

LEILAH WEINRAUB : SHAKEDOWN
WHAT PIPELINE : SATURDAYS APRIL 7 - MAY 12, 2018

DETROIT- What Pipeline is proud to present *SHAKEDOWN* opening April 7 – May 12. The main gallery space will screen Leilah Weinraub’s directorial debut, *SHAKEDOWN*. Immersing the viewer in the urban lesbian strip club scene of early 2000s Los Angeles, *SHAKEDOWN* depicts its protagonists’ performance of sexual freedom and self-determination with poignant intimacy.

SHAKEDOWN opens at What Pipeline on Saturday, April 7 at 3 PM followed by a discussion and reception with the filmmaker. Seating is limited and RSVP is required for this screening, entry will not be permitted after showtime. The film installation runs from April 14 through May 12, every Saturday at 3 PM and 5 PM. The film runs 1 hour 15 minutes and contains mature themes. Images and information about *SHAKEDOWN* will be on view in between screenings.

SHAKEDOWN is an intoxicating, dreamlike experience in Los Angeles’s urban lesbian strip club scene, where a network of female performers attached to a weekly party called Shakedown take center stage. A West-Coast cousin of the mostly-male New York ballroom scene, the subculture documented in *SHAKEDOWN* is propelled by female creators infamous in their own community, among them: Ronnie-Ron, Shakedown Productions creator and emcee; Mahogany, the legendary mother of the scene; Egypt, Shakedown’s star dancer; and Jazmyne, the Queen of Shakedown. The film functions as a legend where money is both myth and material in a vibrant world far from the mainstream. After attending Shakedown events as a 23-year-old, Weinraub began taping every Thursday and Friday night, shooting video of the dancers known as “Shakedown Angels.” Throughout the film, as Weinraub participates as both director and community member, questions arise about how to diagram the before and after of the club’s utopic moment. The world premiere of *SHAKEDOWN* screened at the 2018 Panorama presentation at the 68th Berlin International Film Festival, and the New York feature length premiere screened at MoMA PS1.

Leilah Weinraub (b. 1979, Los Angeles) is an artist and director living in New York. A short cut of her film *SHAKEDOWN* was recently included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial. She is the CEO of Hood By Air, the New York-based fashion collective known for luxury ready-to-wear. Weinraub helped to radicalize fashion by championing what she calls “modern people”: the rising class of consumers who subvert traditional markers of race, class, and gender and revel in freedom, lawlessness, and spectacle. As a filmmaker, Weinraub has helped document such unacknowledged tastemakers, particularly those belonging to queer, autonomous communities of color whose creative output is often plundered by mass culture but whose stories are rarely told on their own terms.

What Pipeline is an artist-run gallery bringing new perspectives in contemporary art to Detroit. Founded in 2013 by Daniel Sperry and Alivia Zivich, What Pipeline has presented artists and collectives from Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Frankfurt, Berlin, London, Sao Paulo, Norway and New York, while introducing Detroit artists to audiences outside of the city through off-site curatorial projects. The gallery received the Artadia NADA NYC 2014 Artist Award for being “purposefully situated to exert pressure from within—and upon—this most utopian of dystopias on contemporary culture at large.” What Pipeline is also a two-time recipient of Knight Foundation Detroit Arts Challenge awards, in 2014 for a Detroit artist publication series and in 2016 for an exhibition with artist Pope.L.

For more information and showtimes visit whatpipeline.com