



***DIVIDED
TOGETHER***

Treatment
Ewan Mitchell
2017

SYNOPSIS

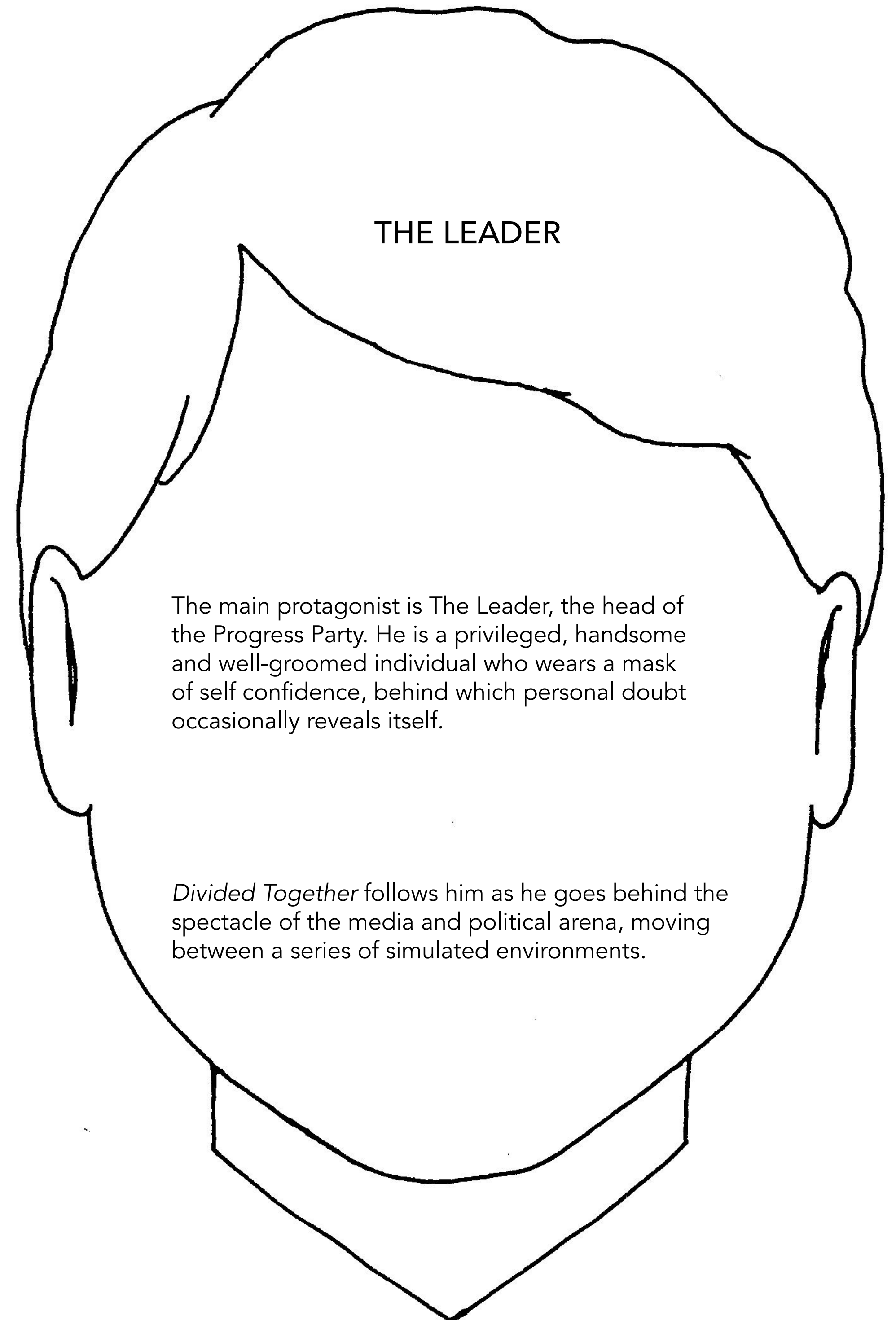
Divided Together is a dystopian political satire set in an alternate United Kingdom that echoes the current post truth era. The film follows the leader of the ideologically ambiguous Progress Party as they prepare for the launch of a new set of policies dubbed 'The New Way'.



THEMES

Divided Together exists in an absurd and decontextualized world, in attempt to subvert and interrogate universal power structures. Each scene explores central elements of politics, propaganda and the media.

The film does not seek to put any one ideology on trial, but rather to reflect the disingenuous and ultimately ideologically bankrupt spectacle that marks the current state of world power.



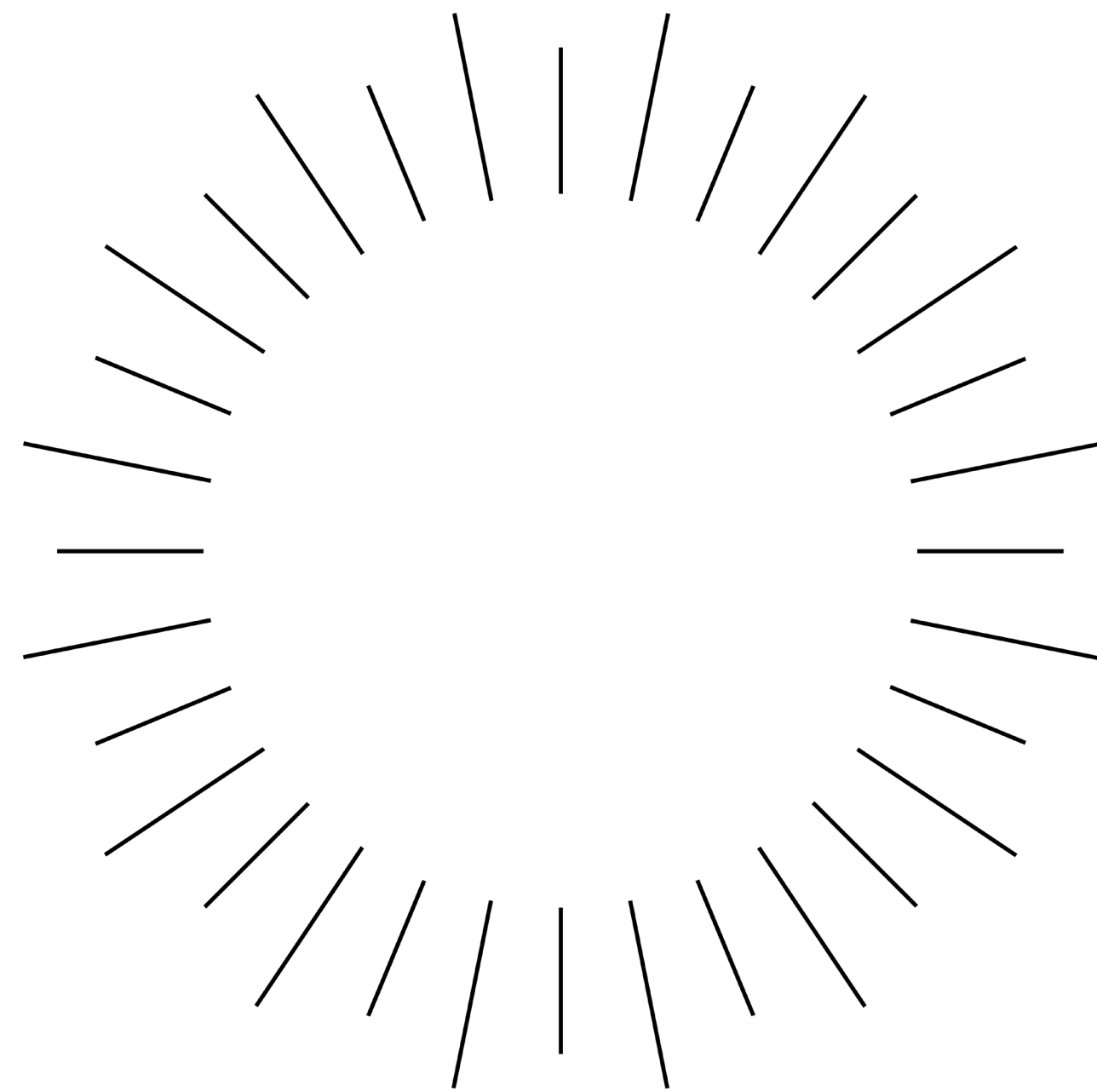
STYLE

Divided Together utilises absurd, hyperreal and dystopian aesthetics.

The film will be shot in black and white, so as to avoid the ideology of colour, thus decontextualizing the political party further and allowing them to remain ambiguous.

Lacking colour, the Progress Party become disassociated to any real-life political party, and in doing so become indistinguishable from most. Despite it being shot in black and white the film will look contemporary, almost futuristic, a form of visual dichotomy.

All the characters in the film lack names, and have mere titles. They never leave windowless artificially lit rooms yet their symbol is that of the sun's rays projecting natural light.





STORY OUTLINE

The film opens with the Progress Party's political logo, from this The Leader addresses The Cabinet and each future scene is mapped out, as he articulates the plan for the day. The Cabinet consists of 20 well-dressed men and women who sit in a large well-lit conference room around a table. They stare silently and attentively at The Leader as he speaks.

Scene 2 takes place within a green-screen news studio. The leader begins by having an awkward forced interaction with a make-up artist, in which clearly they have no common ground. The tone changes abruptly as The Leader starts a televised address to the people of a recently invaded country.

Scene 3 starts with The Leader and a trusted advisor walking down a long corridor. In this brief interlude we see for the first time the private face of The Leader. The pair then enter a large hall where The Leader makes a brief speech to a crowd of applauding Grassroots Activists who support and campaign for the party. A tracking shot moves through the crowds of people and intersect their conversations. Then The Leader poses for a series of photo opportunities. The scene ends with The Leader, alone trying on a mask of himself.

Scene 4 takes places within an empty concert hall. The Leader practices his generic, ambiguous speech 'The New Way'. Although his speech is well rehearsed, passionate sounding and eloquent in rhetoric – it is clearly is hyperbolic, filled with euphemism and ultimately empty. Members of The Cabinet sit silently in the background. The film ends with the speech being applauded by members of The Cabinet.

