

QUARANTINE



Underscore

Created by Lowri Evans and Lisa Mattocks,
with Molly Twomey

*“We are empowered young women from
Levenshulme High School. We are Pakistani,
cool, we do not stand for misogyny.*

*We love The Smiths and equality.
We are clever, bilingual, we know exact
trigonometry and our worth.*

We hate Jane Eyre.”

About

Underscore is an interactive digital experiment that disrupts the silent power structures of public space.

The first version of **Underscore** took place as part of Manchester's 2023 Festival of Libraries. Set against the backdrop of the Emmeline Pankhurst statue in St. Peter's Square, Manchester (a historic and current site of protest and activism). Manchester artists, Lowri Evans and Lisa Mattocks, invited three generations of women to go undercover at night and live report on everything they could see and hear.

Working in collaboration with Cork-based poet Molly Twomey, Lisa and Lowri had spent time with groups of teenage girls and older women in advance to develop texts and statements about womanhood, safety, taking space, and feminism.

Armed with binoculars and walkie-talkies the girls and women spent hours observing St Peter's Square, turning the tables on who gets to be seen and who gets to watch.

The text, live writing, personal statements and observations were projected onto the iconic Central Library building exterior.

Underscore is about mass observation, reclaiming space and taking back the night.

"I watched via the link on Friday night and it was wonderful to see our words projected onto that magnificent building which I have loved all my life."

"I found the thread between the younger and older women very touching."

Manchester
participant
comments



Touring Information

Team/people on the road: 4-5

Lead Artists x 2

Writer x 1

Support Worker (Access Assistant) x 1

Production Manager (large version only)

Projection company (large version only)

Schedule

For a large-scale version, we'd need a site visit in advanced plus 10 days in situ. For a smaller version, we'd need a site visit plus 5 days.

Local engagement

With the partner, we will identify local groups/individuals that may want to be part of the project. This will be different for each version depending on location and focus. Typically, this will involve meeting each group twice, once to introduce the project, and again to take part in a workshop to generate text.

Personnel/support required locally

We will need a dedicated person to liaise with from the partner organisation whilst we're on site, to support logistics and liaison with local groups.

Equipment/Tech Spec

Dependent on location, for the large version we would ask you to cover the cost of projection equipment. We'll travel with all other small incidentals. You will also need to provide the site and all necessary permissions and licenses. We will provide more details in the Technical Specification.

To discuss Underscore further, please contact Lisa Mattocks, Lead Artist, via lisa@qtine.com

Access and access support

The work has been created with access in mind and we are passionate about making the project as accessible as possible for audiences and our team and will discuss this with you, including whether audio description may be possible. This may also relate to the communications campaign we co-develop, in terms of attracting underrepresented people both in-person and online.

Duration of performance

3 hours - live performance. Plus live stream and online archive - unlimited access. The event must take place when it is dark outside and cannot take place in extreme weather conditions.

Number of performances

1, but could be more.

Audience capacity

Depends on the site but can be fairly large if outside. Crowd control/ stewarding measures may be needed dependent on location.

Ticketing

We would prefer if this event was free of charge.

Travel, accommodation, & subsistence

We ask the partner to cover the costs of our team's travel, accommodation and subsistence for the duration of the project on site. This might include a separate trip for a site visit.

Communications

We would work together to co-design a specific communications campaign to promote the event. All other materials – e.g. signage, to be provided by the partner/ festival.