

## 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).

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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Bonington Gallery, Dryden Street, Nottingham NG1 4GG. [www.boningtongallery.co.uk](http://www.boningtongallery.co.uk)



CURATED & CREATED BY



# SOPHIE CUNDALE: THE NEAR ROOM

3 OCTOBER – 23 NOVEMBER, 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 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 is Cundale's largest scale work to date, and premiered at the South London Gallery in March 2020.*

## 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, Duke McKenzie OBE, Clifton Mitchell, Charlie Morris, The Mill, Helena Palmer, RSC, Dr Diana Rose, Amanda Shacham, Mark Tibbs, Jelmer Tuinstra, London Metropolitan University, Danny Williams, Professor Allan Young.*

## 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

**Metalwork**  
Martha McGuinn

**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  
Ben Gomes

**Original Music With**  
Jamie Neville  
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