



free admission
10/10/10

The Near
North

sophisticated

6 March - 19 April

SOPHIE CUNDALE: THE NEAR ROOM

6 MAR – 19 APR 2020

Please be aware that this film includes moments of violence and blood, as well as sexual references.

London-based artist Sophie Cundale's moving image works explore the extremity of emotional states.

The Near Room, Cundale's new film, is a supernatural melodrama about loss. It follows the journey of a professional boxer deemed medically unfit to continue boxing after a near-fatal knockout. His departure from the ring becomes entangled with a story of a grieving queen living with Cotard Delusion, a rare neurological condition that causes the affected individual to believe that they are already dead, or do not exist.

As the story unfolds, the boxer's disorientations, following his injury, spill into the realm of a queen who is in the midst of a perilous family saga. The loss of her beloved prince results in the queen becoming isolated, feeling physically and psychologically trapped. Her closest confidants challenge her power by exploiting her psychological state for personal gain. Only when the outcome appears to be beyond the queen's control is her son summoned, to mourn her whilst still living, in a ceremonious chapel of unrest. This is based on the true story of Juana of

Castile who reigned in medieval Castile, Iberia. After a passionate public display of grief for her young husband, Juana's powers were revoked, and she was declared insane and imprisoned until her death.

The boxer's narrative is drawn from Cundale's conversations with boxers, trainers and officials. The boxing scenes were filmed at south London boxing club, Lynn AC in Camberwell.

The film's title is taken from Muhammad Ali's description of a vivid, hallucinatory space he would enter in the depths of a fight: "a door swung half open [into a room of] neon, orange and green lights blinking, bats blowing trumpets and alligators playing trombones, snakes screaming. Weird masks and actors' clothes hung on the wall, and if he stepped across the sill and reached for them, he knew that he was committing himself to his own destruction." George Plimpton, *Shadow Box* (1977).

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Artist Sophie Cundale (b.1987) lives and works in London. Her work has previously been commissioned by the Serpentine Galleries and the South London Gallery; screened at Temporary Gallery, Cologne; Spike Island, Bristol; Govett-Brewster Gallery, New Zealand; Catalyst Arts

and AMINI festival, Belfast; VCD festival, Beijing and Innsbruck Biennale, Austria; and hosted on vdrome.org. *The Near Room* at the South London Gallery is her first major solo exhibition, and travels to Bonington Gallery, Nottingham in December 2020.

CAST

BOXER

John Harding Jnr grew up in New Cross, south east London and has been a professional boxer since 2017. He has been mentored by Dillian Whyte and is trained by Mark Tibbs.

TRAINER / BORJA

Mark Tibbs is a former boxer and professional trainer and coach. Mark is currently the trainer for John Harding Jnr, British & WBC world heavyweight interim champion Dillian Whyte and British & WBA intercontinental champion Richard Riakporhe. Mark has previously acted in *Fighters* (1991) and *Real Money* (1995) directed by Ron Peck.

OPPONENT / PRINCE

Ahmet Patterson is a former boxer. He started boxing at 14 years old at amateur boxing club Fitzroy Lodge. During his professional career, Patterson won all of his 17 fights.

DENIA / PROMOTER

Chris New is a film and stage actor. He trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London and is currently an actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

QUEEN

Penny Goring is a visual artist. Her practice includes drawings, paintings, sculptures and poems that draw on recurring visions of trauma.

SISTER AGONY

Bryony Miller is an actress trained at the National Youth Theatre and the Manchester School of Theatre. Her acting credits include: playing a First Order Officer in *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019); historical drama *Peterloo* (2018); and upcoming film *Rebecca* (2020).

SISTER FUORI

Shayde Sinclair is a multi-disciplinary artist who has trained at The BRIT School for performing arts. Her acting credits include: *The Suppliant Women* (Young Vic); *Incanti* (Almeida Theatre); *Bitchcraft* (Melanin Box Festival and Tristan Bates Theatre); and *The Lehman Trilogy* (Piccadilly Theatre).

DOCTOR

Laura Schuller is an actress based in London and Hamburg, Germany. She graduated with an MA from Rose Bruford College in 2019. Her acting credits include: *This Is It – Or Dawn at Bar Bazoukha* (MIT List Visual Arts Centre); *Meet me in St Louis, Lewis* (Centre Pompidou); and *Wunschkonzert* (Marlene Denningmann).

CREDITS

The Near Room

Written and Directed by

Sophie Cundale

Executive Producers

Steven Bode, FVU

Susanna Chisholm, FVU

Producer

Laura Shacham

Starring

(in order of appearance):

John Harding Jnr

Mark Tibbs

Ahmet Patterson

Chris New

Penny Goring

Bryony Miller

Shayde Sinclair

Laura Schuller

Boxers and additional cast

Nathan Angol

Ade Bademosi

Javaun Bance

Ansumana Conteh

Niko Forcaneta

Dmitry Frolov

Sam McKay

Taiwo Mosuro

Tom Shacham

Liza van der Smissen

Charlie Sobiech

Rosie Stewart

Artist Collaborator

Ben Gomes

Casting

Sophie Cundale

Laura Shacham

Additional Casting

Emily Jones

Helena Palmer

Mark Tibbs

Director of Photography

Giacomo La Monaca

1st Assistant Camera / Focus Puller

Benjamin Smith

2nd Assistant Camera

Liam Touhey

1st Assistant Director

Katie Byford

Gaffer

Max Gregory

Sound Recordist

Lubos Jurik

Freddie Nevison

Movement Director

illyr

Wardrobe

Vincent Levy

Sadie Williams

Wardrobe Assistant

Zarina Shukri

Hair and Make-Up / SFX

Jennifer Drew

Hair and Make-Up Assistant

Rebecca Mattsson

Hair and Make-Up Trainee

Emmal Baker

Art Director

Billur Turan

Set Builder

William Wyld

Additional Carpentry

Matt Evans

Rupert Goldberg

Art Assistants

Tilly Bungard
Jamie Chu
Emma Coles
Angharad Davies
Oscar Godfrey
Shay Khelifa
Norman Mine
Marta Velasco Velasco

Production Assistants

Sofia Bordin
Jess Brown
Dmitry Frolov
Hoagy Hickson
Leah McGurk, FVU

Edited by

Sophie Cundale and
Ben Gomes

Original Music

Jamie Neville

With

Josh Barfoot
Sophie Cundale
Tomoya Forster
Ben Gomes
Douglas Neville

Sound Design & Mix

Matt Jones, CODA Post

Colourist

Thomas Mangham,
The Mill

VFX

Flock London

Post-Production Assistant

Alex Morley

Special thanks

Katrina Black
CODA post production
Crixus Studios
Angie Cundale
Danny Flexen
Tom Godfrey & Joshua
Lockwood-Moran,
Bonington Gallery
Ben Gomes
Steve Goodwin
Richard Green, Angels
Costumiers
Peter Gregory,
The Camden Studio
Rachael Harlow
& Margot Heller,
South London Gallery
Hospitalfield
Roseena Hussain
Jasmine Johnson
Emily Jones
London Film Academy
Lynn AC, Camberwell
Duke McKenzie OBE

Clifton Mitchell
Charlie Morris, The Mill
Helena Palmer, RSC
Dr Diana Rose
Amanda Shacham
St Martins Lane Hotel
Mark Tibbs
Jelmer Tuinstra, London
Metropolitan University
Danny Williams
Professor Allan Young



Commissioned and
Produced by Film and
Video Umbrella

With support from
Arts Council England, the
South London Gallery,
Bonington Gallery,
Curator Space and
The Gane Trust

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Photography is permitted

Let us know your
thoughts
#SophieCundale
#TheNear Room

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MAIN GALLERY
ADMISSION FREE

EXHIBITION GUIDE

Large print guides are available:
please ask a member of the
SLG team.

SLG

South London Gallery
65–67 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH
020 7703 6120

mail@southlondongallery.org

southlondongallery.org

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Supported using public funding by
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