

vincent
dance
theatre

Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

HOLD TIGHT



**WHEN WE LONG FOR INTIMACY AND CONNECTION THAT ISN'T
THERE, SOMETIMES WE JUST HAVE TO HOLD TIGHT**

*“explores the visceral emotional labour involved in surviving – and
creating – home.” The Psychologist*

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. ***In Loco Parentis*** (2020) turned the company's attention towards themes of **home, family and belonging**. Made through a process of socially engaged research and informed by real-life testimonies, this intergenerational dance-theatre production

reflected on inherited cycles of trauma, rupture and repair that result in children being placed into foster care, care homes and adoptive families.

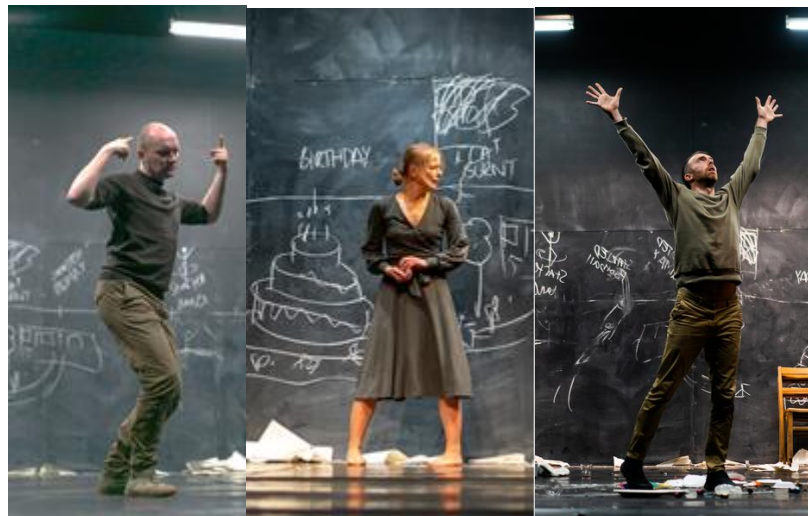
Home is where our story begins. It's not always a place – it's a condition, a feeling, a sense of connection. It forms who you are and how you move through the world. Our recent, collective experience of separation has changed our perception of what is 'safe' and what is 'home' forever. Family relationships have been heightened, some ruptured, some repaired.

Building on the company's research for the production of *In Loco Parentis* – halted a week after the premiere, mid-tour in March 2020 due to the global pandemic - *Hold Tight* draws parallels between the impact that enforced isolation over the past two years has had on family relationships and mental health, with the impact that similarly abrupt changes in family circumstances have on children taken into care. *Hold Tight* offers an opportunity to understand how adverse childhood experience affects young people, their behaviour and their sense of identity.

Hold Tight is a full-length, inter-generational ensemble production made in Brighton's new Dance Space September/October 2022 and premiering in Brewery Arts Centre, Kendall.

Performed by established VDT collaborators (including Rob Clark, Janusz Orlik, Aurora Lubos and Antonia Grove) and teenage performers, *Hold Tight* is staged on a set with a huge blackboard backdrop and incorporates material from *In Loco Parentis* including testimonies from care-experienced children, adoptive parents and foster carers.

Layered with psychological and emotional tension, with a beautiful soundtrack by Jules Maxwell, *Hold Tight* offers a window into the often detached and dislocated lives of care-experienced young people, embedding their stories within a wider exploration of what home, family and belonging means to us now.



AUDIENCE FEEDBACK *In Loco Parentis* (2020)

“Really beautiful very, very moving” Audience member & Q&A Participant

“This piece strikes to the heart of what it’s like to be within the madness of it all [care system]” Audience member & Q&A Participant

“ I loved the multi-layering and your varied use of media. I thought this enabled the audience to have a sense of the confusion around our children...I actually think it was so profound that some were stunned into silence. I think many will be processing what they experience for many weeks.” Louise Michelle Bomber, Strategic attachment Lead Teacher & Therapist (Post-show Q&A Panel Member)

“Congratulations for a cracking show last night. Always challenging and such a brilliant cast – a true VDT experience.” Cath James, Artistic Director, South East Dance

“That’s my life there on stage” Audience Member/Foster Carer

“Excellent Show, really enjoyed it, the performers, music content, best yet!” Audience Member

“Many People were moved to tears...[some] from the very first to the very final scene.” Audience Member

“Insightful performance, understanding and compassionate. Would recommend to see this company.” Audience Member

“A night of vivid dreams about your work...the word that came up over and over was ‘belonging’: what it means to belong to ourselves and to a family, and how can we find that, if we are only shown abandonment? And how that sense of belonging to ourselves or to others shapes us. It felt like more than ‘attachment’ somehow. Work to chew on and mull over. Bravo. Thank you”. Audience Member

BOOKING DETAILS

Available for touring:	Autumn 2022
No. of performers:	5 – 7 performers
Total no. on the road:	9 – 10
Min Stage area:	10m x 10m
Get-in:	Day Before If Possible
Outline Technical Requirements:	See separate tech. Spec.
Technical staff required:	Two Theatre Technicians
Running Time:	75 minutes
Wraparound (Prices Available)	Venues are invited to programme bespoke participation/professional development activity alongside the production. Contact holly@vincentdt.com for details
Video Trailer for <i>In Loco Parentis</i> :	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG_twP845Mw
Fee:	£2000 + VAT (Plus travel and accommodation to be negotiated)
Contact:	Sarah Trist @ Sarah Trist Dance Management Agency 07757654790 sarah@stdma.com

www.stdma.com

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