

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

The Company

Artistic Director Charlotte Vincent and her brilliant, cross-generational ensemble have been 'moving people and making them think' since 1994, distributing productions **on stage, on film and online** to place the work at the heart of public debate.

'*Funny, fearless and flintily determined, Vincent is one of the most important feminist artists working in Britain today*' (*The Observer*), creating '*astonishingly original*' (*New York Times*) productions with a '*crackling intellectual core*' (*The Guardian*).

VDT's productions make significant claims for gender politics, and increasingly for social change. Productions are formed from a socially engaged research process and accompanied by a wide range of Participation activity, including; Professional Development, Social Engagement, Teaching & Learning & Dialogue & Debate. Vincent also mentors a range of emerging and mid-career artists, and is widely acknowledged for supporting parenting in performing arts and campaigning for gender equality through all the company's work, both on and off the stage.

VDT is a National Portfolio Organisation, funded by Arts Council England. VDT is also a Dream Artist at Pavilion Dance South West and Associate Company at Brighton Dome.

VDT Staff:

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Fundraising & Development Director

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Participation & Digital Development Director

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VDT Board of Trustees

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Giulia Mazzei, Alick Mighall, Natasha Reynolds &
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Big Thanks To

The teams at PDSW & Worthing Theatres, Former VDT GM Niamh Lynam-Cotter, Puppeteers in early research Ester Njatszil and Darren East, Alastair Irons, Simone La Corbiniere, Nikki Hall, Jon Clayton, Megs Bruce, Leona Good, Tom Hines, Adam Joolia, Jon Clark, Chema, Sam Hatter, Sade Bisram, Audio Active, Erica Castle, Taner Fikret, Toby Wilson, Brighton and Hove Families Through Adoption, Rob Caddick and Brighton and Hove Virtual School participants, John Khan and Tom Goulden at Priority 154, Oasis Project Brighton, College Central, Towner Art Gallery, Allsorts Brighton, Bexhill Academy, Stantonbury International School, Claire Took, Jack Shoulder, BHCC & WSCC Child Performance Licensing Departments, The Sabden Multi Academy Trust, , In Loco Parentis Audition attendees, Nathan Greening, Janet Boddy, Victoria Shaynes, Sally Hooper, Jack, FS, RM, DP, AS, CE, SS, KS, JB, MW, MVB, SH. Special Thanks to the foster carers, adoptive parents, care workers, children in care councils and care experienced young people who came to our workshop sessions and shared their stories with us.

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