

God So Loves Decay (2016)
**Public Performance. Commissioned by Sunridge Avenue Projects,
Luton.**

This was a one-off performance in Luton Town centre that took place on Saturday 4th May 2016. The work consisted of punk musician, Russ Crimewave, 'preaching' the collected lyrics of Luton-based post-punk band, UK Decay. The site of the performance was outside of Luton Town Hall; a town hall burned to the ground in the Peace Day riots of 1919, and a regular site for a range of religious preachers. For around 4 hours, Russ preached from a specially printed publication containing UK Decay's collected lyrics. Free copies of the publication were available for distribution to the passing audience. The work was commissioned by Sunridge Avenue Projects, which was a 9-month programme of arts activity that happened across Luton, commissioned and curated by the artist Dominic Allan a.k.a Dominic from Luton. This work was then re-presented at the '*Curating Resistance: Punk as Archival Method*' conference at UCLA, Los Angeles, in February 2018.

Further documentation and audio recordings
<https://www.smarkgubb.com/god-so-loved-decay>

Further Evidence/Information

'Curating Resistance: Punk as Archival Method' conference information:
<https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/curating-resistance-punk-as-archival-method/>



God So Loves Decay (2016)
Image from the performance, Luton Town Centre, Saturday 7th May, 2016



God So Loves Decay (2016)
Images from the performance, Luton Town Centre, Saturday 7th May, 2016



Pages from the free publication distributed during the performance, *God So Loves Decay* (2016), Luton Town Centre, Saturday 7th May, 2016



1

UK Decay

Battered Britain just take a look
 Your future hangs on a butcher's hook
 Your Union Jack no longer rules the skies
 It lies in shit, surrounded only by flies
 You're watching it waste away
 In the UK decay
 Who wants to stay today
 And see the UK decay
 And you're watching it waste away
 In the UK decay
 Who wants to stay today
 And see the UK decay
 Inflation rise, your dole queue grows
 Unions dictate your fate nobody knows
 The country stalls to melt a pay freeze
 See the government they can only grovel on their knees
 They watch it waste away
 In the UK decay
 Who wants to stay today
 See the UK Decay
 Watch it rot before your eyes
 It's all fallen to pieces
 Watch the UK decay

2

Message Distortion

A mass selection, to manipulate
 No attempts to question, it's too late
 Blown out of proportion, to ease your mental contortion
 Your views are rearranged, with a message distortion
 So rearranged conveniently
 Shown them what they want to see
 Message distortion
 Message distortion
 It'll only ruin the story
 If it stinks of reality
 A message distortion
 Ease mental contortion
 You make your enemies, when you sit
 Quoting your German psychology, irrelevance and wit
 You state your preferences, but only a bit
 As any real praise, with this image won't fit
 So rearranged conveniently
 Shown them what they want to see
 Message distortion
 Message distortion
 It'll only ruin the story
 If it stinks of reality
 A message distortion
 Ease mental contortion
 You take the choice,
 The headline news
 It's all on mind
 It's easy to find
 They question the voice
 That states your views
 In this chance to survive
 They don't have to try
 To question the lie
 It stinks of reality, so who wants to know
 You can watch what you want to see, on your favourite TV show
 Disturbing facts, and details you'll find
 So easily rearranged, to ease your mind
 So rearranged conveniently
 Shown them what they want to see
 Message distortion
 Message distortion
 It'll only ruin the story
 If it stinks of reality
 A message distortion
 Ease mental contortion

17

Mayday Malady

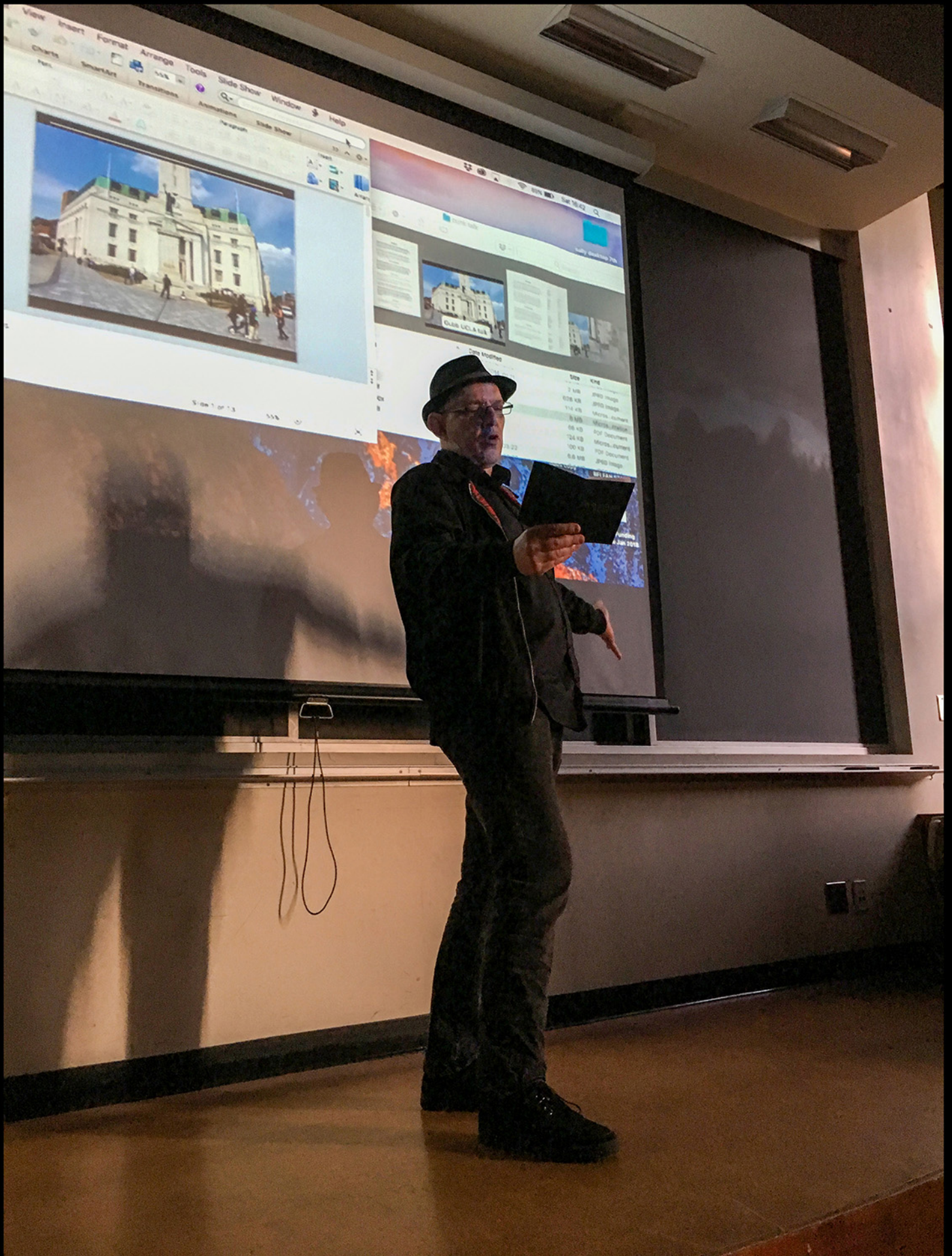
Mayday
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Masque may madcap laughs
 Mayday
 Make hay
 Mayhem malady
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Our Mayday queen
 Mayday
 Martial Madonna
 Come and see
 Red striped the white
 Red flag dripping high
 Hanging from a pole
 Faster and faster we go
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Mayday
 Faster and faster and faster we grow
 May day
 Faster and faster and faster and faster we go
 Mayday
 Masquerade

18

For Madmen Only

Seeing through bitter eyes
 Pride is prime of youth, his blackness is his vanity
 To side the side of truth
 He knows he'll always lose
 He's lost before
 A boy with a grievance
 A man with a grudge to bear
 Society seen to destroy all he's been
 Vietnam taught to kill
 Dormant behind the way, he still retains the will
 And he will
 The scarcity of pain
 Incontent restless rich boy realise
 No pleasure is pleasure
 Till his right name
 Nothing to lose, still less to gain
 Nameless, faceless
 Walking corpse
 I met murder on the way, he wore a mask like today
 Around every corner, conscience cries
 Struggling for breath in a vacuum
 Faced with the cold gaping wound
 For madmen only
 Know where contentment lies
 For madmen only
 A coolness knows no conscience
 Put away with finality
 In the high impassioned pit of murder
 Conscience free, slit accuracy
 For madmen only
 Never search for happiness
 For madmen only
 Only pleasure
 Everybody is that crime
 Walking the thin straight line, the tightrope of tragedy
 For madmen only
 Know where contentment lies
 For madmen only
 The great American dream
 The decline of civilization, echoed in the victim's scream
 I met murder on the way
 He wore a mask like today
 He wore a mask like today...

Pages from the free publication distributed during the performance, God So Loves Decay (2016), Luton Town Centre, Saturday 7th May, 2016



Re-presentation of the performance *God So Loves Decay* (2016) at *Curating Resistance: Punk as Archival Method* conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, Saturday 10th February, 2018