

IN LOCO PARENTIS

Suitable for ages 14+

Directed and Designed by

Charlotte Vincent

Composed by

Jules Maxwell

Lighting Design

Nigel Edwards

Text

Wendy Houstoun

Rehearsal Director

Azzura Ardovini

Performed and Devised by

Robert Clark

Aurora Lubos

Janusz Orlik

Kye

Tia

Production Manager

Mat Ort

Understudy

Maia Faulkner

Chaperone

Sheila Palmer-Williams

Director's Note

Sketch yourself into now
Etching your way,
Scribbling yourself across the floor
Leaving your own mark

In time

Wendy Houstoun, 2020

In 2018, I was commissioned by Brighton Oasis Project (funded by Wellcome Trust), to create a new work with women recovering from substance misuse and their children, many of whom were separated from their birth families. Working over 9 months, and joined by performers Robert Clark and Antonia Grove for the later stages of the process, we devised Art of Attachment, which has since been made into a film installation. This work explored the cycles of abuse and trauma that can lead to children being removed into care.

In Loco Parentis is a companion piece to Art of Attachment and the company's fourth production created through a unique, participatory, socially engaged model of research that informs the work, with participants voices steering the creative process.

To research In Loco Parentis Vincent Dance Theatre ran workshops across Sussex through which I identified individuals to talk to in more detail, recording conversations with children and young people in care, foster carers, adoptive parents and professionals in the realms of social care, sociology, neonatology and psychology, whose voices are embedded in the work.

In Loco Parentis aims to stimulate a more empathic attitude towards care-experienced young people, who often suffer stigma around their status, not least because of challenging behaviours that stem from a severely disrupted start in life.

This piece is dedicated to all the care-experienced kids out there and all the adults who take care of them.

Charlotte Vincent, Artistic Director.

At 31 March 2019, the number of children looked after by local authorities in England increased by 4% since 2018 to 78,150, continuing increases seen in recent years. This is equivalent to a rate of 65 children per 10,000. Adoptions from care continue to fall - by 7% to 3,570 continuing the drop from a peak of 5,360 adoptions in 2015.

In Loco Parentis is commissioned by Worthing Theatres and Pavillion Dance South West