

VINCENT DANCE THEATRE
SHUT DOWN



Vincent Dance Theatre continues its exploration of the world we've created for young people with premiere of *Shut Down*, asking what's it like living as a man today?

Shut Down by Vincent Dance Theatre
28/29 Nov 2017, 8pm
The Place Theatre, London
£16 (£12 conc.)
<http://www.vincentdt.com/project/shut-down/>
@VincentDT #VDTShutdown

Featuring an all-male cast for the first time in the company's 23 year history, Vincent Dance Theatre premieres ***Shut Down*** at The Place 28/29 November, continuing feminist director / choreographer Charlotte Vincent's exploration into gender politics and the world we've created for young people today.

Bro. Hipster. Lumbersexual. Wreckhead. Nerd. Player. Social Justice Warrior. Rude Boy. Absent Father. *Shut Down* asks: Where are the positive, contemporary role models for young men?

A highly charged performance, fusing physical theatre and aspects of breaking, lofting and hip hop, ***Shut Down*** has been also created with contributions from boys and men from across Brighton, including those attending Audio Active, a ground breaking music organisation that works with young people and contemporary urban culture. ***Shut Down*** has been devised by an extraordinary cast of men and boys whose experiences and testimonies punctuate the show.

Part of a two-year body of work from Vincent Dance Theatre exploring what life is like for young people today, **Shut Down** is the partner project to **Virgin Territory** (2016), a production that explores the impact of an increasingly over-sexualised culture on girls and young women. Performed by four children aged 12-14 and four adults, **Virgin Territory** premiered on stage at The Place London in Nov 2016 and toured to Rencontres Choregraphiques in Paris in May 2017, to widespread critical acclaim.

With **Virgin Territory** and **Shut Down**, Vincent integrates social engagement with making professional performance work on stage and on film: “Its a step into the creative unknown and a lesson in letting go” says Vincent.

“**Shut Down** continues the physically and emotionally complex integration of young people and professional performers working intensively to create new work together and the integration of real life thoughts, stories and testimonies from hard to reach young people into the work,” she continues.

This challenging approach locates the work in the real world, exploring the challenges facing young men today through visually bold images and striking physicality, together with young people’s lyrics and texts.

Commissioned by and premiered as part of Kate Tempest’s Brighton Festival 2017, **Virgin Territory Film Installation** continues to tour across the UK and China in 2017/18 to adaptable theatre spaces, galleries and digital festivals.

For further information, press tickets, images and to arrange interviews, please contact Chloe Barker, PR Consultant, at chloegudrun@live.co.uk or on 07921 866109; or Sorcha Hunter, Press & Media Manager, The Place on 0207 121 1025 or sorcha.hunter@theplace.org.uk

Notes to Editors

About Vincent Dance Theatre www.vincentdt.com

Vincent Dance Theatre makes new work to ‘move people and make them think’.

Founded in 1994 and led by Artistic Director Charlotte Vincent, Vincent Dance Theatre produce powerful and engaging dance theatre work accompanied by extensive programmes of social engagement and professional development work.

Charlotte Vincent is considered ‘*one of the UK’s leading female choreographer /directors*’ and ‘*one of the most important feminist artists working in Britain today*’ (The Observer).

Vincent Dance Theatre is a cross generational ensemble of multi-tasking

collaborators who devise performance to challenge conventional values in dance and gender politics. Charlotte Vincent's distinctive voice is increasingly in demand as a mentor, facilitator, provocateur and catalyst for critical debate. Charlotte also delivers a Professional Development work through Vincent Dance Theatre's ChoreoLabs and mistressclasses.

Vincent Dance Theatre places importance on gender equality, provides supportive conditions for parents to return to work and collaborates across generations. The company is currently developing audiences by embracing digital culture, distributing the company's work **on stage, on film and online**.

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