



London International Mime Festival

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2020 London International Mime Festival in association with Southbank Centre presents the London premiere of

WES PEDEN (USA)

Zebra

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room
Fri 24-Sun 26 Jan

After-show discussion led by Thomas Wilson: Sat 25 Jan following 3pm show

Runs approx 50 mins, no interval

Conceived and performed by Wes Peden
Stage management: Florence Huet

Co-produced by Gandini Juggling (UK) and Maison des Jonglages - Scène Conventionnée Jonglages (France).

Supported by Espace Catastrophe, Brussels (Belgium); Carre Magique Pôle National Cirque en Bretagne; Maison des Jonglages - Scène Conventionnée Jonglages; Academie Fratellini (France); Subtopia – Botkyrka (Sweden)

About Wes Peden

Wesley Jefferson Peden is an American juggler from Rochester, New York, now living in Stockholm. His father taught him to juggle at the age of five and they started to perform together when Wes was eleven. Between 2007-2010 Wes studied with Jay Gilligan and others at the Dance and Circus University in Stockholm. He has been voted the world's most popular juggler in the 'Top 40 Jugglers' poll ten times since 2007.

Taking inspiration from Sumo wrestling, fast-food packaging and 1950's playgrounds, Wes has designed juggling to perform in such unusual places as space stations and parking lots. He has performed around the world from Olympic stadiums in Tokyo to Broadway theatres in NYC and Glacier Museums in Iceland - he was also a part of *Water on Mars*, a sell-out sensation at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe. His energetic, playful and complex style has won awards from the International Juggling Association and Cirque de Demain.

Wes Peden was last seen in London as guest star in Gandini Juggling's *Spring* at Sadler's Wells for LIMF 2019. He returns with his new solo show, *Zebra*, whose aesthetic has been described as that of a futuristic chandelier with a sense of humour. Creating never-before-seen sequences of evolving shapes and constellations with incredible new throws and catches, he transforms his props into mesmerising waves of movement and gives astonishing new life to vinyl records.

About Zebra

Zebra is a kaleidoscope of masterful juggling where hundreds of new throws and catches are used to show never-before-seen shapes. The performer is dressed like a lampshade that enjoys playing basketball. He uses extendable arms to gracefully move a record player's needle onto the vinyl from metres away, before whirling at full force into the next piece of manipulation. The show includes ball juggling where elbows are used as little trampolines, 5 club juggling where constellations and waves are made of high throws and reverse spins, and rings turn into joggling butterflies as they spiral up and down the performer's arms and legs. *Zebra's* aesthetic is that of a futuristic chandelier with a sense of humour.

Artist's note

Zebra comes from my motivation to develop new juggling ideas beyond the goal of just being impressive. *Zebra* aims to make the viewer forget that they are watching difficult manipulation, instead to become absorbed in the four-dimensional shapes and ideas that the juggling is expressing - and which indeed can only be expressed through juggling. My love for juggling comes from the exhilarating feeling of finding a new trick and realising that it has the possibility to be expanded into hundreds of variations, to become its own language of unique throws and catches. In *Zebra*, I wanted to compose with these new themed collections of tricks, giving them a visual logic while building in complexity. All this while a vinyl record plays electro-pop and I'm dressed as a cross between a basketball player and antique lamp. The show is inspired by the geometric, yet playful compositions of Kandinsky's paintings and the harnessing of gravity seen in corkscrew roller coasters.

Wes Peden

London International Mime Festival (LIMF) promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have been nominated for, and won, 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.

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