

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**

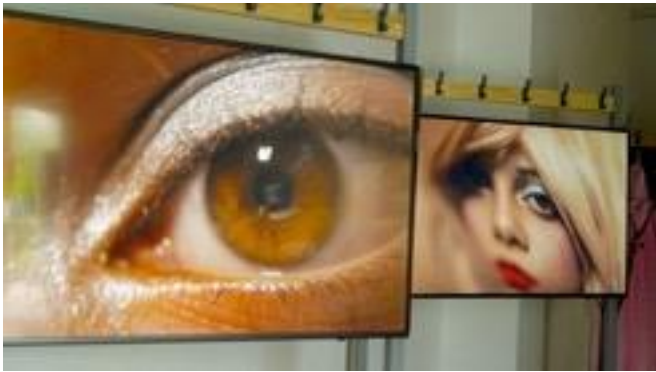
'Deeply affecting. Important. 'Relevant. Brutally honest. Reflective. Complex' **Audience Member**

www.virginterritory.org

VINCENT DANCE THEATRE

VIRGIN TERRITORY FILM INSTALLATION

Commissioned by Brighton Festival 2017, available for touring



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

[WATCH VIRGIN TERRITORY INSTALLATION TRAILER](#)

[WATCH VIRGIN TERRITORY 'SELFIE SCENE'](#)

[WATCH VIRGIN TERRITORY 'MAKE UP SCENE'](#)

See [VIRGIN TERRITORY set up in different venues](#)

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

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**

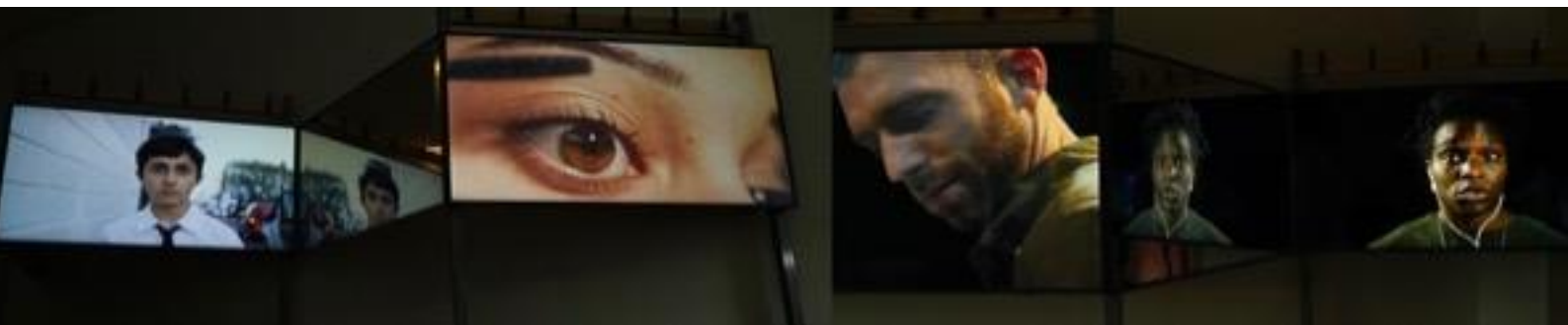
'Brilliant. Powerful. Touching.' **Audience Member, Brighton**

'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.

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).

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.

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

VIRGIN TERRITORY 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.

In the **VIRGIN TERRITORY ENGAGEMENT SPACE**, a **fifth television screen** is mounted at head height, playing **10-minute film**, shot at sunset and depicting a scene in which the cast are 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. Please see **Participation Opportunities** section for more information on the engagement activities.



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.

VIRGIN TERRITORY TECHNICAL 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

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)

Fees can be negotiated with each venue.

WHO TO CONTACT

To book **VIRGIN TERRITORY FILM INSTALLATION** please contact VDT's General Manager, Holly Morris:
holly@vincentdt.com / 01273 911616

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 (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 **VIRGIN TERRITORY 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.

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

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

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 (e.g. 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](#)

[See Flickr album of work made by participants for International Women's Day](#)

'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**

WHO TO CONTACT:

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

www.virginterritory.org

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