

vincent dance theatre

if we go on

IF WE GO ON

Directed and Designed by **Charlotte Vincent**

Composed by **Alex Catona**

Text by **Wendy Houstoun**

Dramaturgy by **Ruth Ben-Tovim**

Performed and devised by **Carly Best, Alex Catona,**

Patrycja Kujawska, Aurora Lubos, Janusz Orlik,

Scott Smith and Harry Theaker

Additional music by **Patrycja Kujawska,**

Scott Smith and The Hives

Additional text by **Claire MacDonald,**

Charlotte Vincent and the company

Lighting Design by **James Harrison**

and **Charlotte Vincent**

Lighting construction by **Matthew Simpson**

Production Manager **Eike Birte Umney**

Sound Engineer **Chris Umney**

Harry Theaker's role was originally

devised by **Henry Montes**

With many thanks to the tenants and staff at

Persistence Works, Sheffield and to

Matthew Simpson for his patience and support.

VINCENT DANCE THEATRE

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The conceptual, musical and thematic ideas behind **IF WE GO ON** have been cultivated over several research periods, with 19 dance and theatre practitioners in London, Portugal, Brighton and York since 2007, followed by a 16 week making and devising process this summer in Sheffield with the seven performers you will see on stage tonight. Collaborator **Claire MacDonald** wrote 'we would like to show you something, but we are not sure how. We are going to tell you what it is like, doing and faking, doing and not doing. Here we are in a space, faced with the question: how do we go on? How does the show go on? How do I take the step and still be me, and does that get harder as you get older? And is that a different question for women, and can we share that question, and how? I can see us asking that, can't you? The asking of it is this performance.' These words and Claire's insightful thinking guided me through a complex initial gestation period.

Making **IF WE GO ON** has been a bold, mature and multi-layered collaboration, driven by a desire to put something out there that offers an alternative aesthetic to the work that is currently celebrated as 'dance theatre' in the UK.

Wendy Houstoun's brilliant texts (produced via a curiously enjoyable process of talking through ideas on the phone and then exchanging e-mailed texts), provides the linguistic and imaginative framework on which the piece hangs. Alex Catona's exceptional musical scores offer vibrant and moving compositional anchors for the work. The commitment, energy and creative intelligence of the seven performers involved has produced the physical and emotional substance of the work.

In making **IF WE GO ON** we have scrutinised form, undermined our own working methods, removed fictional aesthetics, relinquished normal patterns of devising, and questioned what kind of sonic, verbal, textual and movement based language we now want to speak. At times we felt as if we were just wading through a long list of negatives, but with invaluable support of dramaturg **Ruth Ben-Tovim**, we have produced a piece of work that is optimistic in its bleakness, humorous in its tragedy, unusual in the voice it has found – a strange and complex progeny to our past work.

This piece is for **Edie Turner**.

I hope you enjoy the show.

CHARLOTTE VINCENT
SEPTEMBER 2009

www.IfWeGoOn.co.uk - please visit the tour website to post your own review of the show, join our Facebook group, follow the performers blog and enter our competition to win an iPod nano. You can also twitter us at VincentDT – send us a review or question using the hashtag #IWGO.

IF WE GO ON is funded by Grants for the Arts through Arts Council England. Co-commissioned by Sheffield Theatres, Newbury Corn Exchange, Hull City Council and Peak Performances@Montclair State University. Supported by The Junction and Danceworks UK.



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