

## Director's Note

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

**Wendy Houstoun, *In Loco Parentis*, 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.**