

vincent
dance
theatre

In Loco Parentis



Scene from VDT's *Art of Attachment*

***Charlotte Vincent's searing artistic
exploration of the world of the looked after
child***

“Yes, it takes a village to raise a child. But if people don’t feel a part of that village, then they will burn it down to feel its warmth.” Craig Pinkney, *Ted-X*, Birmingham

Under choreographer/director Charlotte Vincent, **Vincent Dance Theatre** has a reputation for inventive political productions which quite literally delve into the fabric of British society through a socially-engaged, UK wide research process. *Virgin Territory* (2016), made in collaboration with four teenagers, examined the impact of our over-sexualised culture on girls, earning two National Dance Award nominations. Vincent’s *Shut Down* (2017), with an all-male cast, including three teenagers, was critically acclaimed for its witty, thought-provoking take on what it means to be a man today.

With *In Loco Parentis*, Charlotte Vincent is shifting her gaze from gender issues towards themes of home, family and belonging. This latest production reflects on inherited cycles of trauma, rupture and repair that drive children into care and questions society’s readiness to blame and shame those whose lives become chaotic after a disrupted start.

Characteristically, *In Loco Parentis* results from extensive creative research in the community, which began in early 2018 working with substance misuse charity Brighton Oasis Project to produce *Art of Attachment*, a one-off, sold out live production at ACCA in October (pictured), with remarkable performances by four women currently in recovery performing alongside dancers Antonia Grove and Robert Clark.

Vincent continues her exploration in 2019, working with birth and adoptive parents, young people, care-leavers and professionals from the care sector to investigate the emotional and psychological impact of trauma on child development and how an insecure foundation can affect identity, life chance, attachment style, trust and a sense of belonging later in life.

With real-life testimony drawn from this research and some stories carried forward from *Art of Attachment*, *In Loco Parentis* will combine spoken word with movement and strong visual imagery to illuminate the inner worlds and extraordinary resilience of the ‘looked after’ child, to reflect on the dynamic between experience and choice. Typically, the cast will combine professional and non-professional performers, with three young care-leavers recruited through the 2019 research. It will be directed by Charlotte Vincent, with text by Wendy Houstoun and soundtrack by Jules Maxwell.

PRESS AND AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

ART OF ATTACHMENT

“It is clear from the outset that an alternative version of these stories is going to be told – one that is agonisingly visceral, and often beyond words...But this is also a piece about love as an enduring source of hope.” Isobel Todd, The Psychologist

“There is no sentimentality in this piece, it does not ask us to judge or to pity – but allows us to witness the exhausting labours involved in experiencing, acting out and recovering from trauma.” Rachel Thomson, Professor of Childhood and Youth Studies (Social Work and Social Care), University of Sussex

SHUT DOWN

“Charlotte Vincent’s new work transmits powerful messages and poses challenging questions” DanceTabs

“The work is unflinching, but Vincent’s eye for absurdity, and for the telling human detail, ensures that it never becomes issue-bound”
Observer ****

“Once again I was blown away by @VincentDT. #VDTShutDown is fearless, meaningful and so relevant. Everyone needs to see it.” Audience

VIRGIN TERRITORY

“Vincent’s work transmits powerful messages and poses challenging questions. Riveting...unique... visceral. Its’ importance as a piece of political theatre is unquestionable.” Dance Tabs

“Funny, fearless and flintily determined, Vincent is one of the most important feminist artists working in Britain today. Contemporary dance fans should beat a path to her door. *”*** Observer

“Meticulously detailed, working across generations, it’s more than dance. Charlotte is shouting in the spaces that matter” Judith Mackrell

A NOTE ABOUT LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN / CARE LEAVERS

“The paradox for the hopeless child is that there is much hope in being able to find someone who can really hear and see their hopelessness.” Dan Hughes, Clinical Psychologist

In loco parentis is Latin for ‘in the place of a parent’. A child's relationship with its primary care giver inform its social, psychological and emotional development and its ability to form secure and meaningful attachments later in life. It is well understood that children's early experiences have a significant impact on development and future relationships and life chances. As a result of their experiences both before and during local authority care, Looked After Children (LAC) are 4 times more likely to have a mental health difficulty and less likely to go on to education, employment or training than their non-LAC peers (NSPCC). There is growing concern around the vulnerability and wellbeing of YP age 16-18 reflected in recent changes made to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 that extend personal adviser support to all care leavers until the age of 25, in recognition of the many challenges they may face when the system of support they have hitherto relied up on falls away.

A NOTE ABOUT SAFEGUARDING

VDT specialize in facilitating work with marginalized and vulnerable groups, and has a robust **SAFEGUARDING POLICY** for work with children and young people. VDT has built a strong reputation for excellent safeguarding in practice in workshops, auditions, rehearsals, on tour and on location, provide great employment conditions for children and are renowned as a model of good practice in chaperoning and child licensing by Brighton and Hove City Council.



Scene from VDT's *Shut Down*