

# TOUCH

2-ND  
HAND  
DANCE



## A new dance-show for early years and their families

**An improvised, interactive performance that gently encourages dancing, play and touch.**



We are all touched hundreds of times each day, by loved ones, by strangers and by inanimate objects. Before our eyes develop outside of the womb, we learn the world through touch. Touch can connect, contain and stimulate. Touch is how we build relationships.

There is substantial social commentary on the negative associations of touch between adults and children. In a recent article for the Independent child psychologist Sean Cameron said:

***“What’s missing is a recognition of how important touch is, and that withholding touch is, in itself, a form of psychological abuse.”***



Inspired by the worrying UK trend of ‘no touch’ policies within some schools and children’s centres. **Touch** is made at a time of increased awareness of sexual misconduct and transparency. **Touch** negotiates personal and social barriers through dance and play.

***“Through touch we find the first glimpse of a primitive sense of self that provides a building block for social learning”*** Andrew Meltzoff, Researcher in Developmental Science (2018)



For an excerpt of the work visit:

**[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/255544926](https://vimeo.com/255544926)**

Commissioned by The Place, Pavilion Dance South West and supported by The Egg and Gulbenkian and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

The 2019 research and development is supported by Unlimited, celebrating the work of disabled artists with funding from Arts Council England and GOSH Arts. The 2017 research and development of this project was supported by Polka Theatre, developed through the Hopper Early Years scheme with the support of Take Art, Surrey Arts, China Plate, Arts Partnership Surrey, and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Choreographer:** Rosie Heafford

**Dancers:** Amarnah Amuludun, Michael Sherin,  
Mariana Camiloti, Takeshi Matsumoto

**Rehearsal Director:** Keir Patrick

**Producer:** Claire Summerfield at Tandem Works

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### Space Requirements

10m x 12m (including audience seating)

### Touring Company

4 dancers, 1 Production Manager, 1 Artistic Director

### Small Scale

Audience capacity up to 65

## THE FUTURE

Touch, for children aged 4 months - 3 years and their adults, is touring the UK in Autumn 2019 (see website for details). Alongside this we are continuing development of versions of the work for alternative age groups and settings. We are working with Great Ormond Street Hospital to research the work for hospital settings for children in long-term care. We are researching a version for teenagers in partnership working with South East Dance.

Touch is available from Spring 2020 to tour to theatres, early years and rural settings for children aged 4 months - 3 years. We aim to premiere the versions for teenagers, adults and children with disabilities in Autumn 2020.

*"Your sharing was the high point of our day. I could see the depth of thinking and conversation that had gone into making the work, and that thoughtfulness was very present."* Kate Cross, The Egg

*"I've been thinking about the piece a lot since Tuesday and mulling over the repercussions of the "no touch rule" which Rosie said inspired the theme. It was so rewarding to see such small children slowly but surely get involved and grow in confidence by just offering them the permission to hold hands. I think the fact that an offer to touch was made but never forced was part of the success and so important."* Alex Homewood, ICIA

## ABOUT SECOND HAND DANCE

Formed in 2013 Second Hand Dance (SHD) is led by Choreographer & Artistic Director Rosie Heafford. We create joyful, intricately layered, high visual dance shows for children & adults. We present our work in theatres, galleries, libraries & outdoor spaces creating unique experiences for audiences.

Previous projects include **GRASS** (ages 2-4) - Unicorn Theatre, British Dance Edition, UK touring, Edinburgh International Children's Festival, Showbox Festival (Norway) and Lincoln Centre (New York), **GETTING DRESSED** (ages 4+) Tanzmesse 2016, national tour, Belfast International Children's Festival, Think Big! Festival (Munich) and Swedish Tour 2018.

In 2016 Rosie Heafford received one of two shortlist awards at the Arts Foundation Children's Theatre Award and her 2012 collaboration with Alexandra Hensley & Helena Webb, **DAD DANCING** continues to tour the UK. SHD is Resident Company at South East Dance and Dream Time artist at Pavilion Dance South West.

## CONTACT:

**ROSIE HEAFFORD**  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
rosie@secondhanddance.co.uk  
00 44 (0) 7900 986 148

**CLAIRE SUMMERFIELD**  
**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**  
claire@tandemworks.uk  
00 44 (0) 7976 371 124

@2\_NDHANDDANCE

@SECONDHANDDANCE

WWW.SECONDHANDDANCE.CO.UK