The Wedding

**Key information**

Running time: 1 hour 20 minutes/no interval

Post-show talk: Fri 25 Jan, free to same-day ticket holders

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

Inspiration for creating work is all around us. It’s in our personal lives, in the news, politics, and in the relationships that we have with our friends, families and colleagues. By delving further into these relationships, I was struck by a sense that we are all married, bound by the many contracts of modern life. For me, *The Wedding* started as a battle between anger and love. Played out around the complex ideas of belonging, state, exclusion and a longing for community, all set within the excitement and ceremony of marriage.

Amit Lahav, Artistic Director of Gecko and creator of *The Wedding*

Performers & Creative team

Devising Performers

Lucia Chocarro

Anna Finkel

Chris Evans

Madeleine Fairminer

Katie Lusby

Ryen Perkins-Gangnes

Uros Petronijevic

Dan Watson

Kenny Wing Tao Ho

Creator Amit Lahav

Designer Rhys Jarman

Lighting Designer Joe Hornsby

Sound Designer Jon Everett

Original music Dave Price

Associate Director Rich Rusk

Costume Supervisor Gayle Playford

Performers during creation Greig Cook, Fionn Cox-Davies and Louise Tanoto

Production Manager Sean Ford

Company Stage Manager Alyssa Watts

Sound Operator André Birck

Lighting Joe Hornsby

Musicians and vocalists

Dave Price with: Tom Allan (trumpet), Sam Burgess (electric and double bass), Ben Hales (electric guitar), Frank Moon (oud), Dave Shulman (clarinets and saxophones) and Jon Thomas (bass guitar). Amharic vocal, krar and masenko by Temesgen Zeleke.

Production photos by Richard Haughton

Presented by the Barbican in association with London International Mime Festival

Gecko is supported by Arts Council England and Ipswich Borough Council. The Wedding is a Gecko production. Co-commissioned by DanceEast, New Wolsey Theatre Ipswich, Northern Stage, HOME Manchester and Beijing 707 N-Theatre Co. Ltd. (Edinburgh Fringe Showcase in China), in association with Lighthouse Poole and Warwick Arts Centre, supported by The Point Eastleigh.

About Gecko

*‘The process of discovery, of searching, however difficult, however glorious that is, the process of creating our own world, our own story, our own script. That is Gecko.’*

Amit Lahav, Artistic Director of Gecko

Gecko is an award-winning and critically-acclaimed physical theatre company, founded in 2001 by Artistic Director Amit Lahav. We are based in Ipswich, Suffolk but regularly tour across the UK and across the world. We aim to create world-class theatre that inspires, moves and entertains our audiences. Gecko’s work is visual, visceral and ambitious and we create work through collaboration, experimentation and play.

We have an expanding ensemble of international performers and collaborators including company members, technicians and office staff from the UK, France, Spain, Canada, USA, Norway, Serbia, Colombia and Hungary. As a truly international company we use multiple languages within our shows, and because of this we find our shows have huge appeal around the world. We focus on presenting the narrative of our shows through movement, imagery and music rather than focussing on dialogue between characters, therefore it doesn’t matter if the audience cannot understand every language that is spoken.

We are often asked to describe what physical theatre is, and for us it means a focus on movement and imagery with a diversity of performance styles. We ‘write’ and ‘storyboard’ our shows just like traditional plays or films, even though very little text is used. It’s also integral to our process to include music, lighting, set, props and costumes as early as possible when developing a show. We work collaboratively with an amazing creative team who ensure that all of these elements are developed simultaneously with the narrative and movement of the piece, so that the end product is cohesive and powerful.

Artistic Director Amit Lahav

Executive Producer Rosalind Wynn

General Manager Joff Whitten

Finance Manager Andy Brumwell

Project and Participation Manager Pippa Fox

Administrator and Digital Marketing Officer Manwah Siu

Associate Directors Helen Baggett, Rich Rusk

Patrons

Arlene Phillips and Dominic West

Board

Giles Kerkham

Jon Neal (chair)

Jeanette Siddall CBE

Dr Sue Smith

With thanks to: Age UK (Ipswich), Andrew Marshall, Brides To Be Bridal Shop, Chris Morphitis, City of Sanctuary, Ian Carter, Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality, Just A Day Bridal Shop, Liverpool Scenic Workshop, Marcus Edwards, Mark Tate from the Screaming Memes, Open Stages plus Jessica and Megan, Rhona Dalling, Richard Couldrey, Robin Tottenham, St Helen’s Primary School Ipswich, Transition Network, the Wardrobe Department at Northern Stage and all of our Strategic Touring partners.

A note from directors Elise Vigneron and Hélène Barreau

We are living in a society where reality is drained of its meaning, space and time of their substance and the individual is cut off from his true existence. In this glossy world of superficiality, is there any room for those who do not participate in the power game: those who stumble, those who search and lose themselves?



Biographies

Performers

Lucia Chocarro graduated from London Contemporary Dance School in 2013 with a First Class degree. She has collaborated and performed on a variety of projects in the UK and Europe and has performed with Punchdrunk, Wayne Parsons Dance, Jamaal Burkmar Dance, BitterSuite, Victoria Fox, Sara Dowling and Just Us Dance Theatre (Joseph Toonga). She has also worked as Special Action Artist for *Wonder Woman & Justice League* with Warner Bros Productions, is a founding member of Feet Off the Ground Dance collective and a certified Yoga Alliance Teacher.

Anna Finkel trained at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, completing her Masters at Laban, London. Since 2007 she has worked in the UK as deviser and performer with Punchdrunk, Gecko, DV8, Handspring, Ace, Mad Dogs, Anthony Hamilton and Lost Dog. Recent work includes movement direction with Louis Vuitton and film director Alex Garland, and rehearsal director for Punchdrunk’s *Sleep No More* in Shanghai.

Chris Evans began his career with Hofesh Shechter Company as one of the original performers and continues a creative relationship with the company. He has worked with Gecko since 2011 on the creation and worldwide touring of *Missing* and *Institute* and worked as Movement Director on the company’s first international co-production, *The Dreamer* (with Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre).

Madeleine Fairminer studied dance at the Baardar Academy in her hometown, Oslo. After gaining her degree she worked as a freelance dancer, doing commercial work as well as projects with the choreographer-duo Flukt. She then spent a year as an apprentice dancer with Hofesh Shechter Company in London and shortly after started working with Gecko. Other work includes devising and performing *Small World* by Rich Rusk, and performing *Antes* by Cie Alias – Guilherme Botelho.

Katie Lusby trained at London Studio Centre and London Contemporary Dance School, joining Gecko in 2015. She has worked with Richard Alston Dance Company, Van Huynh Company, Punchdrunk, New Adventures, Aletta Collins, James Cousins, Sarah Dowling, Akram Khan, Wayne Parsons, Liam Steele and Didy Veldman. She regularly teaches professional classes for The Place, TripSpace and ProDanceLeeds.

Ryen Perkins-Gangnes has worked with Gecko since 2012 devising and touring *Missing* and *Institute*, and *The Time of Your Life* broadcast live on BBC4. He was movement specialist/cast member for Paramount’s 2013 film *World War Z*, spent two years as Lea Anderson’s assistant and has worked with companies such as the Cholmondeleys and Featherstonehaughs, Frauke Requardt, Fabulous Beast and Gary Clarke.

Uros Petronijevic graduated from Serbia’s National Ballet School Lujo Davico (national/folk dance section) in 2004. After graduating, he went on to work at the musical theatre Theatre on Terazije until 2014. During his years in musical theatre he worked and performed in other projects with Bitef Dance Company that were based on contemporary movement and physical theatre. In 2014, he joined Jasmin Vardimon Company before going on to perform with Gecko in 2018.

Dan Watson was a formative member of StopGAP Dance Company before moving on to work with such artists as Wendy Houstoun, Nigel Charnock, Stan Won’t Dance, 5 Men Dancing, Slung Low Theatre, Protein Dance, Sweetshop Revolution, Seven Sisters Group and Freddie Opoku-Addaie amongst others. He joined Gecko for *The Time Of Your Life*, broadcast live on BBC4 in 2015.

Kenny Wing Tao Ho began breakdancing from a young age and went on to study at London Contemporary Dance School. He began his career at the 2012 London Olympics, working with Akram Khan. Since graduating, he worked as a freelance dancer for various artists, and has gone on to dance for Protein Dance Company, Hofesh Shechter Company and Gecko.

Creative team

Amit Lahav

Creator

Amit Lahav is the Artistic Director of Gecko and has created seven critically-acclaimed shows, all of which have toured nationally and internationally. He has worked as a director, facilitator, writer and choreographer for numerous companies throughout the world and in recent years he has mentored young artists and companies in search of their theatrical language.

Rhys Jarman

Designer

Rhys Jarman was one of the winners of the 2007 Linbury Biennial Prize and has designed for opera, television and a range of site-specific works. Recent work includes *James and the Giant Peach* for Northern Stage; *The Machine Stops* at York Theatre Royal, and *The Nutcracker* at Nuffield Theatres. Designs for Gecko include *Missing*, *Institute*, *The Time of Your Life* and *The Dreamer*.

Joe Hornsby

Lighting Designer

Joe Hornsby has worked extensively with dance and physical theatre companies for the past ten years, creating shows as both lighting designer and production manager and touring works internationally. *The Wedding* is Joe’s first collaboration with Gecko.

Jonathan Everett

Sound Designer

Jonathan Everett’s recent sound design credits include work for Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Theatre Rites, 20 Stories High, The Egg, Travelling Light, Tobacco Factory Productions, Show Of Strength, Bristol Old Vic, Moving Stories and Theatre Royal Bath. He also ran the sound departments at Bristol Old Vic and Theatre Royal Bath. He is delighted to be joining the Gecko team for this production.

Dave Price

Original music

Dave Price has worked as a composer, multi-instrumentalist, performer, sound designer, music producer, teacher and a drummer in a pop band. He has a longstanding association with Gecko, performing in *Taylor’s Dummies* and *The Overcoat*, and composing original scores for *The Overcoat, Missing, Institute, The Time of Your Life* and *The Dreamer*.

Rich Rusk

Associate Director

Rich Rusk is a director specialising in ensemble physical theatre. For eight years he has toured nationally and internationally with Gecko on *Missing*, *Institute* and *The Overcoat* and in 2016 directed *The Dreamer*, Gecko’s first international co-production with Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre. He has worked with some of the UK’s top devising companies and is a passionate mentor of innovative young companies.

Gayle Playford

Costume Supervisor

Gayle Playford is a professional costume maker and supervisor for theatre and television. She is inspired by everything in the world around her, and is particularly interested in the role of costume as a narrative tool.

For Gecko

Rosalind Wynn

Executive Producer

Rosalind Wynn has been working for the company since 2013. For Gecko she has worked on UK and international touring of *Missing* and *Institute* and also produced *The Time of Your Life* for Live From Television Centre. She previously worked as Producer for Coney and Project Manager for Fuel and Belluard Festival as well as producing numerous freelance projects.

Helen Baggett

Associate Director

Helen Baggett develops and leads many of Gecko’s residencies, workshops and community projects. A founder member of CandoCo Dance Company, she danced with them for eight years and co-developed and delivered their international education programme. In 2000, she joined the David Glass Ensemble as performer, choreographer and project leader for *The Lost Child Project*.

Sean Ford

Production Manager

Sean Ford has worked extensively in the festival circuit around the world, including the Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival and is the Technical Production Coordinator for the Pleasance in Edinburgh. His lighting work includes *In the Pink* and *Ruby in the Smoke* and he headed up a team to commission the installation and design at Dubai Parks and Resorts.



Alyssa Watts

Company Stage Manager

Alyssa Watts is a freelance Stage Manager currently based in Manchester. Recent credits include *Future Bodies* for Rash Dash / Unlimited Theatre; *Oh Man* for Hetain Patel / Contact Young Company; *Holiday* at Derby Theatre; *Sweeney Todd* at Derby Theatre and Colchester Mercury; and *On Corporation Street* for ANU / HOME Manchester.

André Birck

Sound Operator

André Birck graduated from the IGAP and has since worked as Technical and Stage Director, Technical Co-Ordinator, Sound Technician and Lighting Designer with major music artists from Southern Brazil as well as some of the most recognised theatre and dance companies from around the world including Pina Bausch, Sascha Waltz, Culberg Ballet, and Philip Glass.

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

Marketing Consultants Mobius Industries

London International Mime Festival 2019 gratefully acknowledges co-operation / financial support from: Arts Council England; Institut français, Royal Norwegian Embassy, London; Finnish Institute in London/TelePART and Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)