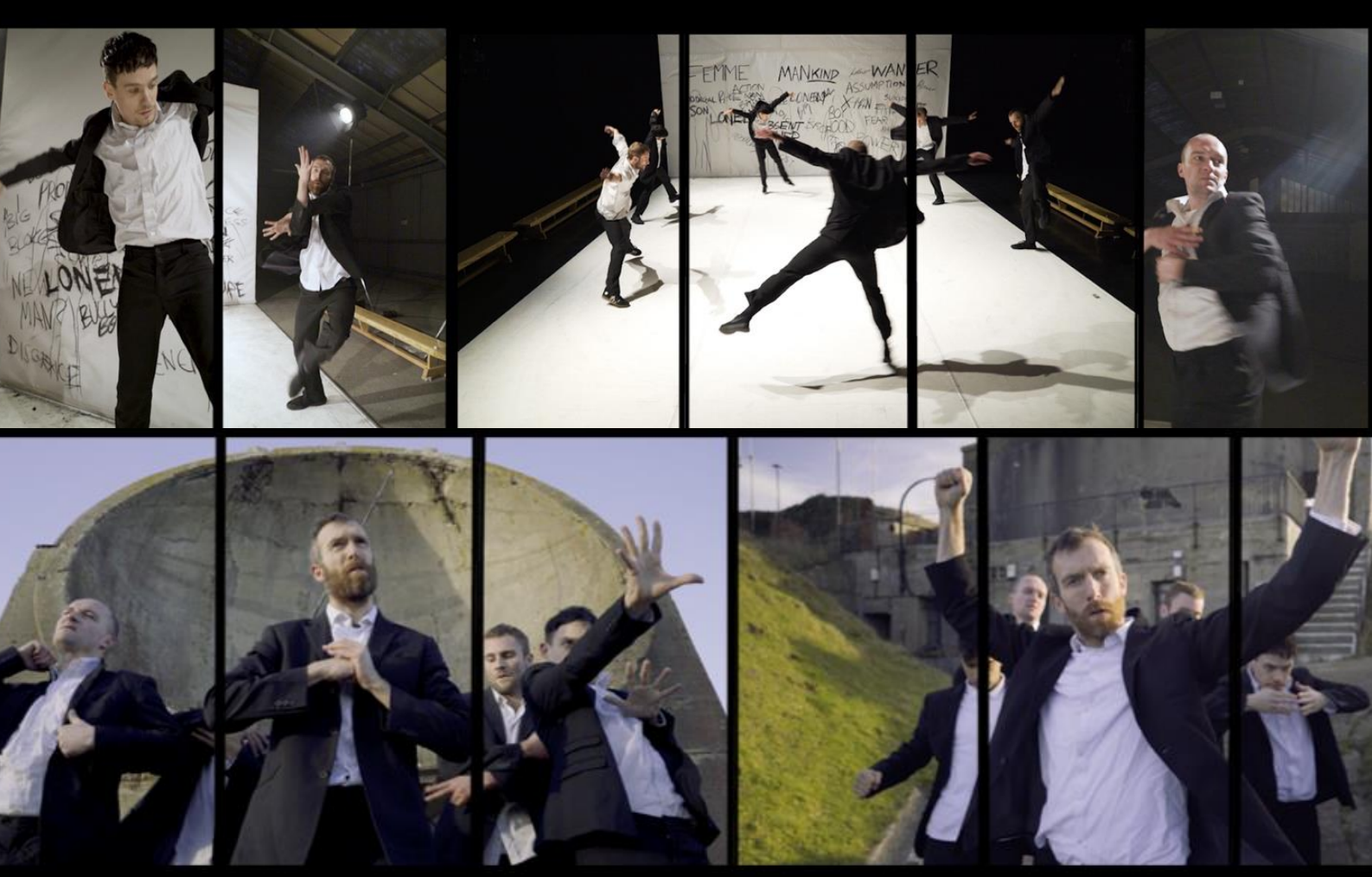


vincent
dance
theatre

SHUT DOWN



Produced by Vincent Dance Theatre, **SHUT DOWN** is a multiscreen Film Installation by acclaimed Choreographer / Director **Charlotte Vincent** and her multi-tasking ensemble that investigates the pressures, contradictions and confusions of being a man.

'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

SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION

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



SHUT DOWN is Vincent Dance Theatre's thought-provoking Film Installation that investigates the pressures, contradictions and confusions of being a man. **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**. The work locates visually striking dance theatre at the heart of public debate, discussing vital issues of our time.

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](#), 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.

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

[WATCH VDT'S SHUT DOWN FILM INSTALLATION TRAILER](#)

[WATCH EBEN'FLO PERFORM MAN OF THE HOUSE](#)
[\(as heard on BBC's Woman's Hour, 2017\)](#)

[WATCH AD CHARLOTTE VINCENT EXPLAIN SHUT DOWN](#)

ABOUT THE INSTALLATION

SHUT DOWN plays across six large portrait TV screens. 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.

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.

SHUT DOWN is the companion work of **VIRGIN TERRITORY** and both films are available to book alongside VDT's extensive Social Engagement and Teaching & Learning activities.

PRESS & AUDIENCE QUOTES

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

'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**

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

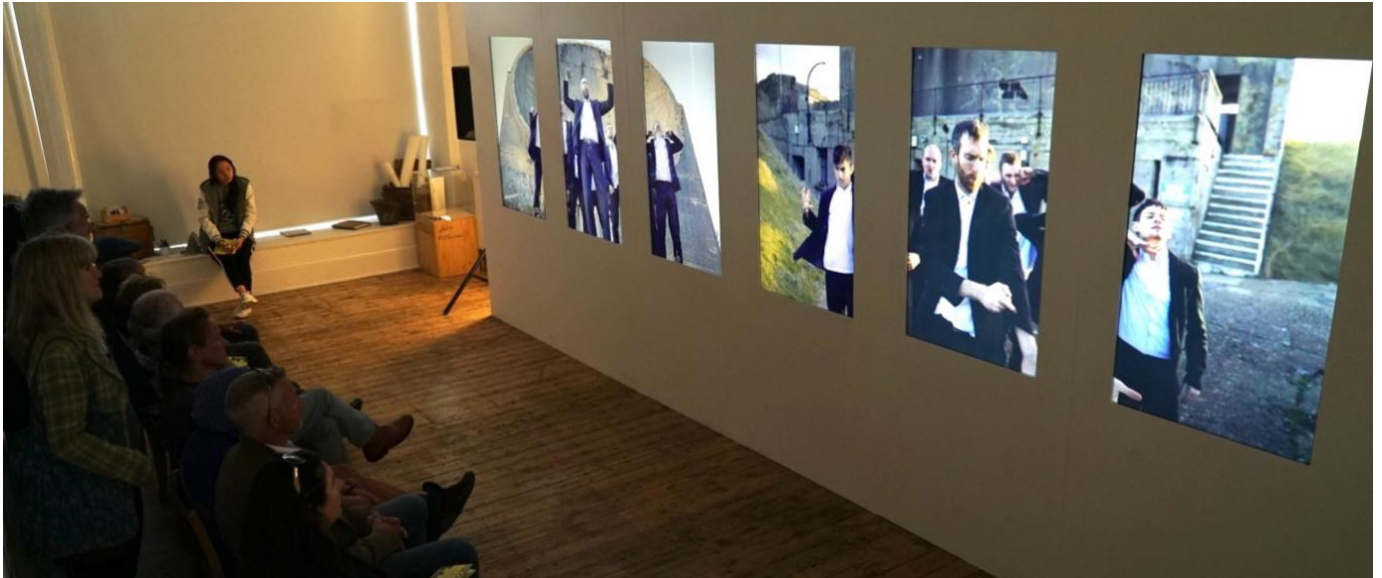
SHUT DOWN: CREDITS

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

Cinematographer/Editor: **Bosie Vincent**

Composer: **Jules Maxwell with young people from AudioActive**

Devised and Performed by: **Janusz Orlik, Robert Clark, Jake Evans, Jack Sergison** with young collaborators from Brighton **Marcus Faulkner, Eben'Flo** and **James Rye**.



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.
- The installation 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.

SHUT DOWN ENGAGEMENT SPACE

All installations are accompanied with engagement activities offering the audience an opportunity to process what they have seen on screen. The 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 installation space.

WHO TO CONTACT

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

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES



INSTALLATION ACTIVITIES & ENGAGEMENT SPACE

In all venues the installation is accompanied by engagement activities which can be created with the venues' specific audience in mind. These activities can take place in the installation space or a separate room (lobby/learning space) VDT calls the ENGAGEMENT SPACE.

Past engagement activities have included:

- Offering a space where the audience can graffiti their personal responses to the installation in charcoal on large papered walls or draw / write their thoughts in sketchbooks provided by VDT around the space
- Offering a space where the audience are invited 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
- Offering a space for the audience to Identify Your Role Model which involved naming one positive role model role on a plant pot label and planting it in soil

VDT also uses the ENGAGEMENT SPACE to showcase any creative outputs from creative workshops run in the local community/schools such as spoken word content and drawings/text reflecting on the work (See Schools, Colleges and Community Workshops section).

There are also 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.

DIALOGUE & DEBATE EVENTS

Artistic Director Charlotte Vincent is available for **talks, lecture demonstrations** and **panel discussions** to accompany the installation. These events allow the audience to get closer to the making process, ideas/themes behind the piece and engage in discussion about the politics at play in the work. These events can be held in person or online.

DANCE / PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS

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

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

VDT offers 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 encouraging participants to become creative agents to make their own responses to the themes, aesthetic and the form of the work. Workshops are often facilitated by VDT's Participation & Digital Development Director 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**.

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

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](#).

Images of **Creative Workshops** in the community [can be seen here](#).

SHUT DOWN ENGAGEMENT SPACE at BRIGHTON FESTIVAL [can be seen here](#).

'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**

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).

WHO TO CONTACT:

To discuss bespoke **PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY** please contact VDT's Participation & Digital Development Director **Sian Williams: sian@vincentdt.com / 01273 911616**



Supported using public funding by
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