

<http://peoplelikeus.org/2014/citationcity/>

CITATION CITY

Grants for the Arts 2014

Watch an excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/157726559>

Citation City is a 42 minute audiovisual performance work which sources, collages and edits 300 major feature films where content is either filmed or set in London – creating a story within a story, of the film world, living its life, through extraordinary times of change, to see what happens when these multiple narratives are combined... what will the story tell us that one story alone could never tell?

“The result is a sweeping panorama of London, a London as represented through cinema – not the real city at all, but one that exists in the collective imagination of moviegoers throughout the decades.” Filmmaker Magazine

A time-travelling voyage through one city, assembled from hundreds of movie clips and inspired by the wanderings of Walter Benjamin. A patchwork of over 300 features either filmed or set in London, Citation City combines multiple narratives to create the story of one city in a period of enormous change. Pieced together by audiovisual artist Vicki Bennett (aka People Like Us), this beguiling, labyrinthine work takes its cue from Benjamin’s Arcades Project, an ambitious attempt to map out Paris in fragments which was cut short by the author’s death in 1940. Flatpack Film Festival

[Interview with Kenneth Goldsmith in Found Footage magazine about Citation City](#)

Background:

Inspired by **The Arcades Project** by **Walter Benjamin**, this audiovisual performance work by People Like Us is created from 1000s of clippings of text and visual media, collaged using a system of “convolutes”, collated around subjects of key motifs, historical figures, social types, cultural objects from the time. By gathering and assembling such groups of similar yet unrelated, he revealed a hidden, magical encyclopaedia of affinities, a massive and labyrinthine architecture of a collective dream city. On reading Benjamin, his approach to editing astonished Vicki Bennett, and the similarity of their creative processes of cutting and collating extensive lists of subject matter by context.

As a side project, Vicki also invited **selected sound artists to create distinct soundtracks** to the work in order to produce [two new films](#).

A portion of Citation City previewed at London’s Cafe Oto on 9 December 2014 then World Premiered in full at transmediale, Berlin on 29 January 2015. It’s UK Premiere was at Flatpack Film Festival on 28 March 2015, and London Premiere at Whitechapel Gallery on 26 September 2015 as part of the Walter Benjamin Now Symposium.

Citation City education/teaching pack

PDF download: [citation city teaching pack](#)

We thought it may be useful to make a document explaining the process of making this work. This pdf is intended as a companion to the audiovisual work, giving examples of the process one might undertake to create new work when sourcing from a large media database. This particular example relates to moving image and musical composition, but the methods can translate to other platforms that use composition, directing, editing, creative narratives and story telling.

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citadel *sit'ə-dəl*, *n.* a fortress in or near a city: the place where the guns are kept in a warship: in the Salvation Army, the hall in which meetings are held. [It. *cittadella*, dim. of *città*, a city; see **city**.]

cite *sīt*, *v.t.* to call or summon: to summon to appear in court: to quote: to name: to adduce as proof. — *adj.* **cit'able** that can be cited. — *ns.* **cit'al** summons to appear; **citā'tion** (*sīt-, sīt-*) an official summons to appear: a document containing the summons: the act of quoting: the passage or name quoted: mention in dispatches: official recognition of achievement. — *adj.* **cit'atory** having to do with citation: addicted to citation. — *n.* **cit'er**. [L. *citāre*, -ātum, to call, intens. of *ciere*, *cire*, to make to go.]

cithara *sith'ə-rə*, *n.* an ancient Greek musical instrument differing from the lyre in its flat shallow sound-chest. — *n.* **cith'arist** a player on it. — *adj.* **citharist'ic**. — *ns.* **cith'er**, **cith'ern**, **citt'ern** an early modern metal-stringed musical instrument, played with a plectrum: the Tirolese zither. [L., — Gr. *kitharā*; cf. **guitar**, **zither**.]

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Performances:

9 December 2014 Cafe Oto preview <http://www.cafeoto.co.uk/jennifer-walshe-sharon-gal-andie-brown-people-like-us.shtm>

29 January 2015 World Premiere at [transmediale](#), Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

28 March 2015 UK Premiere at [Flatpack Film Festival, Birmingham](#), as part of a larger WFMU and Walter Benjamin-themed programme

17 April 2015 Parede, Portugal

18 September 2015 Bristol [Encounters Short Film Festival](#)

26 September 2015 [Whitechapel Gallery](#) at Walter Benjamin Now Symposium (at 5pm), London

15 October 2015 Leeds Art Gallery (private screening for students only)

24 October 2015 Monty Hall, WFMU

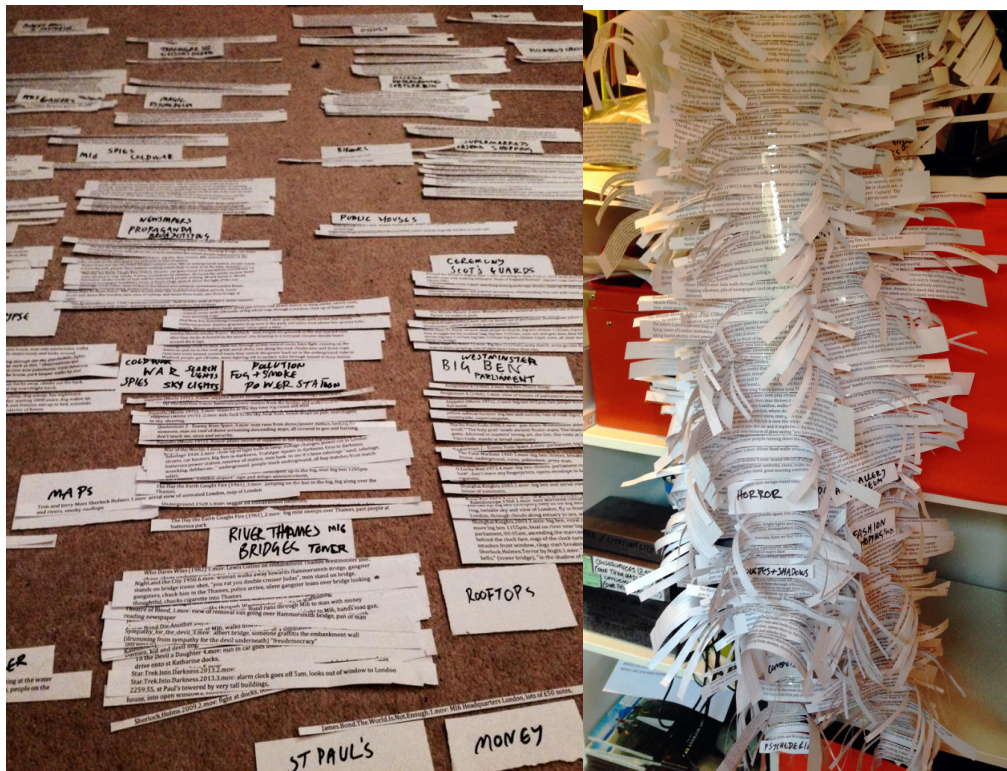
28 October 2015 Red Room, Baltimore

21 November 2015 [Brighton Cinacity Festival](#)

12 April 2016 Sonic Protest Festival, Paris

7 May 2016 Delco Festival, Nimes

November 2016 Dundee Contemporary Arts



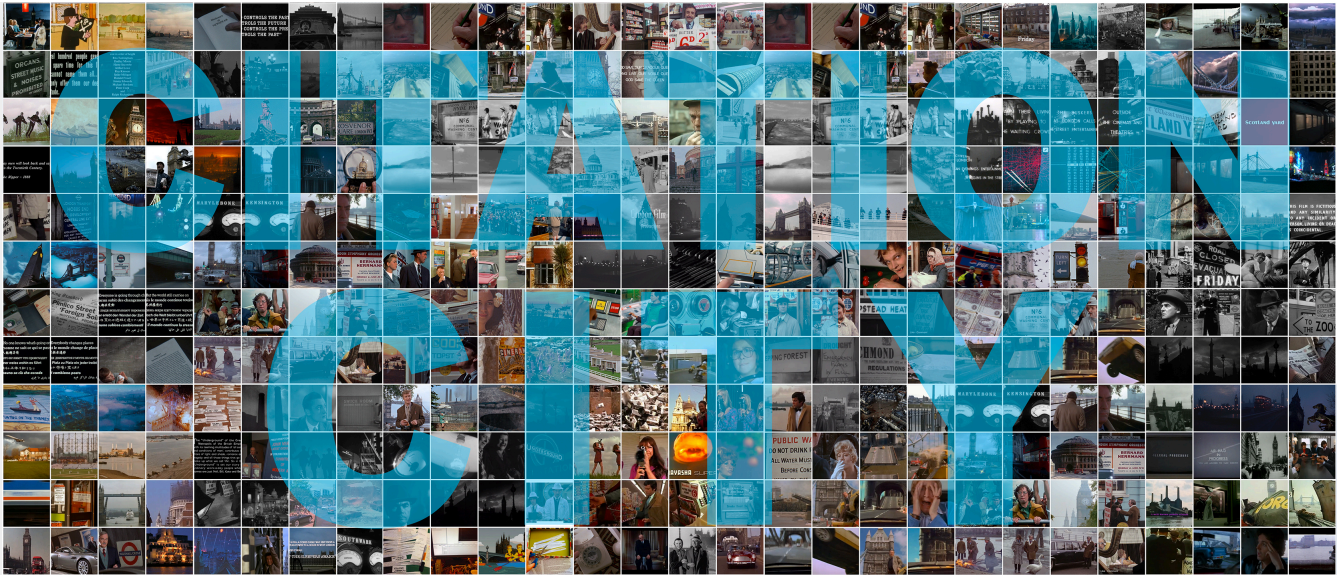
Prep work for Citation City

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/citationcity>

Press and articles:

[Interview in Filmmaker Magazine \(January 2015\)](#)

[InEnArt Magazine \(January 2015\)](#)



The first stage after selecting footage is to type out descriptions of hundreds of segments then cut them out, and make arrangements of subjects, content, "convolutes"

