

SHAKEDOWN
A FILM BY LEILAH WEINRAUB

APRIL 7 - MAY 12, 2018

SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
APRIL 7: 3 PM AND 6:30 PM
APRIL 14: 3 PM AND 5 PM
APRIL 21: 3 PM AND 5 PM
APRIL 28: 3 PM AND 5 PM
MAY 5: 3 PM AND 5 PM
MAY 12: 3 PM AND 5 PM

What Pipeline is proud to present SHAKEDOWN opening April 7 and running through 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 at 4:30 PM and a second screening at 6:30 PM. The film installation runs from April 14 through May 12, every Saturday at 3 PM and 5 PM. SHAKEDOWN runs 75 minutes and contains mature themes.

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.