Father (Vader)

**Key information**

Running time: 1 hour 25 minutes/no interval

BSL-interpreted performance and post-show talk: Fri 1 Feb

BSL-Interpreter: Katie Fenwick

Digital programmes

In an effort to be more sustainable, this digital programme is part of a trial we are conducting to discontinue printed freesheets.

Welcome to the Barbican and the London International Mime Festival 2019. A highly-anticipated January fixture, this year we present four distinctive, visually arresting theatrical productions in the Theatre and The Pit and two silent movies with live musical accompaniment in our cinema. We are absolutely thrilled to see the award-winning Belgium company Peeping Tom return to our stage with *Father (Vader)*, the second part of their surreal family trilogy, and we welcome back Patrick Sims from France with his new company Les Antliaclastes performing the supernatural Grimm-inspired *Waltz of the Hommelettes*. Newcomers to the Barbican, the popular UK physical theatre company Gecko reprise their prescient hit show *The Wedding*, and Le Théâtre de L’Entrouvert, also from France, make their Barbican debut with *Anywhere* featuring an astonishing puppet made of ice.

Whichever event you’re here to see, we hope that you enjoy the highly physical and visual work which forms this year’s exciting and innovative festival.

Toni Racklin, Head of Theatre

After the success of Peeping Tom’s *Mother (Moeder)* last year, we’re delighted to be presenting part two of the company’s trilogy of family dramas, *Father (Vader),* in partnership with the Barbican, London’s outstanding home for international work. Having won an Olivier Award in 2015 on its first visit to the Barbican for Best New Dance Production, this dynamic Belgian company brilliantly serves the festival’s mission to bring stunning visual theatre to London’s most important stages.

Helen Lannaghan and Joseph Seelig, LIMF Directors

Performers & Creative team

Direction Franck Chartier

Directorial assistance and dramaturgy Gabriela Carrizo

Creation and performance Leo De Beul, Marie Gyselbrecht, Hun-Mok Jung, Simon Versnel, Maria Carolina Vieira, Yi-Chun Liu, Brandon Lagaert, with the aid of Eurudike De Beul

Artistic assistance Seoljin Kim, Camille De Bonhome

Sound composition and arrangements Raphaëlle Latini, Ismaël Colombani, Eurudike De Beul, Renaud Crols

Sound mixing Yannick Willox

Lighting design Giacomo Gorini, Peeping Tom

Costume design Peeping Tom, Camille De Bonhome

Set design Peeping Tom, Amber Vandenhoeck

Set construction KVS-atelier, Filip Timmerman, Amber Vandenhoeck

Technical direction Filip Timmerman

Technicians Hjorvar Rognvaldsson, Amber Vandenhoeck

Tour manager Lulu Tikovsky

Production manager An Van der Donckt

Communication and PR manager Sébastien Parizel

Company manager Veerle Mans

Distribution Frans Brood Productions

Supernumeraries Lieve Carchon, Charlotte Clamens, Kathy Trevelyan, Amina Patel, Christine Keates, Jo Ashe, Toni Brooks, John Chapman, David Taylor, Thomas Tillery

UK premiere

Presented by the Barbican in association with London International Mime Festival

Co-produced by Theater im Pfalzbau (Ludwigshafen), KVS – Royal Flemish Theatre (Brussels), Festival GREC (Barcelona), HELLERAU - European Center for the Arts Dresden, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Maison de la Culture (Bourges), La Rose des Vents (Villeneuve d’Ascq), Printemps des Comédiens (Montpellier), with the support of Sommerszene, Szene Salzburg (Salzburg) and the Flemish authorities

Theater im Pfalzbau is acting as key partner in the realisation of the trilogy Vader – Moeder – Kind

Peeping Tom wishes to thank Héloïse da Costa, Blandine Chartier, Emiliano Battista, Diane Fourdrignier, Seniorencentrum Brussel vzw

About the show

*Father* is set in the visiting area of an old folks’ home whose towering walls accentuate the fact that the action takes place deep underground. At the centre of this netherworld, somewhere between the world of the living and the dead, stands the figure of the father, who seems to be distancing himself gradually from the human community. His fading is drawn not from the story of one individual, but from the mythology of the father, and in scenes that explode into action – and just as suddenly stop – this figure appears at once as godlike and ridiculous, as possessed of a rich mental life, and as disconnected, decaying, empty. His past may harbour a deep secret, or maybe he is simply mad or delusional. The other residents and the staff wonder at him, regarding him with amusement and hatred, affection and indifference.

The piece plays on the widening gap between perception and reality, on the way time for the old appears to slow down so as to correspond to the lagging rhythm of their gestures, or articulate speech is received as static and music as noise, or the world itself seems to make sense only insofar as it is the embodiment of a memory. With poignancy and wit, Father explores the moment when the memories (or are they fancies, hallucinations?) of an old man constantly threaten to tip the realities of daily life into fantasy.

About Peeping Tom

Peeping Tom was founded by Gabriela Carrizo and Franck Chartier in 2000. Together they created a location project that took place in a trailer home, Caravana (1999), with would-be long-time collaborator Eurudike De Beul, followed by the film *Une vie inutile* (2000). Peeping Tom’s hallmark is a hyperrealistic aesthetic anchored to a concrete set. The directors create an unstable universe that defies the logic of time and space. Isolation leads to an unconscious world of nightmares, fears and desires, which the creators deftly use to shed light on the dark side of a character or a community. The *huis clos* of family situations remains a major source of creativity for Peeping Tom.

Gabriela Carrizo (b. 1970, Córdoba) was ten years old when she started dancing at a multidisciplinary school that had what was at the time the only contemporary dance group for children and teenagers. Under Norma Raimondi’s direction, the school went on to become Córdoba’s University Ballet, where Gabriela danced for a couple of years, and where she created her first choreography. She moved to Europe when she was nineteen, and over the years she worked with Caroline Marcadé, Les Ballets C de la B (*La Tristeza Complice*, 1997, and *Iets op Bach*, 1998), Koen Augustijnen (*Portrait intérieur*, 1994) and Needcompany (*Images of Affection*, 2001). She never stopped working on her own choreography, and these years saw the production of a solo piece, *E tutto sará d’ombra e di caline*, and *Bartime*, a collaboration with Einat Tuchman and Lisi Estaras. She also created the choreography for the opera *Wolf* (2002), by Les Ballets C de la B. She plays a leading role in Fien Troch’s movie *Kid* (2012), and in 2013 she created the short piece *The Missing Door* (2013) for the Nederlands Dans Theater – NDT 1 in The Hague. In 2015, Carrizo created *The Land*, a collaboration with the Munich Residenztheater.

Franck Chartier (b. 1967, Roanne) started dancing when he was eleven, and at the age of fifteen his mother sent him to study classical ballet at Rosella Hightower in Cannes. Between 1986 and 1989, he was a part of Maurice Béjart’s Ballet du 20ème Siècle. For the following three years, he worked with Angelin Preljocaj, dancing in *Le spectre de la rose* at the Opéra de Paris. He moved to Brussels in 1994, to perform in Rosas’ production *Kinok* (1994), and he stayed on, working on duos with Ine Wichterich and Anne Mouselet, as well as in productions by Needcompany (*Tres*, 1995) and Les Ballets C de la B (*La Tristeza Complice*, 1997, *Iets op Bach*, 1997 and *Wolf*, 2002. In 2013, he created *33 rue Vandenbranden* for the Göteborg Opera, based on Peeping Tom’s *32 rue Vandenbranden*, and he developed the choreography for the opera *Marouf*, *Savetier du Caire* by Jerôme Deschamps at the Opéra Comique de Paris. For Nederlands Dans Theater, he directed *The Lost Room* in 2015, a second collaboration with the Dutch dance company after Gabriela Carrizo’s *The Missing Door* (2013). He was awarded the prestigious Dutch prize ‘Swan Most Impressive Dance Production 2016’ for the piece. 2017 marked the world premiere of *The Hidden Door*, his second collaboration with NDT and the final short piece of the trilogy *Adrift*, which also includes *The Missing Door* and *The Lost Room*.



London International Mime Festival

London International Mime Festival (LIMF) promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have won nominations for Olivier Awards and in 2017 the festival was honoured with the *Empty Space - Peter Brook Special Achievement Award* for its work over four decades. Founded in 1977, LIMF is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

Festival Directors Helen Lannaghan, Joseph Seelig

Production Manager Bill Deverson

Artists Managers Stephanie Brotchie, Shanti Freed

Press Representatives Anna Arthur PR

Graphics & Website Iain Lanyon

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