

Uchenna

THE PLACE

HANSEL & GRETEL



**Tour & Marketing Pack
2018-2020**

www.uchennadance.com

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About Hansel & Gretel

An imaginative new take on a favourite fairy tale, Uchenna Dance'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 and 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



ABOUT THE COMPANIES

Uchenna Dance

www.uchennadance.com

Uchenna Dance, led by Vicki Igbokwe and supported by Producer Grace Okereke, is a dance company that since its inception in 2009 has grown from an informal explorative company into 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 uses Igbokwe's signatory blend of club styles House, Waacking and Vogue fused with African and Contemporary dance, creating a signatory aesthetic that simply is, Uchenna.

Hansel & Gretel will be the company's first ever family show.

Independently Vicki Igbokwe works as a choreographer, movement director, lecturer and facilitator. She is the facilitator for The Fi.ELD 2019 (Future Innovators East London Dance), trustee for One Dance UK (the UK Body for Dance), and Work Place Associate Artist at The Place (one of Europe's most exciting, innovative dance spaces). Her career highlights include a sponsorship deal with Nike (2005-2010) and work as 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.

The Place

www.theplace.org.uk

The Place is a creative powerhouse for dance development that is leading the way in dance training, creation and performance. It is one of Europe's most exciting, innovative dance spaces, where artists from all over the world come to push creative boundaries, to experiment and to perform outstanding new work for audiences who expect to be surprised, inspired and delighted. The Place is home to London Contemporary Dance School, Richard Alston Dance Company, a 288-seat theatre, an extensive range of classes, courses and participatory opportunities for adults and young people, and professional development programmes for artists.



Participation Experiences

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



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, choreographer and founder of Uchenna Dance, (*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

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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.



Template Press Release – For National Venues

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

Following on from the 2017-19 touring success of *The Head Wrap Diaries*, Uchenna Dance 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!

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.

Hansel & Gretel will be 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 & The Place. 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 020 8289 0460 or 07780 703 600.

About Uchenna Dance

Uchenna Dance, led by Vicki Igbokwe, is a touring dance theatre dance company that since its inception in 2009 has grown from an informal explorative company into 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 uses Igbokwe's signatory blend of club styles House, Waacking and Vogue fused with African and Contemporary dance, creating a signatory aesthetic that simply is, Uchenna. *Hansel & Gretel* will be the company's first ever family show. www.uchennadance.com

About The Place

The Place is London's leading international centre of excellence in the development of contemporary dancers and dance-makers. The extraordinary range of its activities includes the London Contemporary Dance School, Richard Alston Dance Company and the Robin Howard Dance Theatre, alongside pioneering education and outreach projects, and research and development opportunities for professional dance artists. www.theplace.org.uk

About [Insert your venue]
[Insert your boilerplate]



Template Press Release – For Rural Touring

UCHENNA 'DANCE' INTO RURAL VILLAGE HALLS *Uchenna Dance & The Place present* **HANSEL & GRETEL (Touring Spring 2019)**

Setting their sights on village halls and other small rural venues often unreachable by touring theatre and especially dance, Uchenna Dance are performing in rural England and Wales. It's all supported by the National Rural Touring Forum's (NRTF) three-year dance focused scheme, which served up its first 'menu' of work to regional touring schemes in 2016.

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[For schemes/venues/promoters, include a para/quote about the work you are doing to bring the arts to your community and what you are looking forward to the most about bringing the show to your region].

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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.

Hansel & Gretel will be 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 & The Place. 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

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About Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI)

The Rural Touring Dance Initiative was launched in 2015 with the aim of substantially increasing dance touring in rural England. It is a partnership between the National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF), the Yorkshire-headquartered membership body for rural touring schemes in the UK; leading dance institution The Place; Birmingham-based independent producing studio China Plate; and Somerset's county dance agency Take Art. It was formed in response to Arts Council England's rural evidence and data review (March 2015), which found that only 2% of NPO funded dance companies toured to rural areas. In the last three years the RTDI has worked with 15 dance companies and staged over 135 performances have taken place with an average of 70% capacity.

www.ruraltouring.org



Direct Mail Example

don't miss

this fearless dance adventure

HANSEL & GRETEL

[INSERT YOUR VENUE HERE]

[INSERT YOUR DATES HERE]

Presented by Uchenna Dance and The Place

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, choreographer and founder of Uchenna Dance, (*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"

-Chris Wiegand, Stage editor, The GUARDIAN

[Touring throughout the UK in 2019/20](#)

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.

Uchenna

THE PLACE

Images

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1OFBHdsTBMcKHBWgPfDRNHCR4VHMYLkI8>

Please credit the photographer Foteini Christofilopoulou

Photo © Foteini Christofilopoulou

Twitter/Instagram: @foteiniphoto



Video

Promo Film

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=119hMuVE2jV0PMIYYLMky3-c3akzDWjRU>

Spotify

Introducing our unbelievable cast both onstage and in the soundtrack!

Hansel & Gretel Allstars, a playlist by composer & sound designer **Kweku Aacht** on Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/2St34Vb> Featuring Jo' Wayne, Yung Pabi, Robin Huws, and others.

Kweku Aacht is a British Ghanaian singer-songwriter, composer, musician and dancer. He is known as a vocalist in his collaborations with experimental electronic artistes and for creating cutting edge dance theatre soundtracks and performances. His unique hybrid of music production and dance performance has made him a household name within the UK's hip-hop and contemporary dance communities.

GIFs

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-0FZqRj8PEbfNIE0mJc8Lp3ftgxMu12j>

Website(s)

www.uchennadance.com

www.theplace.org.uk

www.ruraltouring.org/work/rural-touring-dance



SOCIAL MEDIA

For Uchenna Dance

On Twitter: @uchennadanceco Hashtags: #hanselandgretel #dancemakeover #uchennastyle

On Facebook: <https://facebook.com/UchennaDance/>

On Instagram: uchenna_dance Hashtags: #uchennadance #uchennadoes #hanselandgretel #dancemakeover #uchennastyle

On YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UchennaDance>

For Rural Touring

On Twitter: @rural_dance Hashtags: #ruraldance #ruraltouring

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ruraltouringdanceinitiative/>

On Instagram: @rural_dance Hashtags: #ruraldance #ruraltouring #ruraltouringrocks

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!

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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

PRESS

Critics Quotes/Reviews

- [The Wonderful World of Dance](#) – *'Uchenna Dance's Hansel & Gretel has the whole family bouncing in their seats'*
- [The Guardian](#) – *'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'*
- [Dance Tabs](#) – *'This bold dance retelling of the classic fairy tale Hansel and Gretel has a sense of playfulness at its heart'*
- [The Guardian \(review\)](#) – *'Kids' house party with sweet beats'*
- [CultureWhisper.com](#) – *"A classic fairy tale gets a family-friendly dance makeover"*
- [The Guardian](#) – *"Many festive kids shows are billed as a celebration of the imagination, but few will get their young audience waacking and voguing like this"*
- [LondonCalling.com](#) – *"Entering the rehearsal room for Hansel & Gretel is like walking on to the end of a rainbow"*
- [The Times](#) – *The best Christmas theatre shows for kids - Maxie Szalwinska unwraps the best children's productions*
- [Babes About Town](#) – *Best Christmas Shows – Babes Choice*
- [The Guardian](#) – *Cultural Christmas Crackers – 25 unmissable Christmas shows*
- [TimeOut London](#) – *"Two kids get lost in a big city in Uchenna Dance's urban rewrite of the classic fairy story"*
- [On the Hill](#) – *"Uchenna's Hansel & Gretel is amazing, mysterious and cheeky, and we loved it!"*
- [Quays Life](#) – *'An eclectic triumph of imagination, expressive dance and symbolism'*

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)
- *"We've just got back from the performance, and we loved every second, 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/competition winner
- *"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!"*
- *"Stunning!"*
- *"What a fantastic show. Amazing dancers. 10/10"*
- *"An outstanding performance from Uchenna Dance with Hansel & Gretel tonight!"*
- *"Superb, high energy recast of Hansel & Gretel with serious message for enthusiastic little ones"*
- *"An outstanding dance show that had the young audience rapt from the first minute for a full hour"*
- *"Brilliant, playful and funny, so colourful, very unique, music, choreography, script - loved it!"*
- *"Choreography that is unique and inspiring. Fantastic storytelling for all ages"*



TOUR DATES:

BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE, London
Fri 23 - Sat 24 Nov 2018

DANCEXCHANGE, Birmingham
Fri 30 Nov - Sat 1 Dec 2018

THE PLACE, London
Sat 15 Dec - Mon 24 Dec 2018

QUARTERHOUSE, Folkestone
Fri 8 - Sat 9 Feb 2019

CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION, Cambridge
Sun 10 Feb 2019

THE EGG, Bath
Wed 20 - Sat 23 Feb 2019

MARINA THEATRE, Lowestoft
Tues 26 Feb 2019

STRIKE A LIGHT, Gloucester
Fri 22 Mar 2019

THE ALBANY, London
Sun 28 Apr 2019

SURF THE WAVE, Brighton
Fri 17 May 2019

Mon 21 - Tue 22 Oct 2019
THE LOWRY, Salford Quays

Sat 30 Nov 2019
GULBENKIAN, Canterbury

Fri 20-Sat 21 Dec 2019
PAVILION DANCE SOUTH WEST, Bournemouth

Sat 7 Mar 2020
DANCEEAST, Ipswich



Sat 14 Mar 2020

RILEY THEATRE, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds

The show will also tour as part of the Rural Touring Dance Initiative:

ABBNEY HALL, Norfolk

Sat 8 Dec 2018

NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE, WOLV

Fri 1 Feb 2019

HULLAVINGTON VILLAGE HALL, Wiltshire

Sat 2 Feb 2019

DEVORAN VILLAGE HALL, Cornwall

Sun 3 Feb 2019

CORFE CASTLE VILLAGE HALL, Dorset

Mon 18 Feb 2019

BARTON, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, Barton-upon-Humber

Thurs 28 Feb 2019

GRANTLEY VILLAGE HALL, North Yorkshire

Fri 1 Mar 2019

PAILTON VILLAGE HALL, Warwickshire

Sat 9 Mar 2019

BROADBENT THEATRE, Lincolnshire

Sun 10 Mar 2019

NEUADD DYFI HALL, Aberdyfi

Fri 15 Mar 2019

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL, Hoghton

Sat 16 Mar 2019

WHITBY HALL, Ellesmere Port

Sun 17 Mar 2019

AMMANFORD MINERS' THEATRE, Ammanford

Sat 23 Mar 2019



Box Office Information Sheet

What is the show about? Following on from the 2017-19 touring success of *The Head Wrap Diaries*, **Uchenna Dance** 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 Dance work in a unique blend of traditional dance styles - African and Contemporary dance, and fuse these with New York 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 mins

Is there an interval? No



GLOSSARY

African Dance (Inspired by the richness of the many tribes in this beautiful continent with a particular connection to West Africa).

Contemporary Dance (Graham, Dunham and 'of the moment' influenced).

House Dance (a style that was born through House Music, which began in Chicago in the early 1970's, the House Music and Dance scene later moved to New York where it continued to develop).

Vogue (a dance style that began in New York, East Coast of the USA, in the early 70s. Created by the Black and Hispanic gay communities).

Waacking (a dance style that began in Los Angeles, West Coast of the USA, in the late 60's. Created by the Black and Hispanic gay communities).



Credits and Creative Team

Credits

Presented by Uchenna Dance & The Place. 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.

Creative Team

Director and Choreographer: Vicki Igbokwe

Writer: Gbolahan Obesisan

Composer & Sound Designer: Kweku Aacht

Set & Costume Design: Lucy Sierra

Lighting Designer: James Mackenzie

Rehearsal Director & Assistant Choreographer: Ingrid Mackinnon

Performers & Creative Collaborators:

Marc Stevenson as Hansel

Esme Benjamin as Gretel

Tina Omotosho as Joy & Funny Adult

Lauren Stewart as Wasi & Funny Adult

Costume Supervisor: Cris Casimiro

Hair Supervisor: Françoise Herard

Costume Maker: Matthieu Nunes

Production Manager: Anthony 'Oz' Osborne

Co-Producers: Uchenna Dance and The Place

Marketing and PR Manager: Carol Ann Walters PR

Photographer: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Graphic Design: TM Studios

Voiceover Actors:

Ekua Ekumah as Wasi & Joy

Yung Pabi as Hansel

Effie Nkrumah as Gretel

Kwaku Boateng as Funny Adult

Voiceover Director: Kwaku Boateng

Musicians: Dela Botri, Robin Huws, Yung Pabi, Jo' Wayne, Dede Akwetey, Ama Yeboah, Don Afero, Tyrone Isaac Stuart, Janet Kumah

Studio Engineers: Dikoder, Hubert Kofi Anti, Emmanuel Paa, Kwesi Owusu

Soundtrack Production Assistant: Lavell Owusu

Soundtrack Production Admin: Jane Morgan

Uchenna

THE PLACE

CONTACT

For Hansel and Gretel (except booking workshops), please contact Luisa Hinchliff (Producer) luisa.hinchliff@theplace.org.uk / Reece McMahon (Assistant Producer) reece.mcmahon@theplace.org.uk.

For workshops, please contact Viviana Rocha (Assistant Producer) info@uchennadance.com

For strategic conversations and working with Uchenna Dance, please contact Grace Okereke (Producer) grace@uchennadance.com.

For PR & Marketing enquiries for Hansel & Gretel, please contact Carol Ann Walters on 020 8289 0460 or 07780 703 600 or email Carol Ann at carol@cawpr.co.uk or visit www.uchennadance.com.

