



November 2025

MIMELONDON 2026: VISUAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE, CINEMA AND WORKSHOPS

From 21 – 31 January 2026 **MimeLondon** highlights four outstanding shows at Sadler's Wells East, Sadler's Wells Peacock Theatre and The Place, featuring London premieres of circus-theatre, physical theatre and visual storytelling from France and the UK. Accompanying this short season a complementary series of workshops in mask, clown, corporal mime, devising and puppetry will take place at Shoreditch Town Hall.

Scheduled refurbishment work at the Barbican makes this longstanding partner venue's theatres unavailable to us this January, but in association with MimeLondon its cinema will host a rarely seen **Buster Keaton** double-bill, with live music accompaniment.

Gecko's reworked version of its sell-out show, *The Wedding* (21-24 January) opens the season, at Sadler's Wells East. Through a blur of wedding dresses and contractual obligations, Gecko's international ensemble of performers guide audiences through a dystopian world in which we are all brides, wedded to society. Combining movement, imagery and provocative narratives in dynamic Gecko style, *The Wedding* brings matrimonial contracts into question in this emotionally charged and spectacular performance.

"Heart pounding drama... get ready to be blown away" The Reviews Hub

At Sadler's Wells Peacock Theatre, physical comedy hit show *Fishbowl* (French title *Bigre*) by France's **Compagnie Le Fils du Grand Réseau** has its London premiere (28-31 January). For the single occupants of three neighbouring attic flats with paper-thin walls, nothing in daily life seems to go to plan. Small mishaps quickly become disasters amidst a deluge of brilliant physical gags, explosions, fires and storms.

Fishbowl won France's prestigious Molière Award for best comedy of the year and has since toured internationally, including a sold-out season at the Edinburgh Fringe.

"The laughs just keep on coming" Le Figaro

At The Place, **MimeLondon** is delighted to welcome two new shows by British companies, Sadiq Ali Company and Ockham's Razor.

Sadiq Ali Company, makers of the five star *The Chosen Haram*, presents its new show *Tell Me* (23-24 January). A striking fusion of circus, dance and theatre challenging outdated perceptions and offering audiences a fresh perspective on HIV, one rooted in courage, beauty and possibility. This intensely physical performance draws from the



lived experience of director Sadiq Ali as both a circus artist and HIV activist who creates intimate yet visually spectacular performances.

"An astonishing fusion of circus and storytelling" Fest Mag on The Chosen Haram

Ockham's Razor returns with the World premiere of *Collaborator* (29-31 January), an intimate duet crafted and performed by its two Artistic Directors, Alex Harvey and Charlotte Mooney. For 20 years Alex and Charlotte have been making circus together, lifting, catching and carrying, stepping on and around each other. They have dropped each other and picked each other up.

Featuring two performers and a suspended frame, this is a show about creation and compromise. An irreverent, highly physical and heartfelt dive into navigating a relationship and the negotiation involved in making stuff.

Shown in association with the Barbican Cinema, the rarely seen **Buster Keaton** double-bill, *Sherlock Jr* and *Cops* (25 January) featuring hilarious sight gags and jaw-dropping stunt work, with live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney.

Simon Murray and **Mark Evans** will give a talk in association with the Society for Theatre Research (live and online, 24 January) around the themes, ideas, perceptions, contexts, personalities, histories and controversies in their recently published book *Mime into Physical Theatre: a UK cultural history, 1970-2000*. Amongst other things, they will reflect on how and why mime has often been the object of derision or disdain from both the university sector and – in a different way – within popular culture.

Continuing online and free-to-view, *The Last Show* is a documentary film chronicling the impact and legacy of MimeLondon's predecessor, London International Mime Festival (LIMF). For 47 years LIMF curated and championed ground-breaking British and international visual and physical performance that had a powerful influence on UK theatre and theatre-makers. Produced during LIMF's final edition in 2023, Lisle Turner's award-winning documentary reveals the festival's unique impact, featuring interviews with a host of performers, directors and theatre-makers from Britain and overseas, and extensive archive footage stretching back to the 1970s.

The season also offers a comprehensive workshop programme bringing together leading practitioners with unique insights into diverse aspects of physical and visual theatre creation, hosted by Shoreditch Town Hall. The workshop programme runs 17 January – 1 February.

VAMOS *Revealing the Mask* (17-18 January) A creative, high-energy introduction to full mask technique.

MimeLondon

contemporary visual theatre

NOLA RAE *The Clown Speaks Without Words* (24-25 January) An insight into how to work without text, paying special attention to becoming an articulate mover able to express visual ideas with maximum clarity.

GUILLAUME PIGÉ / THEATRE RE *Extending Possibilities* (26-30 January) Inspired by the work of Etienne Decroux and his assistants, Theatre Re will explore concrete ways to unlock the full expressive potential of the body and extend physical possibilities for the actor on stage.

SUE BUCKMASTER / THEATRE-RITES *Core Skills of Puppetry and Object Animation* (31 Jan-1 Feb) Examines the relationship between the visible performer and the puppet/object on stage. The workshop considers what an actor or dancer or puppeteer needs to focus on when sharing the stage with an animated object, including presence, focus, manipulation techniques and poetic metaphor.

GECKO *Devising Physical Theatre* 31 Jan/1 Feb) A special weekend residency to dive into Gecko's unique, visceral and poetic style and explore how they devise, create movement and tell stories.

Key Information:

- Performance Dates: 21-31 January 2026
- Venues: Barbican Cinema 1, Sadler's Wells East, Sadler's Wells Peacock Theatre, Shoreditch Town Hall, St Anne's Church in Soho, The Place

Please contact venues direct for any media enquiries and press tickets:

Sadler's Wells

Gecko – *The Wedding*

Laura.Neil@sadlerswells.com

Compagnie Le Fils du Grand Réseau – *Fishbowl/Bigre*

Will.FerreiraDyke@sadlerswells.com

The Place

Sadiq Ali Company – *Tell Me*

Ockham's Razor - *Collaborator*

Suzanne Frost: suzanne.frost@theplace.org.uk

MimeLondon

Directors: Helen Lannaghan & Joseph Seelig

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Notes to Editors:

- High-resolution images are available to download at <https://helenlannaghan.smugmug.com/MimeLondon-2026> password: download
- Interview opportunities with visiting artists can be arranged
- Press tickets for all shows are available by contacting the venues' press offices direct