

A black and white photograph of four men standing in a row. From left to right: the first man has a goatee and is looking upwards; the second man has a mustache and is looking upwards; the third man is looking directly at the camera; the fourth man is wearing a bow tie and looking slightly to the side. They are standing in front of a brick wall and a wooden door.

Rachael Clerke

The Great White Males

CUNCRETE

photos

full video

password: brutal

trailer

research videos

ABOUT CUNCRETE

Cuncrete is a 55 minute long theatre/live art/punk gig/drag king show mashup about the housing crisis, our built environment, capitalism and toxic masculinity.

Using text stolen from Hugh Hefner, Margaret Thatcher, David Cameron, Beatriz Preciado, JG Ballard and George Bernard Shaw (among others), ageing architect Archibald Tactful's cut-up treatise maps housing policy from 60s utopian concrete developments to 2016's luxury flats by way of Right to Buy, a cement mixer and a series of raw punk hits written by an unskilled gang of young women.

The show is confrontational, anarchic, loud and big. It begins with a huge backdrop of grey paper being destroyed and ends with Archibald Tactful pissing cava and standing in a cement mixer - a bizarre statue wielding a concrete penis - with the band shredding guitars on grey carpet. How did we get here? How did we get to this?

Please do not use this description as copy.



“A fearless young performer” - The List

“Moronic Catholic lesbian” - Rangers Media Forum

ABOUT RACHAEL CLERKE

Rachael Clerke is an award winning Bristol-based theatre maker, satirist, drag performer and keen punk singer. Her work has involved rewriting government benefit documents (*Limited Capability for Living*) and performing the Braveheart freedom speech to football fans outside Ibrox stadium - an act for which she received the review, “Performance art?! Either learn to paint or sculpt or fuck off.” In *Cuncrete* she adopts the voices of powerful men in suits in an attempt to shine a light on the absurdity of the systems that rule our lives.

Since graduating from Dartington College of Arts/Falmouth University in 2012 she has made work (*Volcano*, *Tips for the Real World*, *Falls 2-11*) and toured internationally with collaborator Josephine Joy under the name Clerke and Joy. Her 2014 solo show *How to achieve redemption as a Scot through the medium of Braveheart* won the Ideastap Underbelly Award.

Rachael is currently touring a body of work featuring punk bands. This includes *Cuncrete*, *F*ck the House Band*: a participatory gig where anyone can join the band, and *Punk Band Project* – a day long workshop for teenage girls to form a band, write a song and play a gig - made in collaboration with musician and DJ Daisy Moon.



COPY (80 WORDS)

A drag king punk gig about architecture and idealism!

A dysto-utopian noise about The Man!

A no-wave musical about how we ended up in this mess!

Hosted by washed up architect / proto-god figure Archibald Tactful (2014 Ideastap Underbelly Award winner Rachael Clerke) accompanied by anti-virtuoso punk band The Great White Males, *Cuncrete* is a gratuitously sleazy and joyfully noisy critique of alpha-masculinity and the built environment. Expect original music, grotesque posturing, sharp suits and fresh cement.

TEAM

Lead artist Rachael Clerke

The Great White Males Eleanor Fogg (johnsmith), Josephine Joy (Johnnie Jove), Anna Smith (Little Keith)

Dramaturgy Emma Frankland

Lighting design Ben Jacobs

Costumes Sabrina Shirazi

CREDITS

Cuncrete is supported by Arts Council England, Bristol Old Vic Ferment, Camden People's Theatre, The Bike Shed Theatre, Trinity Centre, Arnolfini and the University of Chichester.

“An exhilaratingly bleak swansong for the grey, hard dreams of powerful men.” ★★★★★ - The Stage

★★★★★ - Fest

★★★★★ - Broadway Baby

★★★★★ - TV Bomb

“A cocksure evangelist for the gospel of neoliberal entrepreneurialism.”

★★★★★ - The Scotsman



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Running time

55 mins

Company on tour

4 Performers, 1 Technician (touring in a small van – please advise if no parking is available)

Performance space

Flexible: can be performed in either a studio theatre with raked seats, or a live music venue with the audience standing. Ideally the stage should be no smaller than 5m x 5m.

A sheet of photographic backdrop paper (colorama) is hung approximately 1m away from the upstage wall, or the closest hanging position. This is torn up as part of the performance.

A cement mixer is used in this performance.

Lighting

A generic plan and full technical rider can be provided on request.

This performance uses haze. We tour with our own hazer.

Sound (to be provided by venue)

3 x SM58 microphones & XLRs

Stereo mini-jack input for playback via a laptop.

We tour with a drum-kit and guitars with amps.

PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED AT

Camden People's Theatre, London (WIP)

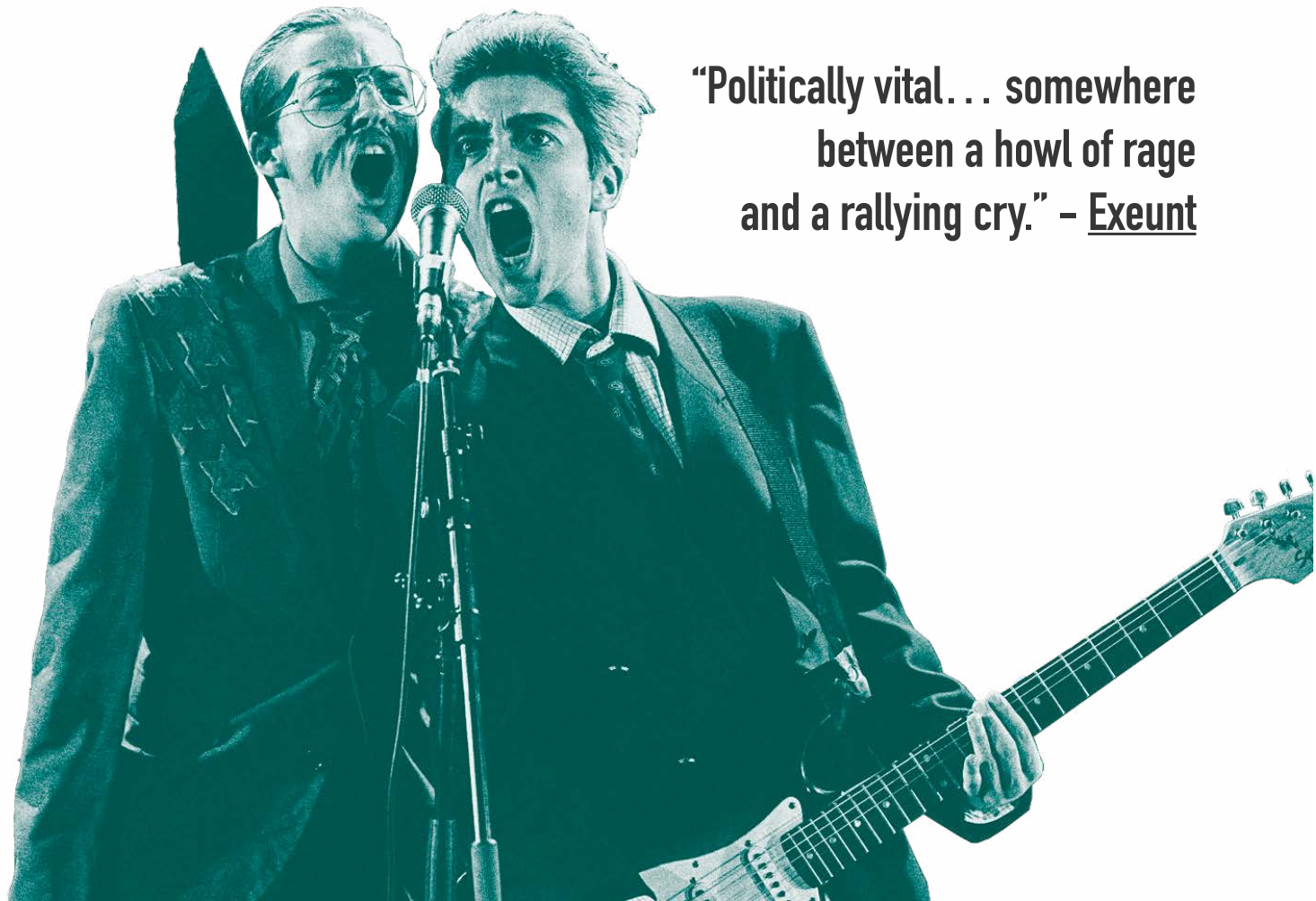
The Cube Microplex, Bristol (WIP)

The Little House at Latitude Festival

Summerhall Demonstration room, Edinburgh

Arnolfini auditorium, Bristol

Smock Alley Black Box, Dublin



“Politically vital... somewhere between a howl of rage and a rallying cry.” – Exeunt



Punk Band Project at Red Maids' Girls School

RELATED ACTIVITY: F*CK THE HOUSE BAND

An interactive punk performance relay. No rehearsals. No covers. Total enthusiasm.

F*ck the House Band are four friends who live in Bristol. Between them they have more or less no musical talent whatsoever.

Last year they had a punk party where they formed bands and played for their friends. They made up some songs including 'take a look at my bumhole david cameron', 'f*ck off it ain't your birthday anymore', and the hit classic 'bananagrams'. It was the most fun they'd ever had, so they're doing it again.

They'd like you to join in. You're on the guestlist.

RELATED ACTIVITY: PUNK BAND PROJECT

It took Rachael Clerke 25 years of really wanting to be in a punk band before it occurred to her – in an inspired of moment of staggering simplicity – that she could just start one. So she did. She decided not to worry about being good, or looking good, or being talented, or having experience. Consequently she realised that life's a lot more fun if you stop worrying about these things.

Punk Band Project is an opportunity for teenage girls to do just this. It's a space to do something real, very fast. To embrace noise, chaos, angst and joy in a day long punk-band-forming, song-writing, screaming-into-a-microphone workshop and live gig facilitated by Rachael and musician Daisy Moon.

There will be time for stumbling, falling over and shyness, but there will be more time for shouting and hitting things.



F*ck The House Band at Latitude Festival (photo by Jemima Yong)



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GWM/Cuncrete photos by Paul Samuel White
Braveheart photo by Mihaela Bodlovic