

THE DANDELION CHILD

A multi-genre touring production staged **in the round** within **unconventional spaces** for an **intimate** audience, created, performed and co-directed by **Luke Brown** and **Ben Wright**.



Development supported by Arts Council England, Crying Out Loud, Portsmouth Guildhall, Tobacco Factory Bristol & Rich Mix London.

Currently looking for co-commissioning partners for the full creation phase in 2026.



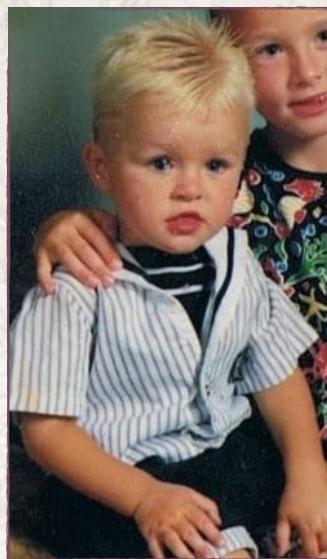
The show

The Dandelion Child, set in the early 1990s, sheds light on the profound impact of domestic abuse on children and how that manifests in adulthood. An honest sharing of the multifaceted ways in which trauma bites me in the arse, makes me howl with laughter, cry with sadness, crave for physical touch, battle with loneliness, long for parents and wonder if I could ever be a dad - a gay dad at that. **The Dandelion Child** is an **autobiographical** survival story. **An immersive, in-the-round multi-sensory theatrical experience.** Set around an ever-shifting table, this show combines **movement, puppetry, digital projection** and **storytelling** in an intimate performance, inviting you to sit at my table and witness a world where memory, fantasy, and activism meet. A story of identity, acceptance, denial and recovery, performed by Luke Brown & Ben Wright with honesty, humour and a spirit of hope.

Performance contexts

The aim for this show is for it to be programmed into unconventional spaces. **Audience numbers will be a maximum of 100 with 20 seated at the table and the rest in a larger circle around the table.** Because the work **deals with themes of power and disenfranchisement**, we would love to site the work in venues that have a connection to these themes- either a sense of opulence and grandeur, or those with a pedestrian use- mayoral banqueting halls, civic celebration spaces, school halls, council offices, law courts, police custody suites, hospitals, historic venues. Also suitable for studio theatres and cabaret venues.





The audience

The Dandelion Child speaks to anyone who has ever tried to rebuild, to love, or to find light in the dark. It dares to ask what it means to survive, and to do so with laughter and grace. This is a work that celebrates resilience and the messy beauty of adulthood. It's a show for anyone who has ever felt unseen, unheard, or uncertain of where they belong. **The aim is for people to come away not diminished by what they've witnessed, but uplifted by what's possible.**

I aim for it to be the kind of theatre that starts conversations, builds empathy, and reminds us why we gather together to share stories in the first place.

Creatives

Here is the confirmed creative team so far.

[Luke Brown](#) - Performer and Co-Director
[Ben Wright](#) - Performer and Co-Director
[Sophia Clist](#) - Set Designer
[Rosalind Conlon](#) - Producer
[Claire Roi Harvey](#) - Puppet Design
[Care Support](#) - Andrea Summers-green

The community

The Dandelion Child is a continuation of work that we have been doing for the last 5 years using the dandelion as a symbol of resilience. We have delivered workshops ranging from 1 hour family friendly crafting to 5 day intensives to young people facing mental health challenges. We will create a range of engagement offerings alongside the stage show, knowing that the symbol of the dandelion can open doors safely to begin discussions around the themes that this work explores.

I am a queer, neuro diverse artist from a working class background and use my lived experiences to inform the way I connect with people who engage with this work.

'Luke's storytelling was crisp, direct, intimate and rich. His courage in telling his personal experiences was arresting and gave the unmistakable quality of authenticity to the sharing'

Why might this show be booked?

The Dandelion Child addresses **cultural conversations** around **childhood adversity, mental health, queer identity**, and the complexities of healing. It aims to **broaden public understanding** of these issues by offering an **honest, carefully held account of survival**, delivered with emotional clarity, humour, and hope.

This project will contribute to the wider field of socially engaged dance-theatre, expanding access to autobiographical storytelling and opening space for **underrepresented voices**. It is created and performed by both Luke Brown and Ben Wright, whose respective practices centre on honesty, care, and the **transformative power of shared experience**.

The Dandelion Child is a chance to champion brave, socially relevant work.



Luke Brown

Luke is a neurodiverse, male-identifying, gay, independent, contemporary dance artist, choreographer, movement director and teacher. He is Artistic Director of Luke Brown Company, dance lecturer at the University of Chichester, rehearsal director of mapdance, and Artist Director of ORB Youth Dance Co. Luke Brown Company's most recent work, "Walk of the Dandelion", a community-focused outdoor puppetry project, is following a successful year of touring in 2025 with new dates in 2026.

As a Performer: Fatherland (Frantic Assembly); The Perfect American (English National Opera, Queensland Opera); Marble & Bread (Junk Ensemble); The Hotel Experience & Faultlines (LilaDance); For You I Long the Longest (Luke Brown Company); Us(Glass House Dance).

As a Movement Director: Sticky Floors and Palm Trees (Downtown Pompey & New Theatre Royal Portsmouth); Cinderella's Wellies (House of Many Moons & The Point); Knee's Up (Downtown Pompey & New Theatre Royal Portsmouth); Tink! A Festive Fairytale Adventure (House of Many Moons & The Point).

As a Choreographer: Candoco Dance Company's youth project; English National Ballet's Dance Journeys youth project; The Place, Laban, Swindon and Dance East CAT Schemes; the University of Chichester MA postgraduate company mapdance; Intoto Dance; BalletBoyz.

Ben Wright

As Movement Director: *Crown of Blood* (Utopia Theatre); Chariots of Fire (Sheffield Theatres); *Orlando* (The Garrick Theatre); *My Night with Red* (Donmar Warehouse); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (MGM West End); *Boris Godnuy* (The Royal Opera House); *The Marriage of Figaro* (Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Houston Opera); *Rigoletto* (Grange Park Opera); *The Adventures of Mr Broucek* (Scottish Opera).

As Intimacy Director: *The Line of Beauty* (The Almeida, London); *Quadrophenia* (Sadler's Wells/UK Tour); *My Master Builder* (Wyndham's Theatre); *My Policeman* (Amazon Studios); *Funny Woman* (Sky Atlantic)

As Performer: *Cupids Revenge* (New Art Club); *Sinner* (Stan Wont Dance, American and UK Tour); *His Dark Materials* (The National Theatre) *The Prince* in the premiere of Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake (Adventures in Motion Pictures); Ricochet Dance Company; Richard Alston Dance Company and London Contemporary Dance Theatre.



R&D VIDEO SNIPPETS

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[IV bag & project early sketches](#) [Puppet exploration](#) [Monstrosty & Tension](#) [Monologue excerpt](#)

For more information, please contact

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