

# LIZ CROW

Image by Jo Halliday

**T**he blurb goes “award-winning, provocative and hauntingly beautiful film installation based on real events” but for you as writer/director it’s nearly the end of the road isn’t it?

Yes, this is the last leg of a tour that’s lasted four years. Living as I do in Bristol I didn’t make it to Manchester until the launch but my tour manager Joanne Peters is actually based here. Maybe we will find a new permanent home for it as I don’t want to simply pack it all away – fundamentally, it works!

For those unfamiliar with Roaring Girl Productions (RGP) tell us which artists you see as peers?

That’s a very difficult question, I’ve been inspired by so much material from the holocaust – such as Levi, Frank and Frankl – but frustrated that the sheer horror always seems to stop us doing something with it. As you leave “Resistance” you are deliberately left with a question: if you could do just one thing, what would it be. So although I’m a political storyteller I made sure I dragged the historical into the contemporary.

The Chimp is aware anecdotally that the disabled community hardly saw the recent onslaught from the coalition coming, and it’s been such a major operation getting the vital protests organised. The allegorical side of this work could hardly be more pertinent, could it?

In 30 years as an activist I’ve never known it this bad. The impact

is indeed very serious when a lifeline is removed, and I’m not just talking about benefits here but education and the assisted suicide legislation. The way in which these changes are being reported, I think, has led to an increase in hate crimes. It feels like a backlash and it’s a very threatening time. I feel like I’m monitoring myself and my behaviour in a way I didn’t have to even 18 months ago.

Did you visit concentration camps as research for “Resistance”?

I visited two institutions that were turned into death camps and took the cast with me. Three of those actors participated in an extra documentary, “Conversations”, which is also showing at the Zion Centre, where they talk about how important those visits were to them not just emotionally but in finding their characters.

Martin Niemoller’s words haunt the

context of your examination of Hitler’s mass murder programme – Aktion-T4 – don’t they?

Well his quote is as relevant now as it’s ever been, and some versions of his quote, you know, actually start with the disabled and not the communists.

This work is hard-hitting but it’s not so much about disability as asking how we should all take responsibility for living together well, and how we must not let ourselves be divided into groups. Yes, it’s about a secret history but I’m asking how do we use that history. We must learn, make corrections and not get trapped.

“Resistance” is showing now at the Zion Centre in Hulme, M15 5ZA

