

The Big Scene

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The South West's essential guide to the week ahead

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU



"Imagine a world where even your experiences come pre-packaged. Or don't bother - because even that's already been imagined for you"

How many of us would say that we're 100 per cent happy with our lives? Even those unfortunate individuals who have a fulfilling career, a loving family, a decent home and free weekends still feel a hankering for 'something more'. Excess wealth, fame, and a perfect, pert, blemish-free body are all on the wish list, and that is where they'll stay unless you really do something about it. This is where we can help; we are great at buying the gym membership and the exercise bike but the reality intervenes before we actually use it - and hanging your clothes on it doesn't count.

With, an edgy art installation, offers artistic solutions to bridge that gap with the latest technologies in vicarious living. We want it all, pre-packed, now, instant results with no effort required and now with With we can. You want a perfect partner who hangs on your every word, loves you unconditionally but you don't

want to actually have to live with him? COMEWITHME™ is the perfect solution, take your choice of soldier, musician, prisoner or other absent scenario and be sent the perfect handwritten love letters to be in love without the hassle. Or with AF(fair)™ you will receive all the evidence of your secret trysts with texts, love letters, hotel reservations, you can even have an agent act out your sexual fantasies - all guilt free.

Ever felt jealous of friends with hundreds of tales of an exciting misspent past? JOINTACCOUNTS™ can provide everything from dinner party ready drug anecdotes to photographs and court summons to prove your narcotics connections. Feel disadvantaged by your nice guy image? Still feel that you're not interesting enough? TRAUMAFORME™ will provide you will all the details of a traumatic past - pain and nightmare free. VIOLENTOME™

can provide proof that you're not to be messed with by having an agent commit an act of violence in your name.

With dwells on the edges of performance and installation art, dabbling at the edge of the murky pool of our self-consciousness as it frolics with the illusions we create for ourselves. Along with the With solutions offered (each to be taken WITHWATER™ to aid PRODUCTASSIMILATION™) is the account of a client who purchased VIOLENTOME™. But is this a genuine account, or is it the result of another agent providing a life enhancing service bought by someone wishing to appear that they had experienced VIOLENTOME™?

With (Withyou.co.uk) is at Plymouth Arts Centre, Looe Street, Plymouth until June 10. For further information, call 01752 206114 or visit www.plymouthac.org.uk.

SARAH JANE DOWNING