

UCHENNO

Hansel & gretel



HANSEL & GRETEL

Tour & Marketing Pack

CONTACT Grace Okereke - Executive Producer
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ABOUT uchenna

www.uchennadance.com

Uchenna was founded by Vicki Igbokwe in 2009, today the company is led by Igbokwe as Creative Director & Joint CEO and Grace Okereke as Executive Producer & Joint CEO. Since its inception in 2009, Uchenna has grown from an informal explorative company to a tour de force within the dance sector.

The company's overarching aim is to empower, entertain and educate through dance in a diverse programme that includes the creation of dance theatre production experiences, coaching, dance based empowerment workshops and teaching in schools and institutions.

The Uchenna dance style fuses Waacking, Vogue and House with traditional African and Contemporary, creating a signatory aesthetic that simply is, Uchenna.

Uchenna is passionate about creating production experiences that:

- **Enable audiences to see themselves 'on stage'** and have their stories told.
- Build the confidence of audiences enabling them to believe in their potential.
- Nurture conversations amongst audiences from diverse backgrounds, building community cohesion.
- Welcome non-dance audiences/first timers to the theatre.

The company's professional repertoire includes:

- [Hansel & Gretel](#) – A fearless dance adventure! The classic fairy tale gets a dance makeover.
- [The Head Wrap Diaries Fierce & Free](#) – A bigger and bolder reworking of the show.
- [The Head Wrap Diaries](#) – Mixing dance, theatre, and storytelling with a good dose of humour.
- [Our Mighty Groove](#) – An immersive-interactive dance theatre production that transports you to a New York underground House Club.

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About the founder: Vicki Igbokwe

Vicki Igbokwe is the Founder, Creative Director & Joint CEO of Uchenna.

Independently, Vicki works as a Choreographer and Movement Director working in dance and theatre and as Coach and Facilitator working in the arts.

She is the Director of Empowerment at People Make It Work and won the 2020 **Women in Dance Award from AWA (Advancing Women's Aspirations with Dance)**, a charity dedicated to helping women and girls aspire to leadership roles through dance.

Her career highlights include a sponsorship deal with Nike (2005-2010) and work as a Mass Movement Choreographer on the London 2012 Summer Olympics, Sochi 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Baku 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games.



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An imaginative new take on a favourite fairy tale, Uchenna's twist to this well-known story weaves Creative Director and Choreographer, Vicki Igbokwe's fierce and distinctive dance styles of House, Waacking, Vogue, African and Contemporary dance, to deliver a magical and relatable retelling of Hansel & Gretel.

Told from the children's perspective, our two young heroes brave a big journey and find themselves lost in London, overwhelmed by the sights, sounds and smells. Separated from their kind guardian, the clever duo must use their smarts and determination to outwit the adults and find a way for their little modern family to stay together in a show where kids are number one!

With an exciting original musical score by Ghanaian composer Kweku Aacht, the production is written by Gbolahan Obisesan, set and costume design by Lucy Sierra, lighting design by James Mackenzie and assistant choreography by Ingrid Mackinnon.

Production Duration 55 mins (no interval)

No. Performers on stage 4

Audience Seated

Post Show Talks & Activities

Join Uchenna to discuss the show or join in a variety of pre/post show wraparound activities including craft, origami & colouring.

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Participatory Experiences

Uchenna have vast experience in teaching, facilitation and curation and can offer a tailored contextual programme alongside the Hansel & Gretel show. These are some **of the options, please do get in touch if you'd like to discuss a bespoke** participatory programme. Bespoke experiences start at £250 for up to half a day workshop, with reduced rates for rural touring.

Dance Workshops, Residencies & Curtain Raisers

Our workshops provide an excellent way of engaging children and young people with arts and culture and supporting them in understanding the world around us through our chosen form of communication: dance and movement.

We can deliver workshops, residencies and curtain raisers creating a bespoke programme for the needs of your learners starting from 5 years+. Including (but not limited to) learning sections from the show, learning specific dance techniques, delivering a fun and empowering dance class, using the show as a stimulus to create individual or group work and developing a response to the show.

Empowerment Sessions

Do you have a group of children and/or young people that would benefit from having a space where they are encouraged to have fun and feel good about themselves?

If you are looking for ideas and inspiration for your classroom, please contact info@uchennadance.com

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Marketing the show

Promotional Copy

What to expect

A fearless dance adventure– the classic fairy tale gets a dance makeover, Uchenna style!

Short copy

This contemporary retelling of the classic fairy tale finds our two young heroes lost in London, overwhelmed by the sights, sounds and smells. Together the brave duo must outwit the adults to find their way back to their family in a show where kids are number one!

Medium Copy

This contemporary retelling of the classic fairy tale finds our two young heroes lost in London, overwhelmed by the sights, sounds and smells. Together the brave duo must outwit the adults to find their way back to their family in a show where kids are number one! Vicki Igbokwe, creative director and founder of Uchenna, (*The Head Wrap Diaries Fierce & Free*, *The Head Wrap Diaries*, *Our Mighty Groove*), puts her unique twist on this well-known tale, weaving New York club styles of House, Waacking and Vogue, with African and Contemporary dance in a show that will delight the whole family.

Long copy

This contemporary retelling of the classic fairy tale finds our two young heroes lost in London, overwhelmed by the sights, sounds and smells. Together the brave duo must outwit the adults to find their way back to their family in a show where kids are number one!

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Long copy

Vicki Igbokwe, creative director and founder of Uchenna, (*The Head Wrap Diaries Fierce & Free, The Head Wrap Diaries, Our Mighty Groove*), puts her unique twist on this well-known tale, weaving New York club styles of House, Waacking and Vogue, with African and Contemporary dance in a show that will delight the whole family.

Expect to groove in your seat as you are transported to a world far from yours, yet with some surprising similarities.

With an exciting original musical score by Ghanaian composer Kweku Aacht, the production is written by Gbolahan Obisesan, set and costume design by Lucy Sierra, lighting design by James Mackenzie and assistant choreography by Ingrid Mackinnon.

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Marketing the show Template Press Release

HANSEL & GRETEL - THE CLASSIC FAIRY TALE GETS A DANCE MAKEOVER

Following on from the 2017-19 touring success of The Head Wrap Diaries, Uchenna are back with a contemporary take on a classic fairy tale.

Told from the children's perspective, our two young heroes brave a big journey and find themselves lost in London, overwhelmed by the sights, sounds and smells. Separated from their kind guardian, the clever duo must use their smarts and determination to outwit the adults and find a way for their little modern family to stay together in a show where kids are number one!

Creative director and choreographer Vicki Igbokwe puts her unique 'Uchenna' twist on the much-loved story, weaving dance styles House, Waacking and Vogue, with African and **Contemporary dance**. "Hansel & Gretel is a story I read a lot as a child and for me, it was always about how brave Hansel & Gretel are, how tenacious, courageous and resourceful. In our version, they use their imagination to help them get out of tricky situations. I really wanted to create a show that celebrates and empowers young people to be brave and think on their **feet.**"

Instead of breadcrumbs, they follow the London landmarks and the evil witch is a helpful – or maybe not so helpful? – stranger in a show that celebrates the boundless imagination of children with vivacious dancing and colourful costumes. The stage will be transformed into a mobile, ever changing urban playground coming to life for this show that will delight the whole family and leave them grooving in their seat!

With an exciting original musical score by Ghanaian composer Kweku Aacht, the production is written by Gbolahan Obisesan, set and costume design by Lucy Sierra, lighting design by James Mackenzie and assistant choreography by Ingrid Mackinnon.

The specially commissioned soundtrack of Ghanaian rhythms, contemporary sounds and house beats, featuring Jo' Wayne, Yung Pabi, Robin Huws, and others will have the audience grooving in their seats.

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Hansel & Gretel is Uchenna's first ever family show.

Hansel & Gretel takes place at [Insert venue, Insert dates + Insert times].

Tickets are on sale now from [Insert venue name] box office priced [Insert price], by phone on [Insert phone number] or securely online at [Insert website].

*Hansel & Gretel is presented by Uchenna Dance. Co-commissioned by The Place, DanceEast, Rural Touring Dance Initiative and Strike a Light. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

ENDS

For media enquiries for interviews, hi-res photography, further information, press accreditation, review requests, comment or appearances, please contact Carol Ann Walters on 07780 703 600.

About Uchenna

Uchenna was formed in London, UK in 2009 under the vision and leadership of Vicki Igbokwe. **The company's overarching aim is to empower, entertain and educate through dance** in a diverse programme which includes the creation of dance theatre production experiences, coaching, dance based empowerment workshops and teaching in further and higher education. The Uchenna dance style fuses Waacking, Vogue and House with traditional African and Contemporary, creating a signatory aesthetic that simply is, Uchenna. www.uchennadance.com.

About [Insert your venue]

[Insert your boilerplate]

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Marketing the show

Direct Mail Example

don't miss

this fearless dance adventure

hansel & gretel

[INSERT YOUR VENUE HERE]

[INSERT YOUR DATES HERE]

This contemporary retelling of the classic fairy tale finds our two young heroes lost in London, overwhelmed by the sights, sounds and smells. Together the brave duo must outwit the adults to find their way back to their family in a show where kids are number one!

Vicki Igbokwe, creative director and founder of Uchenna Dance, (*The Head Wrap Diaries Fierce & Free*, *The Head Wrap Diaries*, *Our Mighty Groove*), puts her unique twist on this well-known tale, weaving New York club styles of House, Waacking and Vogue, with African and Contemporary dance in a show that will delight the whole family.

[INSERT YOUR BOOKING DETAILS HERE]

"Many (festive) kids shows are billed as a celebration of the imagination, but few will get their young audience waacking and voguing like this" - The GUARDIAN

[On tour](#)

Co-commissioned by The Place, DanceEast, Rural Touring Dance Initiative and Strike a Light. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

need to know

Family show (for ages 5+)

Dance workshops, residencies and curtain raisers are available for booking.

Email info@uchennadance.com

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Hi-Res Images

[Click to download the images](#)

Photo Credit: ©Foteini Christofilopoulou

Twitter/Instagram: @foteiniphoto



Video

[Click to see the Trailer](#)

To request video footage for your foyer or website, please email info@uchennadance.com

Spotify

Introducing our unbelievable cast both onstage and in the soundtrack!

Hansel & Gretel Allstars, a playlist by composer & sound designer Kweku Aacht on [Spotify](#).

Featuring Jo' Wayne, Yung Pabi, Robin Huws, and others.

Social Media

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

Hashtags

#uchennadance

#hanselandgretel

#uchennastyle

Website

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Template Tweets

Perfect for families - Hansel & Gretel is re-imagined as a dance adventure by @UchennaDanceCo Weaving New York club styles of House, Waacking and Vogue, with African and Contemporary dance, this fresh take will have you and the kids moving out of your seats!

Join Hansel & Gretel on their adventures in the big city of London. The children's favourite gets a dance makeover from @UchennaDanceCo, creators of the critically acclaimed #TheHeadWrapDiaries Here's one show, you and the kids won't want to miss!

The classic fairy tale Hansel & Gretel receives a dance makeover, @UchennaDanceCo style! Weaving New York club styles of House, Waacking and Vogue, with African and Contemporary dance in a show that will delight the whole family.

On All Tweets [INSERT YOUR BOOKING LINK]
#HanselandGretel #dancemakeover #uchennastyle

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Critics Quotes/reviews

'Uchenna Dance's Hansel & Gretel has the whole family bouncing in **their seats**'
- The Wonderful World of Dance

'It's great to see Igbokwe's distinctive style made for an all-ages audience, the dancing's cool and there's a positive message about courage, resourcefulness and sticking together' - The Guardian

'This bold dance retelling of the classic fairy tale Hansel and Gretel has a sense of playfulness at its heart' - Dance Tabs

'A classic fairy tale gets a family-friendly dance makeover' - CultureWhisper.com

'Entering the rehearsal room for Hansel & Gretel is like walking on to the end of a rainbow' - LondonCalling.com

'Two kids get lost in a big city in Uchenna Dance's urban rewrite of the classic fairy story' - TimeOut London

'Uchenna's Hansel & Gretel is amazing, mysterious and cheeky, and we loved it!'
- On the Hill

'An eclectic triumph of imagination, expressive dance and symbolism' - Quays Life

Top picks

The best Christmas theatre shows for kids - The Times (*Maxie Szalwinska unwraps the best children's productions*)

25 unmissable Christmas Shows - The Guardian (*Cultural Christmas Crackers*)

Best Christmas Shows - Babes About Town (*Babes Choice*)

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Audience Quotes

'High quality professional dance, that's not watered down and so accessible. We loved it!' - Karen Jeremiah, Community Touring Manager, Creative Arts East

'The hall was packed out; the kids were really engaged, and the dancers were incredible' – Claire Marshall, Carn to Cove

'Like nothing our kids have ever seen before, just great!' – Teacher (Sedgeford)

'The girls haven't stopped talking about it, breath-taking. And they loved getting up on stage with the performers too' - Serai Anderson, Audience member

'You had a group of 90 kids engaged for 60mins, job well done. It's a brilliant show' – Teacher (Sedgeford)

'Best dance show I have seen on the Rural Touring Menu! What a show!'
- Karen Jeremiah, Community Touring Manager, Creative Arts East

'Those dancers can really dance!' - Audience member

'Stunning!' - Audience member

'What a fantastic show. Amazing dancers. 10/10' - Audience member

'Choreography that is unique and inspiring. Fantastic storytelling for all ages'
- Audience member

'An outstanding dance show that had the young audience rapt from the first minute for a full hour' - Audience member

'Brilliant, playful and funny, so colourful, very unique, music, choreography and script - loved it!' - Audience member

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Box Office Information Sheet

What is the show about?

Following on from the 2017-19 touring success of *The Head Wrap Diaries*, Uchenna are back with a modern dance-theatre version of Hansel & Gretel for the over-fives – composed by Kweku Aacht and written by Gbolahan Obisesa. Instead of breadcrumbs, our heroes follow the London landmarks in a show that celebrates the boundless imagination of children with vivacious dancing and colourful costumes. The stage will be transformed into a mobile, ever changing urban playground coming to life for this show that will delight the whole family and leave them grooving in their seat!

What is the dance style?

Uchenna work in a unique blend of traditional dance styles- African and Contemporary dance, and fuse these with club styles – House, Waacking and Vogue.

What is the music like?

The show has a specially commissioned soundtrack of Ghanaian rhythms, contemporary sounds and house beats.

Who is the show suitable for?

Family show, for ages 5+.

What is the running time?

55-minute show.

Is there an interval?

No

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Technical Information

Duration

55 mins, No interval.

Min performance space

The minimum stage size is 6mx6m with an ideal size of 10mx10m.

Get in

5-7 hours

Get out

1-2hrs

Set

12 pieces made from Aluminium tubing and Ply cladding, 1 small frame only section, 3-part clad platform surfaces, 3 Aluminium Chairs, 2 small prop boxes.

Parking

We tour in a crew van – parking required.

Performed

Black box set up with black dance floor, black side masking (where appropriate) on stage or on the floor (preferable). Smooth, sprung or semi-sprung floor is ideal.

Company on road

6 (4 performers, 1 prod manger, 1 company manager)

LX & Sound

Sound (Playback, QLAB) & Lighting (ETC show file, we tour a Nomad) need to be controlled together by Production Manager.

For full technical information, examples of past work, other touring works and more, please email info@uchennadance.com

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Credits and Creative Team

Co-commissioned by The Place, DanceEast, Rural Touring Dance Initiative & Strike a Light.
Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Creative Team

Director and Choreographer:

Writer:

Composer & Sound Designer:

Set & Costume Design:

Lighting Designer:

Rehearsal Director & Assistant Choreographer:

Performers & Creative Collaborators:

Vicki Igbokwe

Gbolahan Obesisan

Kweku Aacht

Lucy Sierra

James Mackenzie

Ingrid Mackinnon

Marc Stevenson as Hansel, Esme

Benjamin as Gretel, Rudzani

Moleya as Joy & Funny Adult,

Lauren Stewart as Wasi & Funny
Adult

Cris Casimiro

Françoise Herard

Matthieu Nunes

Anthony 'Oz' Osborne

Uchenna Dance & The Place

Carol Ann Walters PR

Foteini Christofilopoulou

TM Studios

Ekua Ekumah as Wasi & Joy,

Yung Pabi as Hansel, Effie

Nkrumah as Gretel, Kwaku

Boateng as Funny Adult

Kwaku Boateng

Dela Botri, Robin Huws, Yung

Pabi, Jo' Wayne, Dede Akwetey,

Ama Yeboah, Don Afero, Tyrone

Isaac Stuart, Janet Kumah

Dikoder, Hubert Kofi Anti,

Emmanuel Paa, Kwesi Owusu

Lavell Owusu

Jane Morgan

Costume Supervisor:

Hair Supervisor:

Costume Maker:

Production Manager:

Co-Producers:

Marketing and PR Manager:

Photographer:

Flyer Design:

Voiceover Actors:

Voiceover Director:

Musicians:

Studio Engineers:

Soundtrack Production Assistant:

Soundtrack Production Admin:

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